

ADVISORY BOARD MEETING—IBS 2016 Paris

Meeting was called to order by the Chairman, Michael O'Neill.

Members Present: Bernard Beatty, Olivier Feignier, Michael O'Neill (Chair), Jonathan Gross, Alan Rawes and Naji Oueijan (Joint Presidents), David McClay (Joint Treasurer), Peter Francev (Joint Secretary), Christoph Bode.

Excused Members: Shobhana Bhattacharji, Martin Procházka, Rosa Florou (Joint Secretary), Eric Wishart (Joint Treasurer), Itsuyo Higashinaka, Andrew Stauffer (Deputy Chair), and Marsha Manns.

1. Report from the Last Meeting:

The minutes from last year's meeting were unanimously agreed upon and passed without any instance of new or unresolved issues arising. This included the following: a continued appeal for the outreach of student bursaries; future conferences taking place in Yerevan, Armenia (2017) with a proposal by Gregory Dowling for Ravenna, Italy (2018); David McClay stated that Eric Wishart would be immediately stepping down as one of the Joint Treasurers; and finally a financial issue regarding the Messolonghi Student Conference was raised; however, its discussion was tabled until later in the meeting (see 4a- 'Financial Matters').

2. New Matters Arising/Raised:

Alan Rawes raised the issue of a digitization project for Byronic texts and essays that would be expanded and placed within the domain of the IABS website. It was noted that this would need to be thought out further and once more information was gathered, brought back to the AB at a later date.

3. Elma Dangerfield Prize:

This year's EDP was awarded to Sarah Wootton for her book *Byronic Heroes in Nineteenth-Century Women's Writing and Screen Adaptation*. An honorable mention was awarded to (late) Peter Cochran's study *Byron's European Impact*. Jonathan raised the idea that the EDP committee invite the winner to the IABS conference in order to both attend and claim the prize. -It was agreed that communication of winners and losers needs to occur in early June. Alan queried as to how do we pay for the winner's conference fees; David suggested that their conference fee be waived, to which Alan counter-queried if the conference organisers would budget it. Michael O'Neill wondered whether the money would come from the (London) Byron Society coffers.

Jonathan noted that the EDP committee needs to decide whether the winning book must treat Byron or whether a member of his milieu is also eligible (previous awards have been given to peripheral figures so the application of criteria in announcing the award must be consistent). The question was raised as to whether there should be a winner every year; Naji thought it prudent to

always have a winner and to thank each person and publisher who submits. Michael O'Neill asked if someone would agree to do so. Jonathan agreed to write to the publishers and recipients. Last year, Frederick Burwick agreed to join the Awards Committee for a one-year term. This year, the hope was expressed that Professor Burwick remain on the Committee and that Ghislaine McDayter would continue to serve as she returns from research leave. Martin Procházka was chosen to chair of the committee.

4. Finances:

4A: The Treasurer's Report is as follows:

Eric Wishart has stepped down as Joint Treasurer. David is in the process of consolidating the multiple accounts into one account that should total nearly £29,000. He made the suggestion of adding online banking to the said account, so that it will be easier to make payments when needed. In addition, it will provide the treasurers and presidents with the ability to see what the given balance of the account is at any given time. In emails exchanged between the Joint-Presidents during the winter of 2016, Allan Gregory (Irish Byron Society) was nominated to replace Eric Wishart and this nomination went forward to the AGM.

With regards to student bursaries, Naji stated that he wanted more students to apply for both student conferences like Messolonghi and the IABS conference. Alan queried how many student applicants applied to present in Paris; Olivier stated that only two had applied. Of the two, one was accepted while the other was denied for the poor quality of the abstract. Naji suggested that student bursaries not be made exclusively for the IABS. David and Alan stated that we need to adjust any questionable language [what was the questionable language? Should we clarify this?] [I don't remember this issue, but it seems to raise a red flag, and perhaps we can clarify a bit here].. that may put off students from applying, such as whether conferences other than the IABS are covered by these funds. It was agreed that we might need to specify which students from which countries can apply for IABS funding and for which conference. David also inquired about the possibility of a 'post-conference' bursary. Michael deferred an answer to the joint presidents. Finally, Christoph stated that we must advertise broadly for the student bursary. And Peter remarked that he would draft a letter to be sent out on the IABS email list (nearly 400 members) to encourage student participation in conferences.

4B: Offering of money for Messolonghi Student Conference (from David):

In various informal and formal discussions the importance and success of the International Student Byron conference in Messolonghi was made clear. As well as conveying this praise for former efforts and hopes for a strong future, comes a practical offer of support. The presidents, advisory board and the IABS AGM unanimously approved to offer to the organisers of the Messolonghi student conference a grant of 1000 euros per year for the next three years. It is hoped that this funding will be useful in supporting the on-going success of the conference. The AGM also approved that, at the discretion of the presidents should further funding be needed during this period, that a further application may be made. Additionally should there be a need for continuing the funding beyond the three year period this too will be considered.

In addition to these IABS funds, the Byron Society (London) and the Byron Society of America are to consider whether they too can contribute something towards the conference costs. I shall be following up shortly with them on this and hope that they too can allocate whatever funds they think appropriate on a similar basis as IABS.

The IABS funding is for the general support of the conference and is not intended for individual student grants. Please remember however that students attending the Messolonghi conference may apply for one of the \$500 individual grants; indeed they are encouraged to do so. IABS, to comply with financial regulations, will require an annual confirmation that the conference is going ahead and the method preferred for transferring funds. This can be by cash, cheque, bank transfer etc. The payment can only be authorised after confirmation of the conference theme and dates. Then payment may be made at any time before, during or after the conference – whatever suits your needs. Following the conference we require a brief report. This needs to have information on how the grant was specifically spent and the general features of the conference i.e. who attended, from where, perhaps paper titles, excursions etc.

5. Conference Paper Selection:

Unanimous agreement was made with regard to the high quality of the conference papers. However, the idea of having one of the joint presidents sit on a IABS conference Academic Committee was raised by Alan. Olivier and Christoph opposed, stating that it was the duty of the local organisers to select the papers. Naji agreed, yet it was brought to the Advisory Board's attention that perhaps a president could be consulted if a paper's acceptance was borderline. Alan said that perhaps the joint presidents should address this amongst themselves at a later date. Michael agreed.

6. IABS Online Journal:

The idea of an IABS online journal (similar to what Peter Cochran had on his website) was raised. The consensus was that it would be a 'good idea' and that it would be a 'casual' journal. Nothing imminent is to happen, since more discussion and planning is needed.

7. New Business:

The Joint-Presidents shared their previous email discussion concerning the idea of a Lifetime Achievement award, honoring the work of Peter Cochran. Nominations would be put forward at the AGM where the vote would also take place.

The meeting adjourned at 6:03pm.