

2017 INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION of BYRON SOCIETIES GENERAL MEETING

Meeting was called to order at 8:20 pm by Joint President Naji Oueijan.

1. Welcome: Naji Oueijan gave the welcome, proclaiming that it was the ‘dream’ of John Clubbe to have an IABS conference in Yerevan. Following this, Naji presented the thank you gifts to Samvel Abrahamyan and his wife. Samvel received a Bohemian crystal plaque and his wife received candelabra. Both were deeply moved and touched by the gifts.

2. Apologies and Announcements: Naji expressed regrets from John Clubbe, Joan Blythe, Alan Rawes, Jonathan Gross, Rosa Florou, David McClay, and Savo Karam (from the Lebanese Byron Society) in their absence from the Yerevan conference.

3. Acknowledgements: Naji expressed the IABS’s sincere acknowledgements of the services of both Eric Wishart and David McClay for their services managing the treasury. Naji reported that Eric Wishart was joint-treasurer from 2001-2016; David McClay from 2009-2017. Both ran the Scottish Byron Society 2007-2016. Eric was a co-organizer of the Valladolid conference in Spain. Neither missed a conference while joint treasurers. They both worked diligently together to consolidate the bank accounts of the IABS and to assist with the greater distribution of IABS funds through the student grants and the Messolonghi Student Conference grant. Both Eric and David served the IABS with great strict dedication and straight professionalism. Certificates of Acknowledgements were offered to both (David in person and Eric in absentia) during the Messolonghi Student Byron Conference in May, 2017.

4. Approval of Last Year’s Minutes: Naji called for a motion to approve of the minutes from Paris. May Maalouf motioned; Stephen Minta seconded, and the minutes passed.

5. Elma Dangerfield Award: Naji presented the Elma Dangerfield Award to Bernard Beatty and Jonathon Shears (in absentia) for their edited collection of essays *Byron’s Temperament: Essays in Body and Mind*. Beatty graciously accepted on his and Shears’s behalf. Ghislaine McDayter will be approached to chair the 2017-18 EDP Committee.

6. Constitution Amendment to the Duties of the Joint Presidents: Naji explained that Joint President, Alan Rawes, proposed to add to the Duties of the Joint Presidents the following statement: “*The presidents are collectively responsible for the efficient and effective operation of the association.*” Naji explained that the proposal was discussed and approved by the three Joint Presidents and by the Advisory Board via email correspondence. He also explained that for the proposal to become official, it must be approved by members of the AGM. Naji put this amendment in a motion; it was seconded, voted upon and carried.

7. Treasurer’s Report: Copies of the Treasurer’s Report were given in advance of the AGM, so that members would have an opportunity to raise questions during the AGM. Peter Francev presented the report, submitted to the Joint Presidents and Secretaries by David McClay. There were no questions during the AGM; thus, the treasurer’s report was formally proposed and agreed. Naji informed the AGM that both David McClay and Allan Gregory stepped down as Joint Treasurers for personal reasons. David Woodhouse (London Byron Society) was enthusiastically nominated

and motioned by Olivier Feignier; Bernard Beatty seconded; and Woodhouse was elected as Joint Treasurer.

8. Re-election of Joint Presidents: As the IABS Constitution states that the Advisory Board manages the re-election of the Joint Presidents, Bernard Beatty represented the Advisory Board and resided as Chair. He announced the formal nomination made by Rosa Florou (in absentia) to re-elect Alan Rawes, Jonathan Gross, and Naji Oueijan to a second term as Joint Presidents. May Maalouf motioned and John Gatton provided the second. The Joint Presidents were unanimously re-elected.

9. Future Conferences: Re-elected Joint President, Naji Oueijan, resided as Chair and asked Gregory Dowling to provide details on the 2018 conference in Ravenna, Italy. Dowling made a presentation and explained that the preliminary dates are 24-28 September 2018, so as not to conflict with several cultural events occurring in Ravenna at that time. Olivier insisted for keeping the conference within a week, in order to avoid impacting two weeks, which might be hard for some conference goers to attend. He made the suggestion that the conference committee consider adjusting the dates to cover one week instead of two. This could afford attendee to travel over weekends and only miss one week of work. Agustin Coletes Blanco and John Gatton, raised the issue of time of the year to conflict with universities being in the midst of autumn session, making it difficult to for some to attend. Dowling acknowledged their concerns, and promised to bring this information back to the organizing committee. More details will follow in the coming months and as soon as they are made available, they will be posted on the IABS website.

Naji presented the proposal for 2019. Norbert Lennartz has formally proposed the 2019 conference to be at the University of Vechta (4-8 September 2019). Naji called for a motion. Olivier motioned and both Agustin and John Gatton provided the second; the motioned was carried unanimously. The 2019 IABS conference will be a joint conference with the German Society for of British Romanticism, and will be in Vechta, Germany. The theme was presented as “Transgressive Romanticism: Transgressing Boundaries, Limits, Taboo”. Subthemes, plenary speakers, cultural activities, and excursions will be made available in the future and will be posted on the IABS website in due course.

10. AOB: There was no AOB, and the meeting was adjourned at 9.06 pm.