

2001 Board Meeting

North American Patristic Society

Minutes of the Executive Board Meeting

Loyola University, Chicago (Bremner Lounge)

24 May 2001

Attending: Joseph Lienhard (Pres), Rebecca Lyman (VPres), Clayton Jefford (Sec/Treas), Maureen Tilley (MatL), David Brakke (MatL), Paul Blowers (MatL), Elizabeth Clark (Ed), Patout Burns (Ed), Philip Rousseau (Ed), Ken Steinhauser, Dan Williams

Joseph Lienhard called the meeting to order at 9:35 am.

1. The Board approved the minutes from the May 2000 meeting held at Loyola University in Chicago.
2. Report of officers
 - a. President (Lienhard)

In September 2000 the Board unanimously approved a stylistic revision of the Constitution and By-Laws of the Society. These documents are now available on the Society's website.

In October 2000 the President authorized the Treasurer to reimburse John O'Keefe in the amount of \$70 for costs associated with the registration of the Society under the web domain name of www.patristics.org. Prof. O'Keefe currently maintains the site on behalf of the Society.

In January 2001 the Board unanimously approved an increase in the size of the *Journal of Early Christian Studies* to 160 pages per issue. The increase will cost about \$1000 more per year.

In April 2001 the Board, by a vote of 6 in favor and 1 abstaining, voted to give Andrew Jacobs the additional sum of \$805 for his work as editorial assistant with the *Journal*. This amount was offered as reimbursement for additional taxes that Mr. Jacobs had accrued with the IRS since the Society's filing of a 1099-MISC form on his stipend for the 2000 tax year.

- b. Vice-President (Lyman)

The 2001 Society meeting is the largest gathering of the Society to date with 136 papers in 39 sessions. Some sessions were expanded from 3 to 4 papers to accommodate the additional papers. The Society has reached its capacity for papers unless a sixth session is added or the meeting is expanded to Thursday morning.

A notice of the meeting was posted in the July and January issues of the *Patristics* newsletter, as well as on the Society website. The notice in the *Journal* did not appear until January, so paper proposals were accepted from those persons who missed the deadline. E-mail correspondence worked well for the majority of paper correspondence. Transitions at The Johns Hopkins University Press made the confirmation of memberships laborious.

A more formal process of paper selection is now desirable in order to plan for future meetings. While an open and informal nature within the presentations of the Society is preferred, a selection among papers clearly will raise the issue of fairness. It was recommended that a committee of three persons be created for the task of paper abstract review. This committee would be composed of the Vice President, as chair, and the two continuing Members at Large. A uniformed set of criteria would be published and made available to those who choose to submit abstracts, perhaps on the website. It would be all the more important to enforce the published deadline for paper proposals. A motion to establish the committee was offered (Brakke), seconded (Lienhard) and approved.

- c. Secretary-Treasurer (Jefford)

In November 2000 a Membership Directory of the Society was published and distributed to all those persons

whose names were registered with The Johns Hopkins University Press mailing list. Membership for the Society stood at 626 total at the end of 2000 and 650 at the beginning of May 2001.

Issues of the newsletter *Patristics* were distributed in July 2000 and February 2001.

The Society's financial position remains strong. During the 2000 fiscal year revenues exceeded expenses by \$8,241.75. The balance of Society holdings at the beginning of May 2001 was \$93,558.34, an improvement of almost \$20,000 over the previous fiscal year.

d. Conference Director (Steinhauser)

At the time of the Board's meeting, 219 persons were registered for the 2001 Society gathering. The large number of persons who registered for the reception and banquet (165) made it necessary to move the event to the Rambler Room of Mertz Hall. While some members registered late, no late fee was implemented.

It may be desirable to move the meeting in future years. Some members have asked that the Society return to the Simpson Living-Learning Center as a more comfortable environment. This option will be taken into consideration.

3. Report of committees

a. Publications Committee (Williams)

A formal welcome was offered to Prof. Philip Rousseau as the new editor of the Patristic Monograph Series. The Board chose him for the position from among 6 well-qualified candidates. The series has reached a good moment of equilibrium for the transition.

b. *Journal of Early Christian Studies* (Clark and Burns)

There are a total of 7 essays that have been accepted for future *Journal* publication with 9 awaiting final review.

With the departure of Andrew Jacobs from Duke University to UC-Riverside, Catherine Chin will assume his duties as editorial assistant for the *Journal* at some time during the summer months. The editors of the *Journal* suggested that the Society provide a gift to Mr. Jacobs for his work as editorial assistant. A motion that the Society pay for the gift was offered (Blowers), seconded (Brakke) and approved.

The *Journal* currently has 1396 subscribers. Profits for Volume 8 of the *Journal* (2000) were \$48,850 for The Johns Hopkins University Press, with half of that amount (\$24,425) distributed to the Society. This represents an increase of \$5,566 over the Society's profits from the previous year.

The question of how much to pay the editorial assistant and under what title (employee or independent contractor) must be reconsidered. The Board agreed to stay with the current payment of \$7000 (plus a stipend to cover additional taxes) for the editorial assistant for the coming fiscal year. After some lengthy discussion, the Board agreed to pay Ms. Chin as editorial assistant for the *Journal* during the coming fiscal year as an 'independent contractor'. Prof. Burns offered to consult with The Johns Hopkins University Press to see if the Press could pay the editorial assistant as an employee with Society moneys thereafter. A motion to authorize Prof. Lyman, as the new Society president, to issue a document certifying Ms. Chin as an 'independent contractor' for one year, to be drafted by the President in cooperation with one of the *Journal* editors, was offered (Brakke), seconded (Lyman) and approved.

c. Patristic Monograph Series (Lienhard)

A new list of 10 PMS board members was recently reorganized and will be published in the newest volume of the series.

The series currently has 8 volumes in print, with the most recent publication being that of William Tabbernee's volume on *Montanist Inscriptions and Testimonia* (1997).

Prof. Rousseau raised questions concerning the board of the series and the responsibilities of the editor. Though

there currently is no time limit for service on the board, a staggered system of 3-5 years was recommended. Advertisements for authors in specific areas of research was considered, with advertisement possibilities on the Society website, in the *Journal*, and among the publications of the Catholic University of America. The inclusion of young scholars is to be encouraged, as well as an invitation to include volumes on early patristic themes, and not simply on historical figures. Questions of the amount of money that will be paid to manuscript reviewers and methods of reimbursement were raised and discussed.

d. Nominations Committee (Lienhard for Kelley McCarthy Spoerl)

The committee recommended that the following persons be recommended to the Society for Board positions during the forthcoming year: William Tabbernee of Phillips Theological Seminary as Vice-President; Karen Jo Torjesen of the Claremont Graduate School of Religion as Member at Large; and, Jane Merdinger of the Catholic University of America as Member at Large.

e. Best First Article Committee (Lienhard)

There were five submissions for the prize of 'Best First Article'. No decision had been made at the time of the Board meeting, but would be decided and announced at the time of the Society business meeting on Friday 25 May 2001.

4. The next annual meeting of the Society will be held at Loyola University in Chicago on 23-25 May 2002.

5. Unfinished business

Consideration was given to a proposal by Prof. John O'Keefe that the Society acquire a corporate credit card. After some discussion it was decided that the need for such a card, which was severely limited, did not outweigh the inherent risks.

Consideration was also given to a proposal by Prof. O'Keefe that the Society accept credit card payments for attendance at the annual meeting. Questions arose as to whether this would increase the cost of the meeting. Further, the members of the Board agreed that while this would ease payments for some participants from abroad, it undoubtedly would complicate the situation for the Conference Director and Society Treasurer. The Board welcomed Prof. O'Keefe to make a formal presentation to the Board on this issue so that further consideration might be made.

6. New business

The increase in *Journal* profits makes the use of the Society's money a rising consideration for the future. Questions were raised concerning whether the money could be used in some profitable way for the needs of the Society and its members. Suggestions included money for travel to the meeting, a 'first book prize', resources for someone to provide instructional assistance to Society members at the annual meeting through workshops on specific themes, and the employment of a person to assist Prof. O'Keefe in the maintenance of the Society website.

The 2001 annual meeting featured book exhibits by 18 publishers with 11 representatives, a significant increase over the 14 publishers of the previous year. Questions were raised concerning whether exhibitors at future meetings should pay some sort of fee to the Society.

Joseph Lienhard adjourned the meeting at 11:59 am.

Respectfully submitted,
Clayton N. Jefford
03 June 2001
Corrected 23 May 2002