

Bibliodiversity

*The monthly newsletter of the Alliance of Independent Publishers
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Editorial

We have made a good resolution for 2006: to expand our promotion of the circulation of information and mutual understanding within the Alliance. This modest newsletter is part of the initiative. It should allow us to take a break from what we are doing once a month and present you with forthcoming highlights and give all our joint activities greater exposure. Published in three language versions, it will be sent to all members of the network and also to all the friends and institutions who are giving long-term support to our great venture.

*As a happy omen, we are delighted to report that 10 new members joined us at the start of the year and we welcome them to our ranks (see “**Life of the network**” section). In this issue, we also offer you an overview of the activities which the Alliance was involved in, on its own or in partnership, towards the end of 2005: from Guadalajara (Mexico) to Beirut (Lebanon) via Montreuil (France) and Dakar (Senegal), we have tried to bring greater awareness to the challenge of bibliodiversity (“**Events**” section) here and there. In our “**Just Out**” section, we will regularly showcase a co-publishing project between members of our network. This month the “**Diary**” section invites you to come and see us at the Paris Book Fair, which is a key platform for our “*bibliodiversity in the French-speaking world*” programme. Finally, each month we will introduce you to a member of the Alliance in our “**Portrait**” section.*

*Happy new year and happy reading.
Etienne Galliard*

Life of the network

Welcome!

The new year may have only just begun, but it has already seen 10 new members join the Alliance of Independent Publishers. The Spanish-speaking network has welcomed the **Araucaria** publishing house (Argentina), represented by Hector Dinsmann, **Plural** in Bolivia directed by José Antonio Quiroga,



and **Colibrí** in Mexico with Sandro Cohen (see **Portrait** section).

The Arab-speaking network, which met in Beirut in December 2005, has added several new members: **Les Éditions Toubkal** in Morocco, represented by Abdeljalil Nadem, **Thala Editions** in Algeria, directed by Mohammed Tahar Guerfi, **Dar Al-Intishar** in Lebanon with Nabil Mroueh and **Dar Al-Shorouk** in Jordan, directed by Fethi Bess.

Finally, we hail the arrival of **Boitempo** in Brazil, directed by Ivana Maria Tavares Jenkins (Portuguese-speaking network), as well as **Tulika** in India (English-speaking network) directed by Indira Chandrasekhar and **Éditions Sang de la Terre** (France) with Dominique Bigourdan (French-speaking network).

Diary

Paris Book Fair 2006

The Alliance has taken a 45 m2 stand at the Paris Book Fair for its French-speaking members. The publishers appearing on the network's stand will be selling a selection of their books, showcasing their publishing houses, as well as providing information about the conditions under which they operate in their respective countries. Several round tables and working meetings will be held for members of the Alliance to discuss the issue of publisher independence, the concept of fair publishing, and the conditions that govern the circulation of books in the French-speaking world (in partnership with the International French-speaking Booksellers Association).

In addition, the Alliance will host on its stand the Association of African Francophone Publishers Afrilivres (www.afrilivres.com) and the LIBRE association, the Brazilian network of publishers (www.libre.org.br). We hope to see you at stand number XX from 17 to 23 March 2006.

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Just Out

The WSF is not just about protest

Title: 100 Proposals from the World Social Forum. **Author(s):** several. **Countries of publication:** France, Mali, Morocco, Cameroon, Guinea and Gabon for the French version; Spain and Venezuela for the Spanish version; Brazil, Portugal, Angola and Guinea Bissau for the Portuguese version; India, South Africa and Tanzania for the English version.

Language(s): French, Spanish, English, Portuguese

Set up in Porto Alegre in 2001 in response to the Davos World Economic Forum, the World Social Forum has, with each publication, continued to flesh out,

internationalize and build up its organization.

However, due to lack of information on the content of the debates, it has never succeeded in convincing the media, public opinion and politicians of its ability to put forward constructive ideas. A great many proposals have nevertheless emerged. Drawing on their memory of the previous forums, eleven editors, women and men from different regions of the world, covered

the debates at Porto Alegre, for the 2005 WSF event, and collected the proposals that emerged from the eleven themes addressed.

Their work demonstrates that the World Social Forum is a

genuine vehicle for helping build a world community that is able to produce a significant amount of intellectual advances and put forward specific proposals based on its conviction that “another world is possible”.

Events

Under the Mexican sun, the Latin world champions bibliodiversity

Seventy independent publishers from 23 countries in Africa, America and Europe met together from 27 to 30 November 2005 for the “*Independent Publishers of the Latin World and Bibliodiversity*” event held in Guadalajara, Mexico. This meeting was organized by the Latin Union, the Alliance of Independent Publishers and the Regional



Centre for Book Promotion in Latin America and the Caribbean (CERLALC), under the patronage of UNESCO and in the context of the 19th Guadalajara International Book Fair.

Having spent three days exchanging experiences and ideas on various aspects of publishing and holding debates with national



and international political representatives, the independent publishers put forward specific proposals aimed at preserving, in spite of a publishing context governed by the demands of economic profitability, the cultural specificity of their role, which is under serious threat all over the world.

These publishers decided to sign a joint declaration on 29 November 2005 (http://www.alliance-editeurs.org/fr/declaration_fre.rtf) listing the most urgent actions that need to be taken to avert the danger of cultural impoverishment and to champion the concept of bibliodiversity. In particular they sought an ethical and united commitment to ensuring the implementation of policies such as the single book price and the promotion of reading, and reasserted their solidarity with other players in the book sector, in particular booksellers and librarians. In addition, they stressed the urgent need to defend the right to monitor the way in which their publications are circulated and distributed, and the need to undertake cooperation initiatives and draw up joint

commercial agreements, both for co-editions and for translation and to promote exchanges between publishers throughout the Latin world.

Independent publishers also expressed a willingness to combine their efforts to ensure that the *Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions*, adopted by UNESCO in October 2005, is ratified in their respective countries as soon as possible.

Two days of new initiatives

Meeting of the Arab-speaking network in Beirut, 11-12 December

The meeting of Arabic language publishers was held in Beirut on 11 and 12 December 2005, and brought together publishers from Lebanon (Dar Al-Farabi and Dar Al-Intishar), Morocco (Éditions Toubkal), Algeria (Thala Editions), Tunisia (Med Ali), Libya (Tala) and Jordan (Dar Al-Shorouk). At the end of this meeting, the Alliance of Independent Publishers announced the setting up of an Arabic-speaking network of independent publishers, coordinated by Nouri ABID (Med Ali). This network will organize its work in coordination with the other language-based networks. This meeting (see report on: http://www.alliance-editeurs.org/fr/proces_verbal_bey.rtf) saw among other things the launch of the translation of the Enjeux Planète (Global Issues) collection in Arabic. The publishers also took part in the Beirut Arab-language Book Fair.

A stand and a study of publishing in African languages

International Book Fair of Dakar (Senegal) – 6 to 19 December 2005

The Alliance of Independent Publishers and the International French-speaking Booksellers Association (AILF – www.librairesfrancophones.org) had a joint stand at the International Book and Educational Materials Fair of Dakar

(Senegal), offering information and showcasing their activities. On this occasion, the Alliance instigated a study on publishing in national and local African languages, under the direction of Jean-Claude Naba (Sankofa & Gurli), with the support of Karine Lewkowicz (Pôle Fontaine o livres – contact@fontaineolivres.com) a book resource centre. The presence of our association in Senegal inaugurated the *Bibliodiversity in the French-speaking World* programme which will be an important feature of our 2006 programme (see the Diary section).

Call for contributions

For our executive team, 2006 will be a year of preparation for our next major international meeting, which will bring all the members of our association together. We will keep you regularly informed of the progress of our preparations. We do not yet know either where or exactly when this major event, which will bring together around a hundred publishers of at least 40 nationalities, will be held. If you have any suggestions, ideas, wishes or contacts with institutions which might support us with this project, let us know!

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Portrait

The Mexican hummingbird

Sandro Cohen, Editorial Colibrí



We met Sandro Cohen for the first time in 2003, in Paris. With ten or so of his

compatriots invited by the Mexican Cultural Institute, we were able to touch on the creation of an alliance of independent Mexican publishers. We were impressed by the extensive catalogue of his publishing house - Editorial Colibrí - by his gentle manner and by his deep commitment.

The editorial approach of the publishing house is unwavering, the requirement for quality clear. We are intent on offering the best of new literature. The authors of the publishing house also know - Sandro tells us - that the most effective defence against losing one's culture, is to cultivate a "critical spirit" and to keep a "passionate soul": quite a programme!

Thus, with some 85 titles, Colibrí, which is Spanish for hummingbird, visits in turn the most beautiful flowers of Latin American literature in general, and Mexican in particular: fiction, plays, essays etc.



Editorial Colibrí joined the Alliance of Independent Publishers only quite recently. It was at the *Independent Publishers from the Latin World and Bibliodiversity* conference, held in Guadalajara from 27 to 30 November 2005, that Sandro presented us with his application for membership. Moreover he made a major contribution - in particular as a double act with Anne-Marie Métailié - to the success of this event. Within the Alliance, Sandro is taking a close interest in the co-publishing process, in the deliberations on the independence of publishing, and is keen to be kept informed about the projects undertaken by other publishers. So, we welcome this strange Mexican bird: we are delighted to have him on board.

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A **non-profit association**. **Tax situation** inspected by the tax authorities of East Paris (France). **2004 accounts certified** by an independent auditor - Cabinet SOFIDEEC, Paris (France). The use of data collected by the Alliance **complies with the French data protection act** (declared to the French data protection authority, the Commission nationale de l'informatique et des libertés). **Cost accounting** on class 6 and 7 accounts (revenue - expenditure) is carried out to ensure effective monitoring of fund allocation. **The annual reports** (corporate and financial) of the Alliance, validated by the Annual General Meeting, are available on request from the permanent team. The documents published by the Alliance for circulation are printed **on recycled paper**.

The Alliance would like to thank its partner organizations and institutions: see <http://www.alliance-editeurs.org/fr/partenaires.htm>

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