ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, 5th May 2010

Library Teaching Room, 20 Bedford Way

In attendance: Sarah Aitchison, Claire Drinkwater (Treasurer), Becky Webster (Secretary), Gene Adams, Richard Aldrich, Stephen Pickles.

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Claudia Clarke and Edith Wilson.

2. Approval of Minutes

The minutes from last year’s AGM were approved by the FNLA.

3. Matters Arising

The Examination Papers project discussed at the 2009 AGM is yet to be completed. Claire Drinkwater reported on the Library’s purchase of the Ministry of Education Library collection for £32 500. It is estimated that about half of the books will be retained and integrated into the library’s collection; the remainder will be sold. In June library staff will start the work of selection. Members of library staff had also recently visited the library of the DCSF (Department for Children, Schools and Families) to select remaining items of value for transfer.

Sarah Aitchison reported on the cataloguing progress of the archive’s collections. The papers of Gene Adams are now fully catalogued and the list available online. The collections of David and Mary Medd and the Society of Teachers Opposed to Physical Punishment (STOPP) have been transferred from Emerald Street to 20 Bedford Way. The records of the research project ‘Research of Education in South Africa (RESA) have been transferred to Emerald Street. All archivists are currently cataloguing the records of STOPP.

4. Annual Report

Sarah Aitchison reported that the Assistant Archivist, Katie Mooney, has left and been replaced by Jessica Womack. The FNLA now has 33 members. Currently there are 9 life members, 22 individual members, and 1 corporate member. Judith Baines has been made an honorary life member. After holding a memorial event for George Baines Judith donated £400 to the FNLA to be put towards caring for archives regarding primary education. The money has been used to buy preservation materials for the photographic collection of the Architects and Buildings Branch, which is
currently being catalogued. She also reported the sad news of the death David Medd in April 2009, one of the archive’s depositors and an early member of FNLA.

Issue 7 of the newsletter is now available and has been posted out to members. A list of prospective members has also been drawn up and a mailshot will be sent out shortly. In January a study afternoon on the abolition of the ILEA was held, with ninety six attendees. There is scope for holding a second event on the subject. As the majority of attendees were non-members it was suggested that in future a voluntary donation could be made by attendees at the event. It was also suggested that talks of FNLA events could be published, possibly as a themed edition of the journal of the History of Education Society. The journal’s editor, David Crook should be contacted to discuss this.

5. Treasurer’s Report

Income figures attached. Claire Drinkwater talked through the accounts. It was reported that as the FNLA is a registered charity it is required to have an income of at least £1 000 a year. Therefore there is a need to increase income. It was planned that this could be achieved through a recruitment drive. Expenditure has been made on redesigning and printing the FNLA leaflet to fit with the IOE’s brand and the study afternoon.

6. Election of Officers

It was announced that no contact had been made with the Chair, Anne Peters. As a result Sarah Aitchison was nominated and elected as Chair. Claire Drinkwater (Treasurer) and Becky Webster (Secretary) would be continuing in their current roles.

7. Fundraising and Future Projects

Claire Drinkwater and Becky Webster reported on the library’s current fundraising projects. Over the last year library staff have been working with both Marketing and Finance and three bids have been put together. A project to catalogue and publicise the library’s collection of school histories has received funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund. The project would be starting shortly and will be completed by February 2011. A bid to provide funding for cataloguing the records of the National Union of Women Teachers (NUWT) has been submitted to a number of funding bodies but has not yet been successful. It was suggested the library should consider contacting important figures in women’s history or feminist groups to promote the importance of the collection. The bid to raise money to fund the cataloguing of the Library’s ILEA collection is pending.

A project to catalogue the library’s collection of geography textbooks has been funded by the Frederick Soddy Trust. In total the library has received £21 000. In particular special thanks were given to Ashley Kent who has helped raise funds and publicise the project. Future plans include a similar project to fund the cataloguing of the history textbooks.

A marketing strategy is also being developed and this will help with future fundraising activities.
8. **Any Other Business**

Gene Adams spoke of her intention to encourage the establishment of a reading crèche at her local library. It was suggested she contact Brenda Taggart, who works in the Department of Early Childhood and Primary Education, and the European Centre for Reading Recovery.

A project to create a basic list of the examination papers, reports and syllabuses (1907-1997) is yet to start. Stephen Pickles suggested it would be worth selecting a number of papers for digitisation, particularly on Mathematics and History, as this may attract external funding.