

MINUTES

Annual General Meeting CSECS/SCEDHS 20 October 2007

University of Manitoba
Winnipeg, Manitoba

In attendance: Betty Schellenberg (President), Gefen Bar-On-Santor (Treasurer), Gordon Fulton (Secretary), Pam Perkins (Conference Organizer), Barb Seeber (*Lumen* Series Editor), Stéphanie Massé (Graduate Student Representative), Marc-André Bernier (ISECS Representative), John Baird, Fiona Ritchie, Sharon Ragaz, Isobel Grundy, David Oakleaf, Lisa Vargo, Claire Grogan, John Pierce, Shelley King, Tiffany Potter, Carol Percy, Katherine Quinsey, Heather Ladd, Frans de Bruyn, Paul Rice, Reid Spencer, Stephan Jaeger, Tobias Heinrich, Marie Comisso, Alex Sokalski, Shannon Russell, Leith Davis, Christina Ionescu, Christina Smuutopoulos, Greg Smith, Margaret Reeves, Larry Bongie, Armelle St. Martin, Richard Lebrun, Alison Scott-Prelorentza, Jay Macpherson, Th. Moser-Verrey, Kristen Martin, Clorinda Donato, Benoit Melançon, Peter Sabor, Don Nichol, Katherine Binhammer, Stéphanie Roy.

1. Approval of the Agenda (Binhammer/Nichol)

2. Approval of the Minutes of the Previous Meeting (as corrected) (Grundy/Sabor)

Corrections to the Minutes: The next conference will be organized at McGill, not at Mount Allison University. The winner of the Madoff Prize was Noelle Gallagher. The French abbreviation of the society's title should be "SCEDHS."

3. Report of the 2007 Conference Organizer

Pam Perkins reported that there had been 130 speakers (including plenary speakers) and that 137 in all had registered for the conference. The conference is in the black and will be able to contribute money toward the publication of *Lumen*. She reminded those sending requests for travel assistance to send them to the Treasurer by 1 December. The President thanked Pam, the rest of the organizing committee and the student volunteers for their contributions to a smoothly run conference.

4. President's Report

Betty Schellenberg thanked the Executive Committee for their commitment and their energy, extending particular thanks to those whose time on the Executive is ending at this meeting: Barb Seeber (*Lumen* Editor, English), Stéphanie Massé (Graduate Student Representative and *Bulletin* editor, French), Kathleen James-Cavan (*Bulletin* editor, English) and Marc-André Bernier (ISECS representative).

Betty announced three changes that had been decided upon by the Executive:

1. The *Bulletin* will be discontinued and its functions absorbed into other forms of communication. i. A listserv will be started, not to function as a discussion group, but simply as a medium for the communication of announcements. ii. The website will be expanded and updated regularly. Peter Hynes has agreed to continue as webmaster, and he will be encouraged to seek paid student assistance, should he feel the need of it.
2. The Executive has decided that it will be reasonable to spend between \$2000 and \$3000 for i) help with translation (Johanna Dançiu of Mount Allison University has agreed to work in this capacity); ii) assistance in the preparation of materials for meetings; and iii) help with the website, which the Executive realizes can become quite expensive and which, therefore, will be sought only when it is necessary and for clearly defined purposes.
3. The Society's membership fees have been the same for some years, and the Executive considers that a modest increase is reasonable at this time. The fees for students, for retired members and for assistant professors will remain the same, but beginning next year, the fee for associate professors will likely increase by \$10 and the fee for full professors will likely increase by \$20.

5. Treasurer's Report

Gefen Bar-On Santor presented a Balance Sheet Comparison for 2007 and 2006 (as of 14 October 2007), the statements of profit and loss for the current year (ended 14 October 2007) and the previous year (ended 14 October 2006), and a comparison of the two years showing the percentage changes in each item between 2006 and 2007.

Noting that the year-end is determined by the date of the conference, Gefen directed attention first to the last two columns on the Balance Sheet Comparison. She noted the following:

1. the income reported for 2007 does not include memberships paid at the conference, which was (unofficially) \$1090.00. A further mailing will be sent to members who have not renewed their membership for this year, and it is hoped that this will help to close the gap between income in this area for 2007 and 2006.
2. interest income is higher for 2007.
3. expenses have been similar, although money had to be spent for student assistance to prepare a membership list to be sent to ISECS in the particular form in which ISECS had requested it. Expenditures included \$500 for the Madoff Prize, \$2000 in seed money for next year's conference in Montréal and \$4000 for the Smith Prize.
4. The money from SSHRC for travel expenses will be paid in December. Gefen encouraged those eligible to submit their claims.
5. There was an actual loss of \$2449 for 2006; the final figure for 2007 remains to be determined, but will be less than the \$4434 shown by at least the amount of money collected in memberships during this conference.

Turning to the Balance Sheet Comparison, Gefen said that there are two main liabilities, travel assistance and *Lumen*. She will be meeting with a bank representative in December to discuss how our savings might be made to earn more interest.

There is lower revenue from membership fees, and membership stands at 44 student, 11 retired and 101 current faculty members, for a total of 156, compared to 183 last year. This difference may diminish after the further mailing to those who have not renewed their membership for the current year.

6. Bulletin Editors' Report

The Bulletin has been ended, for the reasons stated in the President's report.

7. *Lumen* Editors' Report

Barb Seeber reported that after major technical problems at the printer, Volume XXVI, the papers from the 2005 conference at Trois-Rivières, is being printed and bound. Volume XXVII, the papers from the 2006 conference at Dalhousie, is well under way, with authors now receiving readers' reports and making revisions to their submissions. Barb directed attention to the call for papers for Volume XXVIII included in the registration packet. The deadline is 14 December.

The journal is now more regularized and has been put on an annual production schedule. The option of electronic publication is being investigated, especially the possibility of back issues being made available through JSTOR (widespread murmurs of approval). Ugo is continuing as French editor, and there will be benefits from the now staggered terms for the two editors. Barb has recommended, and the executive has approved, that CSECS join the Canadian Federation of Learned Journals. The cost is low (\$100 per year) and the benefits include access to cost-effective advertising in conjunction with the federation and a page of our own in the federation's website.

8. Webmaster's Report

Peter Hynes was unable to attend the meeting, but the President reported that he is willing to continue as webmaster and she asked the membership to send submissions and suggestions for the site, noting that some have already been sent.

9. Delegates' Reports

April London, representative to the Canadian Federation of the Humanities and Social Sciences, was unable to attend the meeting. The President said that she is willing to continue in this role.

Marc-André Bernier, representative to ISECS, reported that this year's congress in Montpellier had been a success and he announced that the next congress will be held in Graz, Austria in 2011 on the (proposed) theme "Enlightenment and Responsibility to the Future." Marc-André is being replaced as ISECS representative because he has been appointed to the Executive of ISECS and so should not serve as CSECS representative as well.

Don Nichol, representative to ASECS, reported that he will be attending the 2008 meeting in Portland and asked that the membership let him know any news that he should convey at that meeting.

10. Graduate Student Representative's Report

Stéphanie Massé reported that at the graduate student round table on Thursday evening Heather Ladd, a Ph.D candidate in English at the University of Toronto, had been chosen as the new Graduate Student Representative.

11. Honours and Prizes

The President reported that the Madoff Prize for 2005 has been awarded to Emmanuel Bouchard for the paper entitled « Marques d'ironie dans les *Avantures de Monsieur Robert Chevalier, dit de Beauchêne* d'Alain-René Lesage.» This year's holders of the D. W. Smith fellowship are Isabelle Pichet, doctoral student in Histoire de l'art at UQAM, for her project entitled "La mise en exposition des Salons de l'académie de peinture et de sculpture au XVIIIe siècle. L'apport du Tapissier," and Kirsten E. Campbell, doctoral student in Art, Queen's University, for "Presence, Absence, and Narratives of Loss: Spaces of Viewing in London 1770-1815." The President reminded the membership that the deadline for this competition occurs in the spring and she asked that members let their students know about it.

The President announced that this year's Member of Honour is David Blewett, Professor Emeritus of McMaster University. In a note of thanks to the President, Professor Blewett expressed satisfaction at the society's growth into a strong centre for eighteenth-century studies, and he recalled a meeting in 1970 in a seminar room at Victoria College at which the decision was taken to found CSECS. This followed (and was a reaction to) the founding of ASECS. Professor Blewett also suggested that Eighteenth-Century Fiction, of which he was the founding editor, was testimony to our society's vigour, its founding having been helped by the climate for eighteenth-century studies created by ASECS and CSECS.

12. Future Conferences

Next year's conference is being hosted on 15-18 October 2008 by McGill University under the guidance of Fiona Ritchie and Peter Sabor. Peter Sabor reported that the theme will be "The Eighteenth Century: Influence of the Past, Presence of the Future" and that Jack Lynch (Rutgers University) and Benoît Melançon (Université de Montréal) will be the guest speakers. The Doubletree by Hilton Montréal Centre-Ville has been booked as the conference hotel.

The conference for 2009 is being hosted by the University of Ottawa. Frans de Bruyn reported that negotiations with a hotel are in progress. He also said that the meeting will be held jointly with NEASECS.

The conference for 2010 is being organized by Memorial University. Don Nichol reported that meeting will be held at the same hotel (now the Fairmont) as the 1992 meeting. Ruth Perry (MIT), who has recently visited Memorial, will be approached as a possible plenary speaker.

13. Constitutional Amendments

The Executive proposed two amendments to the constitution, which had been circulated to the membership by email.

1. Article 4, section 2, Secretary's position/Poste de secrétaire:

After: “[The *Secretary* shall be responsible for:] d) Chairing a Nominations Committee charged with finding suitable candidates for vacant Society positions.”

add: “This committee shall consist of 2 members in addition to the Secretary; these additional members shall not be members of the Executive committee.”

Rationale: The composition of the nominating committee was not addressed in the 2005 constitutional change.

The motion to make this amendment was carried unanimously.

2. Article 4 – Executive Committee/Bureau:

After: “it must make a full report on its activities”

insert: “, including the administration of prizes and fellowships,”

and remove “Article 7 – Mark Madoff Prize” from the constitution.

Rationale: The reference to the administration of prizes and fellowships is being added to make clear that this task is undertaken by the Executive. The reference to the Madoff Prize is being removed because it is preferable not to include details of prizes and bursaries in the constitution, since this renders future changes to terms and processes unwieldy. Separating the Madoff Prize from the constitution accords with the Society’s practice for the D. W. Smith Fellowship.

The motion to make this amendment was carried unanimously.

14. Nominations Committee Report

The Committee nominated Pascal Bastien (Histoire, Université de Montréal) as ISECS representative. There were no nominations from the floor and Pascal Bastien was declared elected by acclamation.

The Committee nominated Claire Grogan (English, Bishop’s University) as General Editor of *Lumen* (English). There were no nominations from the floor and Claire Grogan was declared elected by acclamation.

Marc-André Bernier and Barb Seeber worked to secure these nominations.

The Committee recalled that the graduate students had elected Heather Ladd (English, University of Toronto) as Graduate Student Representative.

15. New Business

There was no new business. A motion to adjourn (de Bruyn) was passed unanimously.