

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting
International Association of Byron Societies (IABS)
Georgia, Tbilisi
Saturday 28 June 2014**

Residing Officers: Naji Oueijan (Joint President), Rodanthi Rosa Florou (Joint Secretary), Eric Wishart and David McClay (Joint Treasurers)

N. Oueijan called the meeting to order at 2:30 pm.

Welcome and Gift Presentations

Naji Oueijan acknowledged the efforts of those who had worked hard to make the 40th International Byron Conference in Tbilisi, Georgia, a remarkably successful academic gathering. He offered gift presentations to Innes Merabishvili, her daughter Irene, and ten assistants for their remarkable efforts in managing the academic and recreational logistics, which ran smoothly and efficiently.

Apologies and Announcements

N. Oueijan conveyed the apologies of Alan Rawes and Jonathan Gross (Joint Presidents of the IABS) for not attending the conference due to heavy academic duties; he also conveyed their greetings and good wishes for a successful conference. John Clubbe conveyed the apologies of Peter William, and Rosa Florou conveyed the apologies of Byron Raizis, Maria Schoina and Peter Myrian.

Lord Robin Byron announced that hard copies of early editions of *The Byron Journal* are available to give away. N. Oueijan announced that the Advisory Board members had discussed in their meeting matters related to the IABS treasury, student scholarships, possible future conference venues, the Elma Dangerfield Book Prize Evaluation Committee, and the IABS website.

Approval of the Minutes of the 2013 Council Meeting

The 2013 AGM Minutes were approved.

Winner of the Elma Dangerfield Prize

N. Oueijan reported that the Joint Presidents had formed an Elma Dangerfield Evaluation Committee, which included Caroline Frankline, (Chair), Martin Prochazka, Michael O'Neil, Diego Saglia, and Ghislaine McDaytor. N. Oueijan read the committee's evaluation message to the AGM and announced that the Elma Dangerfield Book Prize winner for 2014 is Roderick Beaton, for his book *Byron's War: Romantic Rebellion, Greek Revolution*. He thanked the Committee Members for their stupendous efforts. He also thanked the Chair and Members of the London Byron Society for making a donation of £500 to the Elma Dangerfield Prize fund. He encouraged other societies to also make donations.

Election of another Joint Secretary

After N. Oueijan briefly introduced the two candidates, Peter Francev and G. Todd Davis, both from the Byron Society of America, he called for a secret ballot to elect one of them. One representative of each National Byron Society caste a vote on behalf of his/her society, which resulted in the election of Peter Francev as Joint Secretary for the coming 5 years.

Treasurer's Report

Eric Wishart gave a full report of the IABS treasury. He announced that the Advisory Board Meeting recommended the dedication of 1/3 (around £10,000) of the IABS treasury to a special fund offering scholarships to graduate students willing to attend the International

Student Byron Conference in Messolonghi and/or the annual IBC. David McClay expressed his satisfaction at the recommendation of the Advisory Board concerning the student fund and briefly explained how the fund will be used. Lord Robin Byron suggested that the approval of Eric's report by the AGM should be postponed for further deliberation; N. Oueijan supported this suggestion. E. Wishart then announced that two anonymous donors donated \$1000 (\$500 each) to this fund during the conference. He also announced that he will send early issues of *The Byron Journal* to Russia and Armenia.

Future Conference Venues

N. Oueijan announced that he had received an email from Mirka Modrzeswska informing him that Marcin Leszczynski will represent Poland during AGM. She also attached documents detailing the preliminary program of the 2015 IBC in Poland. M. Leszczynski read the documents, which included the Call for Papers with the theme "Fiction, Reality and Madness." Leszczynski also informed the participants of the recreational activities and accommodation arrangements, all of which will be posted on the conference website in due course.

Concerning the 2016 IBC venue, N. Oueijan announced that a proposal had been presented by the French Byron Society represented by its President, Olivier Feignier, who later explained the proposal in detail. N. Oueijan asked for a motion; it was made, seconded, and carried unanimously. N. Oueijan also announced that Armenia has made a proposal for 2017, and hoped that Italy would host the IBC in 2018.

Closing Remarks

N. Oueijan, as residing President, thanked all who had participated in the AGM and thanked Georgia for a memorable conference on both the scholarly and cultural levels.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 p.m.