

## **SOCIETY FOR THE STUDY OF MEDIEVAL LANGUAGES AND LITERATURE**

UNCONFIRMED Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at Lincoln College, Oxford, Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2009, 4.30pm.

Present: Helen Cooper (Hon. President, in the Chair), Robert Avis, Sarah Baccianti, Lewis Beer, Alixe Bovey, Mishtooni Bose (Vice-President), Elizabeth Boyle, Kenneth Clarke, Simon Horobin (co-opted Committee member), Nicolas Jacobs (Committee member), Virginia Langum, Anthony Lappin (Monograph Editor), Carolyne Larrington, Marco Nievergelt, Julie Orlemanski, David Rundle (Executive Officer, taking minutes), Helen Swift (Vice-President), John Watts (Hon. Treasurer).

1. Apologies were received from the following members of the Committee: Sylvia Huot, Nigel Palmer, Jane Roberts, Lucinda Rumsey, Magnus Ryan, and Corinne Saunders.

2. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> March 2008.

The minutes were accepted as an accurate record of the Meeting.

3. Report of the President.

The President outlined the recent developments in the Society's organisation. She also explained the importance of the revision of the constitution and outlined the Committee's expectations for future activities.

4. Report of the Treasurer and acceptance of the Accounts for 2008.

The Executive Officer presented the Accounts for 2008 on behalf of the Treasurer. It was noted that the finances were healthy, with total assets of £148,708.88, and that the Accounts had been subject to independent examination. The Accounts were accepted (proposed: Rob Avis; seconded: Carolyne Larrington).

It was agreed to minute thanks to the Hon. Treasurer, John Watts, and the Assistant Treasurer, Judith Schmidt, for their careful handling of the Society's monies. Kenneth Clarke was also thanked for having acted as Independent Examiner.

It was further agreed that the subscription rate for membership for 2009 should remain at its present level of £16.50 / \$35.50 (£16 / \$35 if paying by Banker's Order).

5. Appointment of an Auditor for 2009.

It was agreed, given the level of assets of the Society, to appoint an Independent Examiner for 2009.

It was further agreed to delegate the appointment of the Independent Examiner to the Committee, the decision of the Committee to be informed to the membership via the website.

6. Adoption of the revised Constitution.

The revised Constitution, recommended to the Meeting by the Committee, was tabled. One amendment was proposed in the name of David Rundle, seconded by Anthony Lappin: to revise Article VII (para. 1) by replacing 'twelve' with 'thirteen' (the purpose being to ensure that the next AGM can be held at the next Graduate Conference which is planned for 16<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> April 2010). The amendment was accepted unanimously.

The Constitution, thus amended, was put to the vote (proposed: Marco Nievergelt; seconded: Nicolas Jacobs) and accepted unanimously.

#### 7. Election of the President.

The Committee proposed Dr Anthony Lappin to the post of President, in succession to Prof. Helen Cooper. A nomination had been duly received, with Helen Swift proposing and Mishtooni Bose seconding. Dr Lappin was elected unopposed for a term of three years. On behalf of the Society, the Executive Officer thanked the retiring President for her wise stewardship of the Society.

#### 8. Elections to the Committee.

It was announced that Dr Nicolas Jacobs and Ms Lucinda Rumsey were retiring from the Committee. In addition, Prof. Magnus Ryan's term has come to an end but it is hoped that the Committee will, at its next meeting, co-opt him to continue on the Committee. The President thanked Nicolas Jacobs and Lucinda Rumsey for their work for the Society.

The Committee proposed Dr Simon Horobin for election. A nomination had been duly received, with Mishtooni Bose proposing and Helen Swift seconding. Dr Horobin was elected *nem. con.* It was further agreed to delegate to the Committee the decision on the appointment of a Hon. Secretary in succession to Ms Lucinda Rumsey.

It was also announced that Dr John Watts would continue for one more year as Hon. Treasurer. He was thanked for all his work.

#### 9. Report of the Editors of *Medium Ævum*.

In the absence of the Editors, the President reported on the journal. The journal continues to attract very good articles and a wide readership. The second issue of 2008 had seen for the first time the publication of the winning submission of the Society's Essay Prize: this was Kathleen Palti's essay, which won the 2007 Prize, on 'An unpublished fifteenth-century carol collection: Oxford, Lincoln College MS Lat. 141'.

As noted in the minutes of the last AGM, Prof. Jane Taylor retired as editor at the end of 2008. It was agreed to minute the Society's thanks to her for her work with the journal. The responsibility for Romance languages has been taken over by Prof. Sylvia Huot (Pembroke College, Cambridge). It was reported that co-operation between the new team of editors has already proven very fruitful and effective.

#### 10. Report of the Monograph Editors.

Anthony Lappin reported on the monographs, announcing the imminent publication of new series, vol. 26: Tony Hunt ed., *Three Anglo-Norman Treatises on Falconry*. He also outlined future initiatives and encouraged submissions.

#### 11. Presentation of the Medium Ævum Essay Prize for 2008.

The President presented the Essay Prize to Dr. Elizabeth Boyle (Corpus Christi College, Cambridge) for her essay entitled 'Neoplatonic thought in medieval Ireland: the evidence of *Scéla na esérgí*'.

The President closed the Meeting. It was followed by the Annual Lecture, given by Dr Alixe Bovey (University of Kent) on 'Ludic Margins: the Gravity of Play in Gothic Manuscripts'.