

**2016 INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION**  
**of BYRON SOCIETIES GENERAL MEETING**

Meeting was called to order at 3:38pm by Joint Presidents, Alan Rawes, Jonathan Gross, and Naji Oueijan.

**1. Welcome:** Alan Rawes started the meeting calling for a representative [from each society present] to be chosen to vote on various items, though there was ‘nothing controversial’ facing the meeting this year.

**2. Apologies and Announcements:** Naji expressed regrets from John Clubbe, Joan Blythe, and Rosa Florou in their absence from the Paris conference. Naji also expressed an interest in helping the Messolonghi Byron Society by creating a ‘Friends of Messolonghi Byron Society’ that would take a collection of monetary donations in order to help raise funds that will be used for repairing the roof of the Byron Centre. Interested parties are kindly asked to contact either Naji or Peter Graham.

Alan announced that the Joint Presidents had created the ‘IABS-Peter Cochran Award for Lifetime Achievement’ to be given to a scholar who has demonstrated a lifetime of passion and groundbreaking scholarship in the field of Byron studies. Alan asked for nominations for the first award. Immediately, three individuals were nominated: John Clubbe, Bernard Beatty, and Christine Kenyon-Jones. Beatty withdrew his name from the nomination, and Rawes called for a straightforward vote. There was some discussion as to what the protocol will be with those individuals who are not selected and whether or not the vote on any group of individuals will be every year, every three, or every five years. Names nominated but not selected would remain as ‘nominated’ during subsequent voting rounds. For the first year, Bernard Beatty suggested that the Joint Presidents vote on the nominated candidates and the individual with a simple majority would be elected the first ever winner of the IABS-Peter Cochran Award for Lifetime Achievement. John Clubbe was unanimously chosen from nominations received at the meeting. (Thus, Bernard Beatty and Christine Kenyon-Jones will remain as candidates during the next round.)

**3. Approval of Last Year’s Minutes:** Naji motioned for the approval of the minutes from Gdansk. Katherine Kernberger motioned for approval; there was a second and the minutes passed.

**4. Elma Dangerfield Award:** Jonathan Gross spoke on behalf of the Joint Presidents regarding this year’s EDP which was awarded to Sarah Wootton for her book *Byronic Heroes in Nineteenth-Century Women’s Writing and Screen Adaptation*. The prize of £500 is being awarded and that it is made up from equal contributions from The Byron Society (London) and IABS. An honorable mention was awarded to Peter Cochran’s study *Byron’s European Impact*.

**5. Treasurer’s Report:** The members who attended the AGM meeting were sorry to hear that, due to personal reasons, Eric Wishart stepped down as Joint Treasurer. He was recognized for his years of dedicated service. His consistent attendance at IABS meetings and his meticulous treasury reports, as well as his scholarly knowledge of Lord Byron, were always shared with scholars from all

over the world. David McClay is in the process of consolidating the multiple accounts into one account that should total nearly £29,000. Allan Gregory (Irish Byron Society) was enthusiastically endorsed as a replacement for Eric after consultation with the Joint-Presidents. Alan was nominated to replace Eric and he was duly elected as the second Joint Treasurer. With regards to student bursaries, a renewed call to push for student applicants was raised, especially for the 2017 conference in Armenia. Peter Francev noted that students would be encouraged to apply for travel grants through their professors at institutions where they teach.

A motion to offer money for the Messolonghi Student Conference went forward. 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. The IABS funding is for the general support of the conference and is not intended for individual student grants. Students attending the Messolonghi conference are encouraged to apply for the IABS's \$500 individual grants. The IABS, in order 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, or bank transfer, please. 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 conference 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.

Regarding member society subscriptions, David stated that there would be a one-year grace period for lapsed dues starting with the Paris conference. If, by next year, a member society has not paid its dues, it will not be able to vote during the AGM. David offered a subscription in any amount with payment being made in either cash, cheque, or bank transfer. The following member societies are paid and up-to-date: France, USA, London, and Lebanon. Only societies up-to-date on their IABS subscription payments can propose or host IABS conferences.

The treasurer's report was formally proposed and agreed.

Allan Gregory paid a public tribute of thanks to Eric Wishart, with Alan Rawes mentioning a congratulatory note in the minutes. **Eric Wishart is hereby thanked, on behalf of all Byronists, but especially the Advisory Board, for his years of dedicated and selfless service. On behalf of everyone associated with the IABS, Eric we wholeheartedly thank you.**

**6. Thanking of conference organizers:** It was agreed that this would happen at the gala dinner.

**7. Future Conferences:** Prof. Samvuel Abrahamian clarified his proposal for the 2017 conference. It is as follows. Theme: 'Byron, Time, and Space'. Dates: 29 June-4 July 2017; Cost: \$350 for conference registration, gala dinner, all lunches and coffee/tea breaks, though students will attend the conference for free; -50% a night for a single room, or, at the university guest house (a 3-4\* hotel). Olivier raised the issue of starting the conference mid-week, because it will impact two weeks which might be hard for some attendees. He made the suggestion that the Armenian Byron Society consider adjusting the dates to cover one week instead of two. More details will follow in the coming months and as soon as they are made available, they will be posted on the IABS website.

**8. Proposal for Future Conferences:** Gregory Dowling gave a proposal for 2018. It will take place in Ravenna, Italy. By then, Gregory indicated that there is no Italian Byron society but that one would soon be created so a conference could be held there. It will take place in October, because of a conflict with the Ravenna Dante Festival and the intense heat of the summer months. Various tours/excursions of San Vitale, Ferrara, and a guided tour of the Istituzione Biblioteca Classense would be part of the program. Alan asked for a motion to accept the proposed conference; Bernard Beatty motioned; Danièle Sarrat gave the second, and the motion was passed. The 2018 IABS conference will be held in Ravenna. Allan Gregory queried about Cintra as a possible conference location; however, it was noted that the IABS had no ties in Portugal.

There was no new business, and the meeting was adjourned at 5:00pm.