

Report on the Activities of the Foundation Mario Montessori 75 Fund for 2002



In 1973, on the occasion of Mario Montessori's 75th birthday, the Mario Montessori 75 Fund—a non-profit Foundation—was created by his friends and colleagues in order to assist the professional training and preparation of Montessori trainers.

Meetings

The Board of Trustees held its annual meeting on November 21, 2002 at the AMI Head Office. David Kahn presided. Matters discussed included finances, fund-raising, the International Study Centre and Maria Montessori's archives.

Financial Assistance to Trainees in the Training of Trainers Programme

In the current year, the fund supplied loans to the amount of € 15,808 to people participating in the Training of Trainers Programme.

One trainee required funding to enable her to complete the final aspects of her training and was successful in her endeavours. A new trainee who had to relocate to an AMI Training Centre in another country also applied for financial assistance. Her request was granted for one year and ongoing funding would be reviewed in conjunction with the AMI Sponsoring Committee.

Furthermore, the Board of Trustees was pleased to record that two recipients of financial assistance achieved Trainer status during 2002.

Gifts

The Board of Trustees is grateful to those people who make donations to the Fund on an annual basis and would like to acknowl-

edge their constant generosity over the years. In light of the projects currently under discussion, such as the archives of Maria Montessori, the Trustees would like to see the objectives of the Fund inspire even greater interest throughout the AMI community. Without a sound financial base from which to operate, the project for the archives will be unable to achieve its full potential—resulting in an irreparable loss to Montessorians, scholars, parents, and not least the children of today and of the future.

International Study Centre

In conjunction with the AMI Executive Committee, the Board of Trustees continued to explore possible sites for the International Study Centre. As there are many aspects to be considered when reviewing a possible site, e.g. legal, financial, pedagogical, etc., it has not been easy to find a location fitting the entire bill. In its November meeting, the Board considered a proposal for a feasibility study in the province of Navarre, Spain. A number of elements gave rise to optimism: the local authorities there administer their own educational affairs independently of central government; there are no major alternative educational entities in existence and, also important, the preservation of heritage sites is high on the local agenda. Agreement to launch a feasibility study in Navarre, to take place in the months of February and March of 2003, was reached.

Archives

The work on the archives is essential to the International Study Centre—the core of its

being. Besides her published work and specific guidelines for the creation of Montessori apparatus, Maria Montessori left behind a vast body of unpublished material. These papers have now been photocopied and digitised. It was agreed that the next steps to be taken were to catalogue, translate and edit this great body of work with a view to eventually making it available in electronic format through a database. All these steps require special expertise. As the year 2002 came to a close AMI, in consultation with the Board of Trustees, was in the process of drawing up a proposal and budget for work on the archives and would target the Mario Montessori 75 Fund for financial assistance.

Other Business

With reluctance, the Trustees accepted Mrs. Hilla Patell's resignation from the Board. She had played a significant role in discussions and decision-making. The vacancy created by her retirement will be filled from three nominations which, in accordance with the Articles of Association, will be made by the AMI Executive Committee.

The Board of Trustees looks forward to 2003 when it is expected that the work initiated in the year just past will continue to develop and progress—work which will further enhance the aims for which the Fund was established and which Mario Montessori found to be of such importance.

Board of Trustees

RECEPTION AT AMI HEAD OFFICE TO MARK THE COMPLETION OF THE EXTENSIVE RENOVATIONS TO THE OFFICE FLOOR



The team responsible for the office face-lift, with spouses



Waiting for the guests...



The reception in full swing