

**International Courtly Literature Society**  
**Twelfth International Triennial Congress**

*‘Mythes à la cour, mythes pour la cour’*

**Lausanne/Geneva, Switzerland, July 29 – August 4, 2007**

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, UNIVERSITÉ DE GENÈVE, SATURDAY  
AUGUST 4, 2007

The meeting was opened at 11am with **June Hall McCash** presiding.

– **Yasmina Foehr-Janssens** took the podium to thank ICLS members for a memorable congress, and to thank all the students and staff of Lausanne and Geneva Universities who had ensured the smooth running and success of the congress.

– A student of Geneva University then thanked ICLS members for the collection which had been taken on behalf of the student helpers at the congress banquet the previous evening.

– The minutes of the 2004 General Assembly were approved with some corrections suggested. **Erik Kooper** pointed out that he had not visited the Scandinavian branch as stated in the minutes, and **Jonathan Boulton** offered some minor corrections to the description of his new coat of arms for the Society (these are set out later in Jonathan’s presentation to the Society). There were no matters arising.

**PRESIDENT’S REPORT:**

**June Hall McCash** gave the president’s report.

– She began by thanking the organisers, **Jean-Claude Mühlethaler** and **Yasmina Foehr-Janssens** for a very successful and enjoyable congress. She also thanked their teams at Lausanne and Geneva Universities, and especially **Barbara Wahlen**.

– She thanked and congratulated **Keith Busby** and **Chris Kleinhenz** on behalf of the Society for their publication of the selected proceedings of the 11<sup>th</sup> Triennial Congress which appeared in December 2006 with D. S. Brewer under the title, *Courtly Arts and the Art of*

### *Courtliness.*

- She further thanked **Jean Blacker** and **Chris Kleinhenz** for their tireless and excellent work on *Encomia*, as well as welcoming and introducing the new international bibliographical team: Chief Editor **Samuel Rosenberg**, and International Bibliographer **Salvatore Calomino** (the latter was unable to attend).
- Three meetings of the Executive Committee had taken place since 2004, on each occasion at the International Congress on Medieval Studies at Kalamazoo, Michigan. She thanked the international officers for their attendance and the regular contact that had been maintained in between meetings.
- June announced the creation of a new Tunisian branch of the Society, signalling the ICLS' widening popularity.
- A German version of the Constitution and the Society's statutes was being prepared by **Salvatore Calomino**, and would soon appear on the official website.
- A minute of silence was observed for ICLS colleagues who had died recently: **Emmanuèle Baumgartner, Charity Cannon Willard, Annegret Fiebig and Elspeth Kennedy**.
- June thanked **Erik Kooper**, former president of the Society for his advice during her presidency.
- Finally, she thanked the Society for giving her the opportunity to serve as president.

### **SECRETARY'S REPORT:**

**Emma Cayley** gave the Secretary's report.

- She added her thanks for the excellent organisation of the congress, as well as thanking the secretaries of all the national branches for their friendly and frequent communications. Emma also thanked **Wendy Pfeffer**, former International Secretary, for all the help and advice she had given her.
- She reported that membership seemed stable and on the increase in many branches, with the German branch in particular showing signs of rapid growth. She also reported the forthcoming publication of the German national branch journal, *Encomia Deutsch*. Similar projects were coming to fruition elsewhere, and members of the Society were actively encouraged to keep up these fantastic efforts.
- Finally she reported the imminent creation an ICLS e-mail loop which she and **Michelle Szkilnik** were in the process of discussing, which would eventually enable members to post advertisements for conferences, jobs, or publications etc. of interest to ICLS members.

### **TREASURER'S REPORT:**

**Kathy Krause** gave the treasurer's report.

- Kathy reported that the Society seemed to be in good financial shape. The figures circulated showed that a number of branches had not yet paid for *Encomia*.
- The case of the Italian branch was discussed. Twenty volumes of *Encomia* sent to the

Italian branch were not collected, and so were returned.

– Finally Kathy thanked all the national branch treasurers, and the Society for her term of office.

## **REPORT OF THE CHIEF EDITOR OF *ENCOMIA*:**

**Samuel Rosenberg** gave the Chief Editor's report

- Building on the excellent work of the former bibliographical team, led by **Jean Blacker** and **Chris Kleinhenz**, *Encomia* was going from strength to strength. Volume 27 came out last spring, less than twelve months after volume 26.
- Notices for the British, Dutch and Italian branches were missing from volume 27, but would be included in volume 28, to appear at the end of 2007 or beginning of 2008.
- Volume 29/30 (2007/8) would be a double issue to appear in December 2008, and Volume 31 (2009) would appear in 2009.
- Samuel then turned to the shipping of *Encomia*. 203 copies had been sent individually to members of the North American branch. All other copies had been sent to national branch secretaries for distribution as follows:

*Belgian Branch: 30*

*British Branch: 67*

*Dutch Branch: 30*

*French Branch: 70*

*German Branch: 105*

*Scandinavian Branch: 4*

*Swiss Branch: 34*

*Tunisian Branch: 4*

*Italian Branch: 20*

- 70 further copies had been sent out recently, and there was an overage of 90-100 copies. In view of difficulties with shipping, in future, all copies of *Encomia* from volume 29 onwards would be sent out directly to individual members.
- Volume 27 contained an enlarged section of book reviews: this was to become a permanent feature of *Encomia*. Samuel invited members of the Society to submit books for review.
- The possibility of including selected advertisements in *Encomia* had been discussed at Kalamazoo. Samuel invited members of the Society to submit suggestions.
- Finally, he thanked the former Chief Editor, **Jean Blacker**, and his current colleague, International Bibliographer **Salvatore Calomino** for their hard work on *Encomia*.

**Wendy Pfeffer** asked about the tax implications of paying for advertisements; Samuel would look into it.

**Erik Kooper** asked about plans for CD-Roms; Samuel stated that there were no plans as

such, simply suggestions for inclusion.

**Ron Akehurst** enquired about publications outside Western Europe; Samuel pointed out that the ICLS does have bibliographers working on material published outside Western Europe (Japan for example). Many non-European members had joined national branches on other continents.

#### **PRESENTATION OF REVISED ARMORIAL DESIGN BY JONATHAN BOULTON:**

**Jonathan Boulton** presented his revised design to the Society. His design had been approved at the Madison congress, with a couple of suggested revisions. One of these was Jonathan's substitution of the Latin word 'curialitas' for the letters 'ICLS'. The new arms combined this verbal change with some small aesthetic alterations to the original colour scheme of the design.

As the design had already been approved, it was merely necessary to alert the Society to these changes.

**Samuel Rosenberg** added that the design would be presented on the cover of future volumes of *Encomia*.

At this juncture, **June Hall McCash** proposed slight modifications to the bylaws printed below. The proposed changes had been discussed and circulated around the Executive Committee by e-mail prior to the Congress.

#### *IV. SELECTION OF NATIONAL BRANCH OFFICERS*

*National Branches of ICLS are encouraged to develop their own bylaws and terms of service for branch officers. In doing so, they should satisfy the following requirements:*

- (a) That they elect three or more persons to occupy the posts of president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer, and bibliographer. These offices may be combined as desired. Terms should be fixed but renewable.*
- (b) That the bibliographer undertake, with or without the assistance of other members of the branch, to participate fully, along with his/her counterparts in the other branches, in the bibliographical mission of ENCOMIA.*
- (c) That the treasurer ensure that the annual membership dues are sufficient to cover, even if nothing else, the combined cost of producing a copy of ENCOMIA for each member and mailing it.*

Currently the Constitution stipulates that all proposals suggesting changes to bylaws of the Society must be circulated three months in advance of the congress. This Constitution was drawn up in 1971, before the advent of the internet and e-mail. **Samuel Rosenberg** moved to

suspend the three-month clause for the signalling of changes to the Constitution.  
**Maureen Boulton** seconded this proposal; a vote was taken. Both the suspension of the three-month clause, and the change in the bylaws were passed.

## **PRESENTATION OF PROPOSAL FOR THE VENUE OF THE 2010 INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS:**

**Francis Gingras** presented Montréal, Canada, as a possible venue for the next triennial congress of the ICLS. He had already been working with his team on the proposal for a year.

- He pointed out that the venue was well-situated for ICLS members, and easily accessible with many direct flights.
- The *équipe* was presented. Four Universities would be involved: UQAM, McGill, Concordia and Montréal.
- Suggested congress dates were 26<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup> July, 2010 (there was a possibility of changing the dates for the previous week which Francis would investigate).
- The proposed sites included the Holiday Inn, and the Bibliothèque nationale.
- Registration fees would be \$150, or \$100 for students.

A vote was taken, and Montréal was approved unanimously as the next venue for the triennial congress.

## **ELECTION OF NEW OFFICERS:**

**June Hall McCash** presented the candidates for election to the Executive Committee of the ICLS, 2007-2010.

President: **Michelle Szkilnik**, Université de Paris III: Sorbonne, France  
Vice-President: **Keith Busby**, University of Wisconsin, Madison, US  
Secretary: **Emma Cayley**, University of Exeter, UK  
Treasurer: **Kristin Burr**, St. Joseph's University, Philadelphia, US

June asked whether there were any other nominees. There were none. A motion was therefore made to elect the officers by acclamation. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

**Michelle Szkilnik**, the new president, took the podium.

- She thanked **June Hall McCash** for her exemplary leadership of the Society, and thanked the Society for electing her.
- There were proposals for a new Iberian branch which would continue to be worked on.
- She mentioned the importance of the bibliography and the constant work it required, and thanked both the International bibliographical team and the other Executive Officers for their hard work.

**Jean-Claude Mühlethaler** now took the podium with characteristic brio, and some appropriate verve, to conclude proceedings, to thank the members of the Society for an extremely entertaining congress, and to invite them to a convivial ‘apéritif de clôture’.

The meeting was closed at 12.20pm.

Minutes submitted by **Emma Cayley**  
International Secretary.

#### **Addendum:**

In September 2007, **June Hall McCash** was proposed by **Michelle Szkilnik** as an Honorary President of the Society in recognition of her exemplary leadership of the Society from 2004-2007.

The Executive Committee voted in favour of the proposal, and the matter would be brought before the Society at the next triennial congress in Montréal for confirmation of the decision.