

## 2018 INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION of BYRON SOCIETIES GENERAL MEETING

Meeting was called to order at 2.35 pm by Joint President Alan Rawes.

**1. Welcome:** Alan Rawes gave the welcome and thanked the organizers, while (Joint Secretary) Peter Francev circulated copies of last year's AGM minutes.

**2. Approval of Last Year's Minutes:** Bernard Beatty motioned that the minutes be accepted. IABS voting societies (Bernard Beatty, London; Olivier Feignier, France; Gregory Dowling, Italy; Rosa Florou, Messolonghi; John Gatton, USA; Irina Shishkova, Russia) carried the motion.

**3. Announcements: Student Bursaries:** IABS student bursaries were discussed by Jonathon Gross. 7 students were awarded bursaries (3 for the Messolonghi student conference; 4 for the IABS conference). Gross stated that he hoped the tradition of awarding student bursaries would continue as a way to bring new scholars into Byron studies. Gross also thanked Joint Treasurer David Woodhouse for dispensing the funds quickly, so that students could use the money where they were needed most. Alan Rawes addressed a question that was raised during the Advisory Board meeting: Should the IABS pay bursaries, a set sum, in advance rather than retrospectively. A vote was called, and it was passed. On behalf of Megan Coates, thanks were issued because had a bursary not been awarded, she would not have been able to attend. Rawes stressed that these bursaries 'change lives'. Gross related the importance of having both students and professors aware of the bursaries.

**4. Peter Cochran Lifetime Achievement in Byron Studies Award:** Rawes announced that Mr. Bernard Beatty was this year's recipient. Beatty received a standing ovation.

**5. Elma Dangerfield Award:** Jonathan Gross announced that Alan Rawes and Diego Saglia were co-awarded the EDA for their co-edited collection of essays, *Byron and Italy*. Rawes announced that Michael O'Neill stood down this year, as chair, due to health concerns; in his place, Martin Procházka stood in his place. O'Neill is recovering nicely, according to Rawes.

**6. Future Conferences:** Next year's conference will be in Vechta, Germany. Norbert Lennartz (co-organizer) was unable to attend; details will follow shortly. The conference will be a joint conference with the German Society for Romanticism. For 2020, a proposal was made by Maria Schiona for Thessaloniki, Greece. The topic will be announced shortly, but will be held at Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, somewhere between the end of June-early July. Rawes reassured attendees that there will be no conflict with the Messolonghi conference. Joint Secretary Rosa Florou praised and supported Schiona's proposal. Florou then proposed that the 2024 IABS conference be held in Messolonghi. Irina Shishkova proposed that the 2021 conference would be hosted by the Russian Byron Society and held at the Maxim Gorky Institute of Literature and Creative Writing in Moscow. Rawes asked that voting for each conference occur one at a time, beginning with 2020; Thessaloniki passed unanimously. Florou raised the issue that there is no longer a Greek Byron Society; the only Byron society in Greece is in Messolonghi. Gross praised M. Byron Raizis. Rawes called for a vote on Moscow in 2021; Olivier Feignier objected, politely requesting a vote 'in principle' with a more complete and fuller proposal to be given next year in Vechta. The motion passed unanimously. The

same condition for a fuller proposal (to be given in 2022) was raised for 2024; it, too, passed unanimously.

**7. Treasurer's Report:** Copies of the Treasurer's Report were provided, so that members would have an opportunity to raise questions during the AGM. Joint Treasurer David Woodhouse stated that he was 'happy' to take questions regarding the report; however, he wanted to address two issues: first, Woodhouse wanted to clarify the way that member societies pay their annual subscription dues. To this, Woodhouse stated that he was happy to take cash payment (\$50, 50 euros, or 50 GBP). Cash is the preferred method of payment, because it makes for an easier transaction. Member societies are strongly encouraged to make payment by 31 July of each year, or at the IABS conference. Woodhouse mentioned the lack of a second Joint Treasurer and wanted members to think of Emily Paterson-Morgan (London Byron Society), who is ready to stand. Peter Francev nominated Paterson-Morgan; Beatty provided the second. Paterson-Morgan was confirmed unanimously.

**8. AOB:** Rawes kindly requested that attendees hold a two-minute moment of silence in honor of M. Byron Raizis. The meeting was adjourned at 3.25 pm.