

The Story of IFWEA

FOREWORD

Tell me your life and I'll know who you are...

A man's personality is marked and shaped by his character and ideals as well as by experiences he has gone through. And so is the identity of a movement or an organisation.

Very active people (or organisations) are concerned only with what is going on in the present and with what they will or must be doing next. As days and years go by, papers get lost and people disappear. The result of the work is there, but the oncoming generations take it all for granted, underestimating the efforts or even misunderstanding the aims of their predecessors.

In their daily struggle, organisations, particularly workers' organisations, tend not to look back and therefore neglect their archives. When they suddenly become aware how much they have been changing society, how deeply they have influenced the cultural context of today, what an enormous historical force they have been, they start asking questions about how it came about. The later a written history is attempted, the more difficult the task may become for others who start ploughing through all kinds of national archives in order to rewrite the past. There is, therefore, a special responsibility on IFWEA to facilitate that task.

So after 33 years of IFWEA's existence, we thought it worthwhile to make a first try at "telling the life" of the Federation in order to define its identity for the newcomers. The scarcity of the documents we dispose of did not allow us to call it a "history" but there are good hopes that a possible second edition will fulfil that purpose.

H. Hennans
President, International
Federation of Workers'
Educational Associations
May 1980

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THE STORY OF THE IFWEA

Early co-operation between workers' education movements

Between the wars, movements for workers' education found various ways of keeping in touch and cooperating with each other, though it was a good deal more difficult than now to overcome the obstacle of distance. But even then distance was less of a problem for the movements in European countries. They were close enough for their leaders to meet reasonably frequently usually at

international gatherings of various kinds where workers' education was a subject of interest and discussion. The result was something that went much deeper than formal contact and co-operation. There grew up between people prominent in the European movements close bonds of comradeship and personal friendship. It says much for their enduring quality that the war did nothing to weaken these links. On the contrary, those who had fashioned them steadfastly awaited the day when they could and indeed did provide one of the first bridges between people who had been cut off from each other.

Formation of the International Federation of Workers' Educational Associations

The idea of an international federation of workers' educational associations was born during the war, the germ of it being contained in a resolution of the 1943 annual conference of the United Kingdom Workers' Educational Association: "That as part of post-war policy in defeated and occupied countries, working-class organisations similar in type to the WEA should be reconstructed where they have been destroyed by anti-democratic forces and everywhere encouraged and developed."

Following the end of the war, the United Kingdom movement took the initiative by convening, in October 1945, in London, a conference to which it invited representatives from workers' educational organisations in all countries where they were known to exist. Ernest Green, then General Secretary of the United Kingdom WEA, whose leadership was largely responsible for this imaginative step, later remarked that "it was really convening a meeting of old friends".

Two great figures were prominent among these "old friends" - Oluf Bertolt of the Danish WEA and Gunnar Hirdman of the Swedish WEA. Both were outstanding leaders of workers' education in their time and were well known internationally. Both chaired sessions of the exploratory conference in 1945 and the discussions and their outcome were profoundly inspired and influenced by them.



It was decided at this conference to set up a formal international body to promote cooperation between the existing organisations for workers' education and a small committee was appointed to draft its constitution.

The International Federation of Workers' Educational Associations came officially into being in October 1947, when its first official conference was held in London and its constitution adopted. The conference was attended by delegates from organisations in Denmark, France, Finland, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden., Switzerland and the United Kingdom. Delegates appointed by the Belgian movement were prevented at the last moment from attending, but the movement's support for the new international was assured. Observers from the folk high school movements in Austria and Germany and from workers' educational organisations in Czechoslovakia, Poland and the United States of America were also present Ernest Green was elected President and Harry Nutt (also of the United Kingdom WEA) General Secretary, and a secretariat was set up at the WEA's central office in London. An executive committee was appointed with representation on a regional basis, and this

representation has been periodically altered to reflect the changing composition of the Federation's membership.

Growth in Membership

Membership grew steadily and included more distant countries. By the time the Third General Conference was held in 1953, there were 13 member organisations in Europe and one in the United States, while other organisations in countries distant from Europe maintained contact on a basis of association - these were the WEAs of Australia (New South Wales and Tasmania), Canada, the Gold Coast, the Federation of Malaya, India, New Zealand and South Africa.

At present, there are 26 member organisations in Europe, two in Australia and one in each of Canada, Ghana, India, Israel and Zealand.

Aims of IFWEA

At the Third General Conference in 1953, a Statement of Policy was adopted which outlined the objects and functions which it wished the Federation to pursue in the following years. Broadly summarized, these were: to act as a clearing house for the exchange of educational information and material; to bring together, in conferences and seminars, representatives of the Federation's member organisations, particularly organisers and tutors, to study questions of importance to adult educators; to represent the interests of workers' education in the international sphere and particularly in relation to other international bodies; and finally, to give encouragement, support and advice to new movements for workers' education and to assist the development of such organisations in countries where they do not exist. These aims have not been substantially altered over the years and are now embodied in the Federation's Constitution.



General Conferences

The IFWEA General Conferences, bringing together representatives from the member organisations, have been held triennially in different countries. They provide an opportunity for consideration of matters of current concern and interest to the delegates, usually with specialist speakers on specific topics. Accounts of the work of member organisations are submitted and representatives of international organisations contribute addresses concerning their work in relation to adult and workers' education. A discussion of priorities for future activities of the Federation is also an important part of the work of the conferences. General Conferences of IFWEA have passed resolutions concerned with furthering educational opportunities of workers, for example IFWEA was one of the first international organisations to press for Paid Educational Leave - a resolution passed by the Sixth General Conference as long ago as 1962 stated that "it must be firmly established that employees must be released to take part in courses of adult education".

International seminars

The need for Paid Educational Leave has been stressed not only in IFWEA general conferences. In 1973, an IFWEA seminar on this subject issued a resolution which worked out a programme for securing PEL, and which was submitted to the ILO. The ILO Convention 140 of 1974 was an event of the greatest importance in this field and the IFWEA continues its pressure to achieve worldwide acceptance of its recommendations.

One of the important ways in which the IFWEA has contributed to international understanding of the problems of workers' education and contributed to innovatory projects in the field, has been by its considerable programme of international seminars. The list of these given in an appendix shows the very wide variety of topics which have been studied in them by workers' educational leaders meeting in many different countries.

Help to new organisations

Ever since its formation, the Federation has sought to make some contribution to the promotion of workers' education in the less developed countries. This important task was in the minds of its founders when they set out as one of its objects "... action ... to assist the development of workers' educational associations in countries where they do not exist". Resolutions of General Conferences have repeatedly urged this action. The 1953 Conference instructed the Executive Committee "to consult the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions and the International Co-operative Alliance as to ways in which the two bodies can co-operate in this important work". The Fourth General Conference, in 1956, was specific about the need for voluntary workers' educational movements:" Believing that the promotion of adult and workers education in underdeveloped countries ... is one of the best ways of fostering an understanding of the democratic way of life among their peoples and of equipping them for the exercise of social and political responsibilities and ... convinced that workers' education will best flourish in such areas on the basis of voluntary organisations formed, directed and controlled by the workers themselves ... (this Conference) instructs the Executive Committee to give special attention ... to the Federation's constitutional obligation to assist the development of voluntary workers' educational associations in countries where they do not exist..." Three years later, the Fifth General Conference passed a resolution carrying the same message.



Dr Kwame Nkrumah, Prime Minister of the Gold Coast, with participants of the Inter-African Seminar, Accra Gold Coast 1954.

One of the most extensive efforts made by the Federation in this work began in 1956. It was decided to undertake exploratory work in the Sudan with a view to bringing together the various elements in that country interested in workers' education, to discuss the possibility of founding a voluntary workers' educational movement. Professor W E Styler, MA, then Deputy Director of Extra-Mural Studies in the University of Manchester, went to the Sudan on behalf of IFWEA. The result of his mission was the setting up of a planning committee broadly representative of workers' movements and including representatives of the University of Khartoum and the Sudan Ministry of Education, charged with the task of preparing for a conference to consider setting up a popular movement for workers' education.

The conference took place in Khartoum in 1957. It brought together, for the first time representatives of twenty national organisations which included trade unions, workers' clubs, women's organisations and tenants' associations. The university and the Ministry of Education sent observers. The Federation was represented by Professor W E Styler and Professor Asa Briggs, then President of the United Kingdom WEA. Sven-Arne Stahre of the Swedish ABF, at that time seconded to UNESCO as Head of its Adult Education Department, was present as a representative of UNESCO, and the ILO was also represented. The outcome of the conference was the formation of the Sudan Workers' Educational Association with a constitution which provided for a broad basis of representation of workers' interests. It began its work in 1958 with classes in the history, geography and institutions of the Sudan and the country's relations with the outside world. The work expanded and prospects for development appeared to be very promising. Then, following the coup d'état which took place in November 1958, news was received that the new Government had dissolved the Association and confiscated its funds.

Though this success was of short duration, the work of helping new organisations has continued over the years; another priority appeared when the new democracies of Spain and Portugal concentrated their efforts on developing their Social and educational institutions and building up voluntary organisations for workers' education. In these two countries three currently formed organisations of this kind, the Largo Caballero Foundation and the Pablo Iglesias Foundation of Spain and the Jose Fontana Foundation of Portugal, saw the importance of international links and quickly sought and

secured membership of the Federation. All have derived benefit from association with much older members of the IFWEA, particularly those in Germany, Austria and Scandinavia.



Research and other special projects

The Federation has undertaken, either on its own or in collaboration with other organisations, several research projects.

In 1953, at the invitation of UNESCO, it undertook an enquiry into methods of teaching workers about the structure, aims and work of the United Nations and its Specialised Agencies. Professor Asa Briggs (now Lord Briggs), then Professor of History in the University of Leeds and later President of the United Kingdom WEA, undertook the enquiry on behalf of the Federation. Visiting most countries in Western Europe and also the United States, he wrote a report which was published by UNESCO in its series - Educational Studies and Documents" under the title "Workers' Education for International Understanding".

In 1959, the IFWEA executive committee undertook a detailed enquiry among member organisations as to the extent of their experience in promoting facilities for the teaching of languages. The information received enabled the Federation to make recommendations to member organisations.

This was followed shortly after by an enquiry among member organisations designed to ascertain the extent to which they had opportunities for participating in the formulation of the policy and the planning of programmes in sound radio and television; and the extent to which these media were used for the purposes of adult education in the various countries. A considerable amount of valuable information was obtained.

Another project during this time was concerned to stimulate in member organisations and other workers' bodies serious study of the problems of race discrimination in education. Dr Ulf Himmelstrand, of the University of Uppsala, Sweden, was appointed to write a monograph to provide a basis for discussion at a special session of the Federation's Sixth General Conference in 1962. Dr Himmelstrand's monograph was later published by the Federation under the title "Content and Methods of Education in Dealing with Race Discrimination". The project received a UNESCO subvention.

UNESCO again provided a subvention for a special project for the training of local leaders for workers' education in India. This was promoted by the Indian Adult Education Association, a member of IFWEA. This organisation considered that the activities in workers' education which were promoted by various bodies in the cities and industrial areas of India were very useful but could be co-ordinated and given some local direction by representative voluntary councils. The Association planned to set up such councils in some twenty industrial areas. It was felt that there was a need for local leaders in workers' education who would be competent to carry out their work in the field. Such leaders were not to be found in any number, and training of suitable persons to undertake this work was therefore necessary,

The project was conceived as a pilot scheme for the training of twenty-five leaders. The course was held in New Delhi from November 1960 to February 1961.

Many of the Federation's research projects have been undertaken by its member organisations. For example, the Third General Conference decided to request appropriate member organisations to undertake enquiries into methods and problems in workers' education in their respective countries. The member organisations in Finland and Sweden undertook such enquiries on the motives which induce people to participate in adult education. The Workers' Educational Association of the United Kingdom undertook an enquiry into teaching techniques, the recruitment of tutors and problems involved in the promotion of workers' education in rural areas.

Publications

Always working with a slender budget, the IFWEA has not been able to maintain an extensive publishing programme. It has, however, produced several publications of some lasting value and interest, in particular reports of IFWEA seminars and research projects. Until 1965, reports of its General Conferences were published, and these included the Conference resolutions, reports of the work of the Secretariat and Executive Committee over the previous three years and short accounts of the activities of each member organisation.

From 1954 to 1967, the IFWEA published a journal which appeared two or three times a year, in English, German and French, and from 1968 in English and German only. In 1979 this Bulletin appeared in printed form, first in English and German, then also in French. The Bulletin is sent to member organisations in sufficient numbers of copies for distribution to their officers and members and also to a mailing list of individuals throughout the world who have asked to receive copies.

The IFWEA has never sought to publicize its work to any considerable extent, but in 1978 a leaflet designed to inform enquirers has been so much in demand that after 5,000 copies were distributed, it was reprinted.

A cyclostyled monthly Newsletter to member organisations supplies them with regular information and news, both concerning the activities of IFWEA and of other organisations - for example, many have publicized the various schemes for adult and workers' education of UNESCO.

A bureau of information

One of the Federation's important functions - indeed in its formative years, its main function - is that of a bureau for the exchange and dissemination of information between its member organisations. The Secretariat collects material and information from its members and is therefore in a position to supply information concerning workers' education in various countries to meet the many enquiries of interested bodies and individuals.



Co-operation with UNESCO and other international organisations

One of the objects of the Federation, set out in its constitution, is to represent the interests of

workers' education in relation to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation. An early approach was made to this body seeking formal recognition of the Federation as an international non-governmental organisation with which UNESCO would in future maintain consultative arrangements. The Federation was accorded this status by UNESCO in September 1949 and this relationship has led to the Federation's participation with UNESCO in various ways over the past thirty years.

Recognition for consultative status resulted in the Federation being consulted by UNESCO on a variety of matters in connection with workers' education and, through its Officers; IFWEA was represented on several expert committees called by UNESCO to advise on aspects of workers' education.

Some years later, UNESCO classified the non-governmental organisations which it recognised for consultative status into three categories and it was a matter of gratification that the Federation was placed in the most important of these, category A, which, in UNESCO's words, consists of "a restricted number of international non-governmental organisations which are broadly international in membership and of proven competence in an important field of education, science or culture and which have a record of regular major contributions to UNESCO work...



IFWEA Seventh General Conference, Milan 1965.

...close and continuous working relations shall be maintained with these organisations, which will be invited by the Director-General to advise him regularly on the preparation and execution of UNESCO's programme and to participate in UNESCO's activities".

In 1949, UNESCO set up a Consultative Committee for Adult Education to act as an advisory body in the development and organisation of its programmes for adult and workers' education. Its chairman, at each meeting up to 1954, was Ernest Green, then President of IFWEA. Representation on this Committee was one of the most important ways in which the Federation was able to make its influence felt in shaping the policy of UNESCO in the field of workers' education.

In 1952, UNESCO started a scheme for the award of travel grants to enable groups of workers' education leaders to make study tours. The Federation has from the beginning been represented on

the committee which meets annually to consider applications and make recommendations for awards. Four member organisations of IFWEA received awards in 1977/78 and one in 1979-80.

As an organisation recognised by UNESCO for consultative status, the Federation is entitled to representation by observer at the Sessions of the UNESCO General Conference and to submit observations on the programme and budget for consideration at those gatherings. The Federation has done so on many occasions. The Federation, especially during its formative years, received generous financial and technical assistance from UNESCO in support of projects which it would otherwise not have been able to undertake during a period when its funds were especially limited.

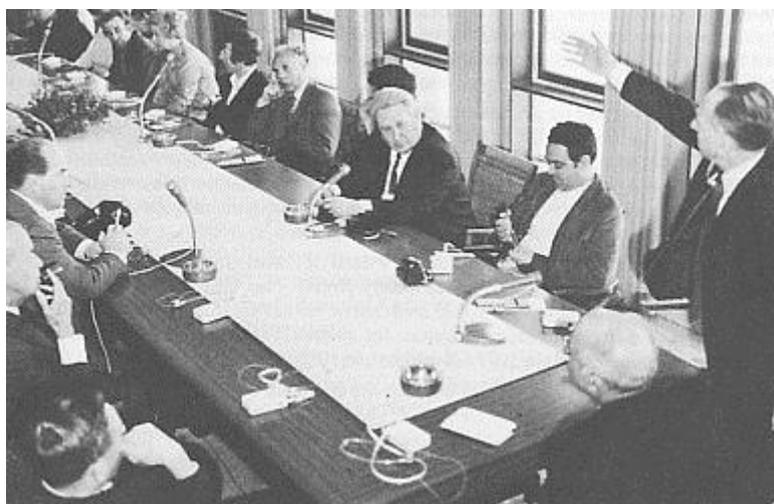
The IFWEA has maintained friendly relations with several other international organisations whose programmes include an active interest in workers' education. In particular, the Federation has at various times brought into consultation the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions and the International Labour Organisation and these organisations have sent representatives to most General Conferences of IFWEA

Financial resources

The Federation is dependent for its finances, on the affiliation fees its members. It is in the nature of voluntary workers' educational associations that they work on a tight budget, and the Federation has therefore sought to keep affiliation fees as low as possible. This has always meant that the IFWEA has to limit its activities severely. As will be seen from the foregoing account, many of its activities would not have been possible but for the generous help of other bodies or the co-operation of its members.

One respect in which certain member organisations have been most generous is in the provision of a Secretariat for the Federation on their premises and with the part-time work of members of their staffs.

The United Kingdom WEA provided a Secretariat from 1947 to 1968 and again took over this work in 1977; the Deutscher Gewerkschaftsbund did so from 1968 to 1972; ABF of Sweden from 1972 to 1974 and the Osterreichischer Gewerkschaftsbund from 1974 to 1977.



Professor Josef Eksl addressing 1972 General Conference delegates in Tel Aviv during a visit to meet the Deputy Premier, Mr Yigal Allon.

The Secretariat and Executive Committee

Thus the Secretariat has been located in four different countries over the past thirty years. There have been undoubted advantages in these moves; on the other hand, the Federation genuinely acquires a more international character and a much more diversified experience of international work; on the other hand, there is inevitably a certain discontinuity in the work, more particularly at the times of changeover.

Whilst the Secretariat is located at its original home in London, it has been felt that it would be an advantage to have a subsidiary office located on the Continent of Europe, where contacts, particularly with other international organisations, could be closer and more frequent. Discussions with the Belgian Government have resulted in a most generous offer of financial help to provide such a part-time bureau for the Federation in Brussels. The plan gives promise of valuable expansion of work.

As described earlier, the Executive Committee is composed of members from several different countries and as far as possible is representative of the membership of the Federation by regions and language groups. At present, the eight members come from Belgium, Sweden, the United Kingdom, Finland, the Federal Republic of Germany, Ireland, Austria and Israel.

The Committee meets once or twice a year in different countries. In the past few years it has met in Belgium, Norway, Germany, Austria, the United Kingdom, Portugal, Finland and Israel.



Officers 1947 - 1980

Ernest Green, the first President of IFWEA, who served in that capacity for 12 years, spent most of his life as a full-time officer of the United Kingdom Workers' Educational Association. After working as Secretary of the WEA's District in Yorkshire, he became national General Secretary and remained in that post for sixteen years, until his retirement in 1950. He also played a significant role in the work of other organisations, including the National Institute of Adult Education, the National Central Library, the Workers' Travel Association and served on several United Kingdom government committees and committees of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation. His tireless effort for the advancement of education in general and for the achievement of equality of educational opportunity in particular became widely recognised internationally as well as in his own country. Universities included him among their honorary graduates and official authority acknowledged his contribution to the nation's progress by awarding him the civil honour of CBE (Commander, of the Order of the British Empire).



His book "Education for a New Society" published during the second world war, expressed the aspirations and plans for educational advance which he and others in the labour movement hoped would be realised at the end of the war. He died in 1977 at the age of 92.



Harry Nutt, the Federation's first General Secretary, held the post for 21 years and was largely responsible for developing its strength and influence during its formative period.

He had long experience in workers' education. After working voluntarily in a branch of the United Kingdom WEA for many years he became Secretary of the WEA East Midland District in 1941. Leaving the District to join the national office staff in 1947, he became National Organising Secretary and took charge of the trade union work which at that time was carried out by the WEA's sister Organisation, the Workers' Educational Trade Union Committee, and contributed very considerably to the development of the Committee's work during this period. In 1950, on the retirement of Ernest Green, he became General Secretary W, and was the WEA's longest-serving officer in that capacity, fulfilling this task for twenty years. Harry Nutt was a man totally dedicated to his work and carried out his duties with care and minute attention to detail. His lifetime of devotion to workers education was recognised by the award of an honorary MA degree by Oxford University and by the civil honour, the OBE.

Sven-Arne Stahre of ABF, Sweden, became the Federation's second President on the retirement of Ernest Green in 1959. Like his predecessor in the Swedish movement, Gunnar Hirdman, he had already made a considerable international reputation in the field of adult and workers' education. His considerable knowledge of foreign languages was an asset which helped him to perform very effective work internationally and he was President also of another international the International Falcon Movement. He was seconded from his post in ABF for a time to become Head of the Adult Education Section of UNESCO, where he strove continually to secure recognition of the importance of workers' education. He completed nine years as President of IFWEA and later, in 1972, at a difficult time for the Federation, when the acting General Secretary was unable to continue his international work, Stahre stepped into the breach and took over the secretaryship.



Ellen McCulloch was elected President in 1968. She was at that time President of the United Kingdom WEA and an officer of the Education Department of the United Kingdom Trades Union Congress.

Ellen McCulloch came to her Presidency after a lifetime of experience in trade unions. At 14, she was employed as an office girl for the old Workers' Union, and from there she worked her way up. With the help of a scholarship she took a course at the London School of Economics and later became National Women's Officer of the Transport and General Workers' Union. She worked indefatigably for the improvement of women's status and argued the importance of enabling girl factory workers to have time off for educational purposes. She visited many factories in the course of her work, negotiating with employers for the introduction of day release classes. She tells one story which reveals the success which not only she, but also her two sisters, brought to their work (one as a catering adviser for the Industrial Welfare Society and one as a probation officer). One day, she had an appointment at a factory which both sisters had recently visited. The factory chief recognised the name with some trepidation and exclaimed: "Are there any more of you? One of you has got me to provide money for a new canteen and the other for a bonus scheme. I can't stand any more McCulloughs!"

Bjarne Hedtoft trained as a typographer and then qualified as a teacher. He taught for some years and was a very active member of the social democratic youth movement from 1944 to 1958, fulfilling many political tasks concerning young people. He became President of the social democratic student movement, "Frit Forum". In 1958, he joined the staff of AOF (Arbejdernes Oplysningsforbund), IFWEA's affiliate in Denmark, and has dealt with almost all the various fields with which this organisation is concerned. He has in particular been concerned with the Danish legislation of adult education and with teacher and leader training. He has been a member of the national committee which prepared legislation in this field, and was Secretary of the Danish Council for Adult Education from 1962 to 1974. He was Vice-President of IFWEA from 1968 to 1972.



Dr Wolfgang Schleicher of the Deutscher Gewerkschaftsbund (German Trades Union Confederation) accepted the General Secretaryship in 1968. A highly educated and cultured man, with experience in adult and workers' education a good linguist, Dr Schleicher was an asset to the IFWEA. He had been head of Germany's important adult education organisation, Arbeit und Leben, before being appointed as Secretary of the headquarters of the DGB's department responsible for cultural policy, general adult education and international cultural relations. He was a member of the German UNESCO Commission. In 1970, he left the DGB to become Head of the International Relations Department of the newspaper "Deutsche Welle" and had to relinquish his work for the Federation.



Heinz Eckert, also of the DGB, agreed to take over the international work from Dr Schleicher in an acting capacity until a more permanent arrangement could be made. He had begun working life in a factory, going to vocational training school one day a week. He was a prisoner of war in the USA and acquired there knowledge of English which was to prove useful in the IFWEA later. After repatriation he became an active trade unionist and attended adult education and trade union seminars. He was elected a member, and then chairman, of a works council. He devoted much time and energy also to civic work - holding offices of member of a borough council, deputy mayor, deputy chairman of a social security body, arbitrator, and leading advisor of the municipal adult education service.

He continued to pursue his personal studies and attended courses at the Academy of Labour, where he later became assistant teacher. He then worked for the correspondence school of the DGB. Since 1960 he has been a member of the Executive Board of DGB in the department of education in charge of trade union education. He is on the panel of advisors on workers' education of the ILO.

Professor Josef Eksl, now retired, was formerly Head of the Education Department of the Austrian Federation of Trade Unions (Österreichischer Gewerkschaftsbund). He had a life-long experience in the trade union movement, in which he was active as far back as 1924. This work brought him into trouble with the authorities during the period when such activities were illegal and he was arrested in 1934. In 1938, he emigrated. When he returned to Austria in 1946, he became Secretary for Youth work in a trade union and later Secretary for the Vienna district of the union. In 1956 he was appointed to a post in the Education Department of ÖGB and was also Head of the Berufsförderungsinstitut (vocational education institute). In 1974, the title of Professor was conferred upon him. He was President of IFWEA from 1971 to 1974.



Hubert Hermans, a former secondary school teacher and later a radio and television broadcaster, has worked as an adviser on cultural matters, including adult education, to the Belgian Government. He has been involved for many years in active trade unionism and in Political activities from the local level upwards and as a voluntary worker in workers' education. He is closely connected with the Centrale voor Socialistisch

Cultuurbeleid in the Flemish or Dutch-speaking northern part of Belgium and first became directly involved with IFWEA when he represented CSC at the IFWEA seminar organised by the Oesterreichischer Gewerkschaftsbund in Vienna in 1969. He became convinced of the great importance of IFWEA as a clearing house for ideas and experiences. He was elected to the executive committee of the Federation in 1972 and subsequently became Vice-President and finally, in 1977 President.

Ivar Leveraas, the Federation's President from 1974 to 1977, was active in trade unionism for many years. Starting work at 16, he worked in the metal industry for six years. Later he studied production engineering and was appointed education secretary of the Norwegian Iron and Metal Workers' Union. From that post he went in 1970 to work with Arbeidernes Opplysningsforbund, the WEA of Norway, of which he was General Secretary until 1975 when he became General Secretary of the Norwegian Labour Party. His energetic work in the labour and civic spheres included membership of the Central Committee of the Labour League of Youth and of the City Council of Oslo. He represented Norway at UNESCO's World Conference in Tokyo in 1972.





Karl Hummel. When the Secretariat of IFWEA moved to Vienna in 1974, to the headquarters office of the OGB (Austrian Federation of Trade Unions), Karl Hummel became General Secretary and fulfilled this task until 1977 when the Secretariat moved again to London. Karl's working life has been deeply concerned with workers' education both in Austria and in the international field. He has worked in the Education Department of the OGB for long periods over the last 25 years, a service broken only by periods of service first as Consultant at OEEC/EPA in the Social and Manpower Division, for two years, and later Head of Section, in the Education Department of the ICFTU, a post which he filled for three years from 1966 to 1969. For the last few years he has again been working in the OGB, and is now Head of its International Department.

Bo Toresson began his working life as a forester. In 1960, he became a full-time official in the Swedish social-democratic youth movement, first at regional level and later as General Secretary. From 1969 to 1972, he was secretary in the Social-Democratic Prime Minister's office. In 1972, he became Deputy Director of the Swedish WEA (ABF) and from 1975 to 1979 its Director of Studies. On leaving ABF in 1979, he joined the staff of a social-democratic newspaper as a journalist. He was elected Vice President of IFWEA in 1977.



Jack Taylor emigrated from the United Kingdom in 1952 to New Zealand, where he worked in State Housing, before moving to Australia. In both these countries he studied part-time at university but also attended WEA classes. He found a greater freedom and sense of purpose in WEA courses. He took on voluntary work for the WEA in Sydney, eventually becoming Vice-President of the Sydney Metropolitan Region and a member of the New South Wales state executive. He worked for fourteen years in the NSW Department of Education; during the last three years he was responsible for the entire computer processing of the NSW school-leaving examinations. These experiences made him critical of state provision of education compared with the possibilities of a voluntary adult and workers' education. He returned to the U.K., working in industry before becoming a full-time national officer in the WEA in 1971. He was one of their delegates at the IFWEA General Conference in 1972 and was elected IFWEA General Secretary in 1977.



APPENDICES

1. General Conferences

1947	London	1965	Milan
1950	Paris	1968	Copenhagen
1953	London	1972	Israel
1956	Vienna	1974	Brussels
1959	Stockholm	1977	Dublin
1962	Düsseldorf	1980	Oslo

2. Presidents

1947 - 1959	Ernest Green, United Kingdom
1959 - 1968	Sven-Arne Stahre, Sweden
1968 - 1972	Ellen McCulloch, United Kingdom
1972 - 1974	Josef Eksl, Austria
1974 - 1977	Ivar Leveraas, Norway
1977 -	Hubert Hermans, Belgium

3. Vice- Presidents (the first was elected in 1968)

1968 - 1972	Bjarne Hedtoft, Denmark
1972 - 1977	Hubert Hermans, Belgium
1977 - 1980	Bo Toresson, Sweden

4. General Secretaries

1947 - 1968	Harry Nutt, United Kingdom
1968 - 1970	Wolfgang Schleicher, Federal Republic of Germany
1970 - 1972	Heinz Eckert, Federal Republic of Germany (acting)
1972 - 1974	Sven-Arne Stahre, Sweden
1974 - 1977	Karl Hummel, Austria
1977-	Jack Taylor, United Kingdom

5. Countries represented on the Executive Committee (in addition to the countries, of the President, Vice-President and General Secretary)

1947 - 1950 Scandinavian countries represented by Sweden; Western European group by the Netherlands and France.

- 1947 - 1950** Scandinavian countries represented by Sweden; Western European group by the Netherlands and France.
- 1950 - 1953** Scandinavian countries represented by Denmark; Western European Group by France and German-speaking group by Switzerland
- 1953 - 1956** Scandinavian countries represented by Sweden; Western European group by Belgium, Central European group by Switzerland and American group by the United States.
- 1956 - 1959** Austria, Finland, Netherlands, Sweden and Switzerland.
- 1959 - 1962** Austria, Belgium, Finland, the Federal Republic of Germany, France and Norway.
- 1962 - 1965** Austria, Belgium, Finland, France, Italy and the Federal Republic of Germany.
- 1965 - 1968** Austria, Belgium, Finland, Federal Republic of Germany, Italy and Switzerland.
- 1968 - 1972** Austria, Belgium, Finland, Federal Republic of Germany and Switzerland.
- 1972 - 1974** Denmark, Israel, Federal Republic of Germany, Norway and United Kingdom.
- 1974 - 1977** Federal Republic of Germany, Ireland, Israel, Sweden and United Kingdom.
- 1977 -** Ireland, Israel, Federal Republic of Germany, Finland and Austria.

6. IFWEA Seminars and Summer Schools

- 1952** Training course in organising and teaching problems in workers' studies for international understanding. Held at UNESCO International Centre for Workers' Education at the Chateau de la Brévière. France.
- 1952** Summer school for French-speaking and British participants. Held at Rambouillet, near Paris. Host organisation: Centre d'Education Ouvrière of CGT-FO.
- 1954** Adult education in underdeveloped areas. Held at the University College of the Gold coast, West Africa. Host organisation: the Extra-Mural Department of the College. Financial assistance given by UNESCO.
- 1955** Workers' education for the promotion of international understanding with special reference to the United Nations and its Specialised Agencies. Held at a residential college of the Austrian Federation of Trade Unions, Innsbruck, Austria. Financial assistance given by UNESCO.
- 1958** The Relationship between Vocational Adult Education. Held at the International Labour office, Geneva. Financial assistance given by UNESCO and ILO

1959 Study of political, economic and cultural problems of Asiatic peoples held at a residential adult education centre of Arbeit und Leben, Federal Republic of Germany, and arranged by Arbeit und Leben in conjunction with the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung. Financial assistance given by UNESCO.

1962 Methods of workers' education with particular reference to youth. Held at the Chamber of Labour College, Linz, Upper Austria. Accommodation provided without charge by the Austrian Federation of Trade Unions, and financial assistance given by UNESCO and the ILO.

1964 Methods and materials for use in teaching about the work of the United Nations and its Specialised Agencies with particular reference to UNESCO and the ILO. Held at the ILO, Geneva. Financial assistance given by UNESCO and the ILO.

1966 Study of teaching methods, materials and aids in workers' education. Held at a residential college of the Austrian Federation of Trade Unions who provided accommodation without charge.

1969 Role and Function of Workers' Education within the Concept of Life-long Integrated Learning. Host organisation: Austrian Federation of Trade Unions. Held in Vienna. Assisted by UNESCO.

1970 Tendencies in the Workers' Movement in Europe. Florence. Arranged in conjunction with the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions.

1973 Paid Educational Leave. Held at ILO, Geneva. Arranged by the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung.

1973 Adult Education as basis for political activities and initiatives. Held at Folk High School of Friedrich Ebert Stiftung, Ahrensburg, near Hamburg.

1975 Adult Education and the Disadvantage. Held at Ruskin College, Oxford, England. Arranged by WEA of United Kingdom.

1975 The Role of Adult Education and Cultural Organisations in Europe. Held in Stockholm, and arranged by ABF of Sweden, this was designed to establish a dialogue with organisations in the USSR and Eastern Europe.*

1976 Role of Trade Union Training within the Scope of Co-Determination. Held at Otto-Mobes Residential College, Graz, Austria. Arranged by the Austrian Federation of Trade Unions and the Styrian Chamber of Labour.

1978 Education for Democracy at the Work-Place. Viskadalen, Sweden. Arranged by ABF Sweden.

1979 Workers' Education in Europe. Recklinghausen, Federal Republic of

Germany. Arranged by Arbeit und Leben.

1979 Political Education. Tampere, Finland. Arranged by TSL of Finland.

1979 Voluntary Education of Workers. Lisbon, Portugal. Arranged by Fundacao José Fontana in co-operation with the Friedrich Ebert Foundation of the German Federal Republic.

1979 Education and the Disadvantaged in the New Social-Economic Situation. Brussels, Belgium. Arranged by the Centrale voor Socialistisch Cultuurbeleid.

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***1976** Current problems of Education for Workers in connection with the Scientific and Technological Revolution and Cultural Activities. Held in Moscow. Host organisation: Znanie. This was in response to the IFWEA initiative in 1975.

7. Publications

(it should be noted that these are now out of print with the exception of recent issues of the Bulletin, the leaflet and the constitution.)

Constitution (in English, German and French)

Report of Proceedings at Second General Conference 1950 with Report of the Secretariat and Executive Committee 1947-1950.

Report of Proceedings at Third General Conference 1953 with Report of the Secretariat and Executive Committee 1950-1952.

Report of proceedings at Fourth General Conference 1956 with Report of the Secretariat and Executive Committee 1953 - 1956.

Report of Proceedings at Fifth General Conference 1959 with Report of the Secretariat and Executive Committee 1956 - 1959.

Report of Proceedings at Sixth General Conference 1962 with Report of the Secretariat and Executive Committee 1959 - 1962.

Independent Voluntaryism in Workers' Education, by Professor G. D. H. Cole. 1953.

Adult Education in a Changing Africa, by David and Helen Kimble. (Report of an Inter-African Seminar held in the Gold Coast in December 1954).

Workers' Education for International Understanding. (Report of a Seminar held at Innsbruck in April 1955, containing the Recommendations of the Seminar).

The Relationship between Vocational and Non-Vocational Adult Education. (Report of a Seminar held at Geneva in October 1958, containing the Recommendations of the Seminar).

Workers' Education - Sudan, by W. E. Styler. 1962.

Content and Methods of Education in Dealing with Race Discrimination, by Ulf Himmelstrand 1964.

Report of a Seminar on Adult Education and the Disadvantaged, Oxford.1975

Report of a Seminar on the Role of Adult Education and Cultural Organisations in Europe, Stockholm, 1975.

International Bulletin of Workers' Education (later entitled IFWEA Bulletin). Publication started in 1951. In English, German and French. From 1968 to 1979 in English and German, and from December 1979 in English, German and French.

IFWEA-IVA-FIAET (Leaflet outlining the Federation's aims and activities, with names and addresses of member organisations).

