

The chronic financial crisis at the Institute of Contemporary Arts continues to wreak a demoralizing toll at its splendid Nash House headquarters in the Mall. Last year the ICA's deficit was about £50,000, I understand, and the council is planning a major fundraising scheme while resorting to rigorous economies.

The saddest cut of all is the temporary "laying off" of three of the ICA's leading creative staff: Jasia Reichardt. Ann Lauterbach and Julia Lawson) who may, however, I understand, retain her duties as assistant to the president, Sir Roland Penrose). They are leaving at the end of this month, but will be offered a retainer of £500 each to act as advisers from the autumn, plus additional fees for any exhibitions, courses or other projects they organize on a freelance basis.

A fourth part-time organizer, Jonathan Benthall, who has worked on their valuable lecture series, is leaving in September to go to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (although his departure is connected with the ICA's squeeze). Exhibitions like the *Unlikely Photography* show, which I mentioned on Monday, and other projects are being postponed or cut down. There was even talk of closing the ICA entirely during the summer, but that was not possible.

I understand that Jasia Reichardt, who organized the celebrated *Cybernetic Serendipity* exhibition, is unlikely to return on a retainer basis; her international reputation is such that she should have no difficulty in finding alternative work. Ann Lauterbach, who has been in charge of poetry readings and events for three years, says she does not know what will happen.

"Nobody knows. We are all very miserable; we are all very confused. It's very demoralizing when you give all your energy,

optimism and imagination to something and then see it nearly collapse. But I hope the ICA can be salvaged as I believe it has a role to play; and I'd like to help it play that role", she says.

Meanwhile the ICA is considering how it should adapt to the realities of its present unhappy situation. Almost certainly it will move away from the large and expensive major exhibitions for which it is largely known (and which last year lost £3,000 apiece on average) to smaller exhibitions, involving more British artists. Some of the staff would like to see it leave its expensive Nash House headquarters and operate as a "nerve centre", stimulating exhibitions and events in London. The Borges poetry reading at Westminster Hall is regarded as an example of what could be done in this direction.

Black Berry



James Berry, Britain's public executioner in the 1890s, retired from his chosen trade to a second career as a travelling lecturer, drawing crowds to theatres and music halls all over the country

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with a 40-minute lecture and lantern show on crime and punishment. He billed it as an "eccentric, excruciatingly continuous entertainment—without vulgarity".

The "splendid limelight views" with which he illustrated his talks—180 slides showing prison life, the treadmill, the death chamber and so on—come up for auction by Phillips, Son and Neale at their monthly book sale on June 29, along with his notes for a lecture called "What you get for breaking the laws of this country"; his record book of executions, and two manuscripts: a book called *A Hangman's Thoughts* and a shorter piece entitled *An Executioner's Wages*.

His record book, detailing his receipts of commissions to execute, show what the executioner's wages were: "Sir", he wrote to the High Sheriff of London in 1891, "I beg leave to state in reply to your letter of the 8th instant that I am prepared to undertake the execution you name of Franc Joseph Munch at Wandsworth Gaol on Tuesday, 21st. I also beg leave to state my terms are as follows: £10 for the execution, £5 if the condemned is reprieved, together with all travelling expenses. . . ."

Of the 30 entries in Berry's note-

book, about five have "reprieved" scribbled across them in a rather angry scrawl.

Berry, who lived in Bradford, also publicized himself as a phrenologist and character reader, promising "palmistry explained" and, more ironically, "heads examined".

Aubrey Daniel, the Army prosecutor of Lieutenant William Calley, who sprang to fame with his impassioned letter to President Nixon criticizing him for his intervention in the judicial process, has won the amply deserved reward of a plum job with one of the most celebrated Washington law offices.

The firm, headed by Edward Bennett Williams, the famous criminal lawyer, has announced that Daniel, a 29-year-old former captain, will begin work in August. Clearly Nixon may have a Daniel to contend with for some time. . .

Too civil?

Tory MPs (and particularly the Market doubters among them) are already worrying about the ability of British civil servants to stand up to the European bureaucrats when it comes to bargaining for our interests in Brussels. In their view even our limited experience in Efta has indicated that Britain can be left standing when industrial matters are under negotiation.

Ministers are well aware of this anxiety, especially as they were questioned closely on the issue at the recent Conservative seminars on Europe at Westminster. John Davies, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, recognizes that the question is a real one. He says that British civil servants are new to kinds of negotiations which they will face in Brussels, but is publicly confident that they are learning rapidly to develop tougher

attitudes when bargaining for industrial interests.

Davies thinks our civil servants should learn to be less "philosophically neutral". But James Prior, Minister of Agriculture, has warned Tory MPs against underestimating the ability of British civil servants to interpret the EEC regulations to Britain's advantage. He says that the French are particularly worried about our officials "pulling a fast one" over them. Nevertheless there is talk among MPs about recruiting industry-trained civil servants if Britain does join the Common Market.

Umbrella stand

The rule that everything is allowed that is not forbidden does not seem to apply in Germany to soldiers in uniform carrying an umbrella. The *Koelnische Rundschau* recently reported that a soldier protected himself against pouring rain when walking across his compound. He wore no cap as he was on military grounds.

A major took offence and told him that a soldier was forbidden to use an umbrella. (He may do so in public when protecting a lady against rain.)

This according to the paper, started a controversy in the barracks. Did the military image permit the use of an umbrella? Did any law forbid it?

There is a gap in instructions. They state what a soldier on duty has to wear, but do not say what is not permissible, according to a spokesman from the Defence Ministry. He pointed out, however, it was an unwritten law in the western hemisphere that a soldier in uniform was not seen in public with an umbrella.