

## **Minutes of the Executive Advisory Meeting - 14 August 1999**

The Executive Advisory Meeting is comprised of the Executive committee, the IGA Advisory Committee, plus the local arrangements coordinator.

**Present:** Robert Miles (chair); Jerry Hogle; David Punter; Michael Eberle-Sinatra; Anne Williams; Andrew Smith; Fred Botting; Jeffrey Cox; Maggie Kilgour; William Hughes; Marie Mulvey Roberts; Steven Bruhm.

**Apologies:** Glennis Byron; Heather Johnson; Pierre Arnaud; Elisabeth Bronfen; Joan Dayan; Adriana Craciun; William Veeder; Victor Sage; Benjamin Fisher; Maurice Hindle; Charles Crow; Jacqueline Howard; Gilles Menegaldo, Robert Mighall, Allan Lloyd Smith.

1. **Minutes of the last meeting**
- 2.

The minutes of the electronic meeting held over the week 1-8 June 1998 were held to be an accurate record.

3. **Matters arising from the Minutes of the Electronic Meeting of week 1-8 June, 1998.**
- 4.

The Chair reported that there was only one matter arising that was not also on the agenda, and that was the Bonus Membership scheme, proposed by Charles Crow, and accepted at the last meeting. It was agreed that the matter should be left to the President, to put the scheme into action.

5. **Review of the executive committee**
- 6.

The Chair announced that Glennis Byron was retiring from the post of secretary/treasurer, and expressed the IGA's profound thanks for her excellent work done for the IGA over the years. There was no immediate nomination for a successor. The post of President was also up for re-election. Jerry Hogle, as past president, took the Chair; after agreeing to stand for another two years, Robert Miles was re-elected president.

7. **Ratification of the IGA advisory committee**

8.

It was re-affirmed that it was a principle of the constitution that the advisory board of the IGA, and the advisory board of Gothic Studies, were one and the same. As the Advisory Board was up for renewal (every two years), the chair would shortly be circulating the list of Advisory Board members for ratification, with the exception of Maurice Hindle and Jacqueline Howard, who, as new members, were already ratified for a period of two years.

9. **Treasurer's report**

10.

The outgoing treasurer submitted her report, which showed a balance of £1093.58.

11. **Promoting Gothic Studies**

1. Subscriptions, including rates; collection; and IGA membership fees
2. The Chair reported that MUP proposed to be the sole collector of subscriptions for Gothic Studies. On the plus side, this would mean that the secretary/treasurer's task would be greatly simplified, solving at a stroke the persistent difficulty the IGA experienced cashing checks in different currencies (as discussed at previous meetings). On the negative side, the IGA would have no means of raising money, beyond conference activity, unless it charged a supplementary membership fee, which was felt to be unfeasible. The Chair pointed out, however, that the terms of the contract with MUP provided the IGA with an income of £500/year; plus a royalty of 10% on all subscriptions over 150, individual and institutional. Given this, it was agreed to accept the MUP proposal.
3. Michael Eberle-Sinatra raised the question of advertisements in Gothic Studies as an alternative source of revenue. The Chair agreed to investigate this with MUP.
4. The Chair reported that the subscription rate for next year would have to increase to a level of £93 for institutions, and possibly £39 for individuals; 'possibly', as there was some uncertainty in the publicity material from MUP. The Chair agreed to clarify the rate as a matter of urgency.
5. The Chair pointed out the clause in the MUP contract, which permits MUP to withdraw from publishing the journal after two years, if a sufficiently large number of institutional subscribers (roughly 150) have not been secured. It was therefore incumbent upon members to ensure their institutions subscribed.
6. It was re-affirmed that the IGA agreed to post on the web a list of IGA members plus contact addresses, for the mutual convenience of

members, and that future subscriptions should have a tick-box for members to signify agreement.

12. **Submissions**

13.

The Chair reported that MUP, after advice from their marketing department, plan to publish a 'normal' second issue, before starting the second volume with the special issue arising from the Halifax conference under the editorship of Steven Bruhm. It was therefore a matter of urgency that members supported the journal by submitting their work to it. Bill Hughes reported that he was actively engaging submissions by writing to potential contributors.

14. **Design matters**

15.

The meeting expressed strong approval for the excellent job done by MUP in designing the journal. Members expressed the view that its present format should be considered as a permanent feature. Although the members were happy to entrust MUP with design matters, they expressed reservations about MUP's propensity for garish colours. The Chair agreed that such decisions by MUP should be taken in consultation with the executive.

16. **Review of IGA activities:**

17.

**\* the web-site and The Monk**

It was re-confirmed that the web-site would double as The Monk, with the web officer maintaining the site, and The Monk editor assembling the material. After further discussion it was decided that given the reduction in treasurer duties, it made sense to combine the role of treasurer/secretary with The Monk editorship, further assisted by an IGA bibliographer with the remit of assembling all bibliographical material, including web-sites and conference announcements. Jerry Hogle agreed to take this matter up with Frederick Frank, with whom the issue had earlier been broached.

**\* Post-grad bursaries**

Although post-grad bursaries remained a goal for the IGA, it had not yet been possible to provide for any. The meeting confirmed its commitment to the principle, finances permitting. It was also agreed to explore the possibility of

subsidized subscriptions to Gothic Studies for post-graduates or for Eastern-Bloc members who were not in a position to pay the full cost.

18. **IGA conferences**

19.

\* **Halifax (Steven Bruhm to report)**

The Chair thanked Steven Bruhm and Peter Swenger for their superb job as conferences, expressing the IGA's deep appreciation. Steven Bruhm reported that there were about 140 participants, at last count, and that thanks to the willingness of Sheffied Hallam and Lancaster Universities to pay travel costs for two plenary speakers, the conference looked like it might break even, or even make a small profit, although it was too early to say for sure. It was agreed that in future, the number of plenary speakers should be reduced, as a way of running a more economic conference.

\* **Future conferences**

The Chair reported that unfortunately, Galway had withdrawn its offer for 2001, and that it was not therefore possible to plan four years in advance. Instead the IGA was looking for volunteers for 2001. The University of Salford kindly offered itself as a possible fall-back venue, as did the University of Liverpool. The Chair said that he would canvass the membership for further suggestions, to be put to a vote by the executive and advisory board, as earlier agreed.

\* **Proxy papers**

It was agreed that once the association was in a position to afford bursaries, it would hold firm to the line of rejecting papers delivered by proxy.

20. **AOB**

21.

There was no AOB. **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); Anne Williams (Reviews Editor); Andrew Smith (Reviews Editor); Michael Eberle-Sinatra, 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; Adriana Craciun; Charles Crow; Maurice Hindle, Jacqueline Howard; Allan Lloyd Smith; Robert Mighall.

