

Minutes of the Electronic Meeting held over the week 1-8 June 1998

Virtually present:

The Executive Committee: Robert Miles (President & Chair); Glennis Byron (Secretary-Treasurer); David Punter (Chair of the IGA Advisory Committee); Heather Johnson (Editor, The Monk) William Hughes (Editor, Gothic Studies).

The IGA Advisory Committee: Jerrold E. Hogle (Past President); Charles Crow (Reviews Editor); Robert Mighall (Reviews Editor), plus the following Members at Large: Pierre Arnaud; Fred Botting; Elisabeth Bronfen; Steven Bruhm; Jeffrey Cox; Joan Dayan; Benjamin Fisher; Michael Gamer; Maggie Kilgour; Gilles Menegaldo; Marie Mulvey Roberts; Victor Sage; William Veeder; Anne Williams; Adriana Craciun.

1. Matter arising from the electronic meeting of 17 June 1996.

1.1 It was agreed that The Monk should be published in collaboration with the proposed new web officer (see item 6, below), with the paper version a print-out of the Web-page, to be sent to members without internet access.

1.2 The future annual dues for the IGA. It was agreed that the annual dues should be \$40 or £25, and \$20 or £12.50 for the unwaged. The fee covers the subscription costs of Gothic Studies. See the Agenda.

2. Review editors for Gothic Studies.

After thanking Charles Crow and Robert Mighall for their excellent work on the first issue, the President put forward proposals on the procedures for appointing replacements. It was agreed that when a position fell vacant the President would forward the names of volunteers, on an ad hoc basis, for ratification by the executive and advisory. Two Book Review editors would serve 3-year terms in the first instance, and would be members of the IGA Advisory Committee, expanding to 3 editors should we find ourselves with a significant AustralAsian membership.

Anne Williams (North America and AustralAsia) and Andrew Smith (Europe) were duly appointed.

3. IGA Conference procedures.

All but one of the proposals were carried unanimously. It was agreed that the conference should alternate between continents; that the venue will be decided 4 years ahead of time; with bids to be supported by a short written statement.

There was a difference of view as to whether the proposals should be voted on in the AGM, or whether it was best left to the executive and advisory. There was a general feeling that the former was too cumbersome and therefore it was best left to the executive and advisory.

4. Use of IGA mailing list by publishers

It was agreed that all members would be asked to grant their permission for the list to be circulated by the IGA, where the IGA (in the person of the President) either believes it is in the interest of an individual member, or of the association

5. Conference 1998 Progress Report (Steven Bruhm)

This item required no voting; a report detailing progress to date was tabled by Steven in the course of the meeting.

6. Web Officer

It was agreed that we should have a web officer, appointed on an ad hoc basis by the president, with the officer an automatic member of the advisory board.

Michael Eberle-Sinatra was duly appointed.

It was also agreed that we should endeavour to post on the web synopses of papers accepted for the conference, ideally in advance of the conference

7. Gothic Studies

Kirsty Mackay, from Gordon & Breach, unofficially confirmed that the contract was secure. The President thanked Steven Bruhm for the good work he did in negotiating on the IGA's behalf with Kirsty at the Toronto MLA.

Given the imminence of publication, a number of issues require immediate attention, including: 1. the style, format, and fonts for the journal; 2. how we present the journal, in terms of the points raised by the various reader's reports (e.g. making it clear that we are not just 19th C novel addicts, etc.). 3. getting in new material. 4. publicity

8. 'Bonus' memberships.

Charles Crow made the following proposal, which was carried: 'I'd like to suggest that we create a small number of "bonus" membership categories. For a higher fee, a member could become a member of one of these categories, which might be called something like "sponsor," and "patron," and be listed as such in our publications. This multi-tiered system is used in other organisations to which I belong, and does create an opportunity for those who are able to offer additional support to the group. I think that it might be useful for the IGA as well.'

9. Treasurer's Report

The President noted that progress was stalled until the situation with Gothic Studies was clarified. The Secretary-Treasurer raised the following issues:

9.1 Cashing American checks, where we lose £5 per transaction. This broadened out into the question of who would succeed Glennis Byron as Treasurer/Secretary at Halifax together with the undesirability of proliferating posts. The following proposal was put forward, and accepted:

'We should seek now to elect a new treasurer/secretary, based in North America. Glennis would like to step down from the post at Halifax. Until Halifax, the new treasure/secretary will act as assistant treasurer to Glennis, before taking over the post on Glennis's retirement in 1999. At Halifax we would elect a new secretary/treasurer, based in Europe, who would act as assistant for a period of two years, before taking over the full post for two years. In other words the secretary/treasurer post would ordinarily be for four years, the first two of which would be as assistant. There would thus be two people in post at any one time, one on each continent (both called treasurer/secretary but one the assistant of the other). This would have the merit of solving the checking problem; providing a smooth transition; and providing the main secretary/treasurer with an assistant. I know it sounds complicated, but it ought to be simple in practice.'

9.2 Recruitment. Glennis reminded us of the need to consider recruiting new members once the Gothic Studies issue was resolved. The President welcomed suggestions for improving our membership.

Adjournment