

MINUTES

Annual General Meeting of CSECS/SCEDHS

17h00, Friday October 17 2008

Hotel Doubletree by Hilton, Montreal

In attendance : Heather Ladd, Gefen Bar-On Santor, Stéphanie Massé, Fiona Ritchie, April London, Katherine Quinsey, Kate Rumbold, Marie-Laure Girou Swiderski, Larry Bongie, Christina Ionescu, Peter Walmsley, Ray Stephanson, Jonathan Mallinson, Allison Muri, Marc André Bernier, Suzanne Foisy, Tom Carr, John Pierce, John D. Baird, Charles Courtois, Shelley King, Romira Worvill, Peter Sabor, Claire Grogan, Pam Perkins, Sonja Boon, Stéphanie Loubere, Monique Moser-Verrey, Sante A. Viselli, Don Nichol, Eleanor Ty, Isobel Grundy, Frans De Bruyn, Pascal Bastien, Katherine Binhammer.

1. Adoption of agenda (Frans De Bruyn / John Baird)

2. Adoption of minutes from 2007 AGM (April London/Katherine Quinsey)

a. Business arising from 2007 minutes

Last year we announced that our communications strategy (website, *Bulletin*) was being reconsidered. We have ceased producing the *Bulletin*, as planned. Further information on the website will be offered later in the meeting.

3. Report of 2008 conference organizer

Fiona Ritchie made her report. Given the belated decision to hold the conference in Montreal, no application was made to SSHRC; funding for the conference was provided by the Montreal universities. A number of departments contributed \$500 each, the Dean of Arts of McGill offered \$2000, and other significant donations came from Bishops University, Concordia University, Université de Montréal, the Interacting with Print Research Group of McGill, and the McGill Faculty of Medicine. 251 individuals are registered for the conference, with about 220 making presentations: a very full programme. The Society generously covered several expenses normally assumed by the conference organizers (e.g. some of the students hired for the registration table). The largest budget items, as usual, are for the hotel, catering, and audiovisual materials. Fiona thanked Peter Sabor, Pascal Bastien, and the graduate students who assisted with the conference planning and preparation.

4. President's report

Betty Schellenberg noted that the business and operations of the Society are in good order. She thanked the members of the Executive Committee for their service. Gordon Fulton has been forced to resign his position as Secretary; Catherine Dubeau has agreed to serve as his replacement. Members will be asked to ratify a 2-year appointment for Catherine later in this meeting. **Website:** Peter Hynes has done a good job of maintaining our site. The Executive has decided to hire someone (likely a graduate student) to reconstruct the site entirely, under the supervision of a sub-committee of the

Executive. The Executive is also recommending that the task of Webmaster become part of the Secretary's job description. The sub-committee formed to oversee the planning of the new website consists of Gefen Bar-On Santor, Pascal Bastien, Catherine Dubeau, and Heather Ladd. Betty invited those present to contact members of the subcommittee with ideas and suggestions related to the website. In the interim, Peter Hynes will continue to maintain our existing website.

5. Treasurer's report

Gefen Bar-On Santor reported on the Society's financial situation, which is excellent. Revenue has increased: \$18,821.10 this year (compared to \$12,874.33 last year). This increase reflects a donation from the University of Manitoba for student travel, an increase in the number of Society members, and an increase in annual dues (\$11,374.53 this year compared to \$6399.69 last year). At the moment we have 157 members, including 63 students. Other memberships will be paid here at the conference. Membership dues have been increased for full and associate professors (\$65) as well as for assistant professors (\$50). Dues have not changed for students (\$35). A second membership mailing in winter of 2008 resulted in further membership renewals; Gefen expects to send a similar reminder this year as well. Total expenses for 2007-2008 (\$14,316.64) are currently lower than for 2006-2007 (\$17,497.16), but this total does not include various upcoming expenses, including the Society's contribution to next year's Ottawa conference, payment of students working at the registration table for this year's conference, the Madoff prize, support for student travel, etc. Gefen reminded students to submit their reimbursement requests via the form included in the conference package. Betty thanked Gefen for her work as Treasurer, one of the most demanding posts of the CSECS Executive Committee. Betty noted that we are looking for a new Treasurer for next year, when Gefen's mandate will be complete.

6. Report of the *Lumen* editors

(Ugo Dionne was absent.) Claire Grogan announced that the selected proceedings for the Halifax conference (2006) will be sent to the printer's shortly. The volume from the Winnipeg conference (2007) is proceeding well.

Betty added that the Executive Committee has been looking into means of publishing *Lumen* online, but has not found a viable option to date.

7. Webmaster's report

(Peter Hynes was absent, and there was no report.)

Betty wished to thank Peter Hynes on the part of the Society's members for his work in keeping the website up to date.

8. Delegates' reports

Betty introduced and thanked the delegates to other societies: Don Nichol for ASECS, April London for CFHSS, and Pascal Bastien for ISECS.

The next international conference of ISECS will be held in 2011 in Graz, Austria.

9. Report of the Graduate Student Representative

Heather Ladd announced the student roundtable, to be held later the same evening at Thomson House on the McGill campus. Heather sent a message about the roundtable to all of the students via the CSECS discussion list. In addition, she has created a Facebook group for CSECS student members.

10. Honours and prizes

a. Member of Honour

Réal Ouellet, Member of Honour for 2008, will be introduced by Catherine Dubeau during the banquet.

b. Madoff Prize

There is no prize awarded this year because no volume of *Lumen* has appeared. The 2006 prize and perhaps the 2007 prize will be announced in the fall of 2009.

c. D.W. Smith Fellowship

Betty thanked Monique Moser-Verrey and John Baird for their assistance in evaluating the applications.

The winners are Joël Castonguay-Bélanger (PhD in French Literature at the U. de Montréal/Paris IV ; postdoctoral student at Stanford U.) for a project entitled « Le recours à l'opinion publique dans la critique et la promotion de l'autorité scientifique : la croisade de Louis-Sébastien Mercier contre Newton » and Cécile Champonnois (PhD in Musicology from U. François Rabelais in Tours / postdoctoral student at the U. de Montréal) for the project « Le voyage de deux opéras-comiques au XVIII^e siècle ». Joël has sent a letter of thanks to the Society.

Betty noted that very few applications were received this year. Members are asked to publicise this fellowship, especially to their students.

11. Future conferences

Frans De Bruyn (U. of Ottawa) is organizing the 2009 conference, which will take place in Ottawa; the conference will be a joint meeting with the North-East American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies. The conference theme is « 1759 : des empires qui se font et se défont / Making and Unmaking Empires ». The two plenary lectures will be presented by Alain Beaulieu (Histoire, UQAM, Canada Research Chair in Indigenous Territories), who will speak on the impact of 1759 on the indigenous peoples of North America, and Fred Anderson (History, University of Colorado at Boulder, author of *Crucible of War: The Seven Years' War and the Fate of Empire in British North America, 1754-1766*, 2000). The conference dates (November 5-8) are later than usual, because another conference on the same topic is being held on the October weekend we normally use.

Don Nichol (Memorial U.) is hosting the 2010 conference in St. John's and is already organizing numerous special activities for that event.

Betty announced that we will possibly be in Edmonton in 2011; Katherine Binhammer (U. of Alberta) is looking into the possibility of organizing a conference.

12. Report of the Nominating Committee

No Nominating Committee was created in 2007-2008 because there was no Executive Committee position to be filled. The resignation of Gordon Fulton occurred during the year; the Executive Committee therefore appointed Catherine Dubeau to complete the year, and presented her name to the AGM for ratification as Secretary. Although there remained only one year in Gordon's mandate, the Committee proposed a term of two years for Catherine in order to avoid having the positions of President, Treasurer, and Secretary fall vacant simultaneously in 2009. There were no other nominations, and Catherine Dubeau was elected Secretary by acclamation.

13. Other business

Stéphanie Massé announced that the volume in honour of David Trott had just been published. Co-edited by Stéphanie Massé, Marie-Laure Girou Swiderski, and Françoise Rubellin, *Ris, masques et tréteaux. Aspects du théâtre du XVIII^e siècle. Mélanges en hommage à David A. Trott* (PUL, 2008) will be officially launched at the banquet and is available for a purchase price of \$40.

Fiona Ritchie invited all CSECS members to make their way to the Musée des beaux-arts de Montréal to enjoy a visit free of charge.

14. Meeting adjourned at 17h30 (Sante A. Viselli / Stéphanie Massé)