

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Society for the Study of Medieval Languages and Literature

St Hilda's College, Vernon Harcourt Room, Saturday 8 March 2008, 4.45pm.

Present: Mishtooni Bose, Helen Cooper (Chair), Anthony Lappin, Jacqui Pritchard, Jane Roberts, Lucinda Rumsey (Secretary), Magnus Ryan, Corinne Saunders, Judith Schmidt, Helen Swift, John Watts.

Apologies: Jane Taylor, Nicolas Jacobs, Nigel Palmer

Professor Cooper took the Chair.

1. Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the 2007 AGM were approved.

2. Elections to the Committee

The Committee is at full strength and there is no need for new members to be elected. John Watts has indicated that he will stand down in October 2008 as Treasurer, but may continue as member of the Committee for a short time afterwards.

The President reported that Jane Taylor will retire as Romance Editor this year and Sylvia Hyot will replace her as Editor from October 2008.

3. Corinne Saunders reported on behalf of the Editors that *Medium Ævum* 77 (1) is now at the printers and contains a good range of articles and reviews. It was announced that a *Medium Ævum* monograph on the metre of alliterative verse had just been published and was available for sale after the AGM published. This is the first volume in the new monograph design.

The Editors and Assistant Editor were thanked for their work in maintaining the high quality of the journal.

4. Treasurer's Report and Accounts

i. The Treasurer tabled the accounts.

ii. The Treasurer reported that it had been a good year. Net income has increased due to trade sales, i.e. the rise in the price of the journal to trade customers, and the drop in printing costs due to the reduced print run.

iii. The monographs account is higher than usual because no monograph was published in 2007. iv. Back issues/electronic sales are slightly down.

v. Expenditure is up, in part because of the increased cost of disposing and storing back stock, although storage space has been further reduced.

vi. There are currently large sums at the bank because of extra expenditure planned for this year.

vii. The Treasurer proposed a rise in honoraria for Assistant Treasurer and Assistant Editor, and a rise in the trade cover price for home, other Europe and US sales.

The Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer were thanked for their excellent work maintaining the financial health of the Society.

5. Any other business

a) The Winner of the Graduate Essay Prize was announced. The winner is Kathleen Palti with an essay on an unpublished carol collection.

b). The Treasurer outlined a series of budgetary and administrative proposals, which had been discussed and agreed by the Committee of the Society.

i. to appoint an Administrative Officer, who would take responsibility for the offices currently held by the Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer and Secretary, and provide some support for the Editors.

ii. to commit to some additional expenditure including sponsorship and other activities to promote the study of medieval languages and literature, and to develop links with other medieval societies. These are activities that are appropriate to the Society's status as a charity and are encouraged by its Constitution.

After the meeting Professor Miri Rubin (Queen Mary, University of London) delivered the Annual Open Lecture: 'Mary of the Europeans: Emotion and Devotion'.

Lucinda Rumsey (Secretary).