

*Draft*  
Minutes of the first  
**Annual General Meeting**  
of the International Society of the History of the Map (ISHM)  
held in Budapest on 30 June, 2012 at the Department of Cartography and  
Geoinformatics, Eötvös Loránd University.

Present: *George Carhart, Matthew Edney, Jana Moser, Joost Depuydt, Gilles Palsky, Jan Mokre, Koji Hasegawa, Alexander Kent, Ádám Bérces, Domonkos Hillier, David Derzsényi, Mark Monmonier, János Jeney, Elri Liebenberg, Francis Herbert, Catherine Delano-Smith, Roger Kain, Leif Isaksen, Sarah Tyacke, Zsolt Török.*

Apologies received from *Sonali Siriwardena, Thomas Horst, Catherine Hoffman, Tony Campbell and Wulf Bodenstein.*

The Chairman *Zsolt Török* welcomed everyone to this first Annual General Meeting of the International Society of the History of the Map.

In particular he welcomed the new members present at the meeting *Professor Koji Hasegawa* (Japan) and *János Jeney* (student member, Hungary), who joined the Society in Budapest.

He confirmed that the Meeting was quorate so that it could take the necessary decisions.

1. The draft minutes of the Foundation Meeting held on 1 Dec 2011 in London had been published on the website for members to see since January 2012. There had been neither corrections nor comments. **The chairman signed the Minutes as a correct record.**

Any matters arising were to be considered in the course of the meeting according to the Agenda items.

## 2. The Chairman's and officers' reports.

2.1 The **Chairman** gave a brief report on the Society's foundation, objectives and work to date in setting up the Society. He briefly referred to the events preceding the foundation of the new Society 1 December 2011 in London and reminded all members present of the Society's objectives. Since the founding meeting ISHM has grown steadily, and to date we have some 130 members from many different countries. The majority is from Europe and USA but we have members from elsewhere including Australia.

On the other hand, there are important countries with rich cartographic heritages which are not yet represented, and these blank spots call for more attention when developing the Society in the future. It is very important to increase the number of members and reach the 'critical mass' to be able to represent the field that we call the 'history of the map' worldwide. As a young academic society ISHM should establish contacts with scholarly societies, universities and academic institutions. Fortunately ISHM will have more Trustees after the Budapest AGM and the new Council will better represent our varied membership.

The Chairman emphasized that the society is the response to the members' needs as expressed in the original 2010 survey, and he would like this collegial attitude amongst the members to continue in the first full year of the Society. He expressed his gratitude and appreciation for the work of the other honorary Trustees, **Sarah Tyacke** and **Sonali Siriwardena** and thanked for their effective support and volunteer work that was substantial for the development of our society in this critical and decisive period for ISHM.

2.2 The **Secretary** reported briefly that the three elected Trustees took office from 1 Dec 2011 up to the first AGM on 30 June 2012 and had completed the initial financial and administrative arrangements for running the society in Budapest and London.

2.3 Thanks to the Chairman, the Society had been very fortunate to have had the contribution from the student members at Eötvös Loránd University in Budapest, in particular **Domonkos Hillier** (PhD Student) and **Ádám Bérces**, (Msc Student). The Trustees wished to record their grateful thanks to these two colleagues for their commitment and professionalism. ***The AGM was very happy to support this view and applauded them as outstanding supporters of the new society.***

2.4 The other matter which the Chairman and other officers have considered at great length had been the issue of an offer from the publishers of Imago Mundi,

*Taylor & Francis*, and with the support of the *Directors of Imago Mundi Ltd*, to provide our members with a reduced subscription for the journal, both online and printed. The negotiations had been concluded and we are to sign an agreement. Imago Mundi Ltd had generously offered to subsidize all the ISHM **student** member subscriptions to the Journal (print and online) for an initial three year period 2013-15. A Mailshot would be going out giving details of the special offer to members, and to others who might be interested in joining the Society.

**2.5 The basic subscription rates for each individual member (not institutional) to Imago Mundi would be £ 38 for a print only or print and online subscription, and £ 32 for an online subscription.**

**For student ISHM members** the subscription for print and online would be **£28.50**. Online only would be £22.50.

This ISHM member IM journal subscription did not include, of course, the Society's own membership fee, which would need to be taken into account but, even with that, there would still be a reduction of £5 for individual members.

The present subscription rate for the **IM Journal is £58** for all subscribers.

Members present were very pleased to learn of this helpful development and about the cooperation with the Imago Mundi directors and with the editor of the journal, *Catherine Delano-Smith*.

3. The **Treasurer** had provided her report for the meeting:

'The income of the Society for the six-month period commencing 1 Dec 2011 to 1 June 2012 (the "**Relevant Period**") was £1760.65. Annual membership fees were the Society's sole source of income. The Society's current annual membership rates are: £15 (Normal), £7.50 (Student) and £45 (Institutional). As at 1 June 2012, the Society has 122 members of which eight are student members. The Society also has one institutional member being the Deutsches Schiffahrtsmuseum. Prospective members can submit membership fees either by cheque or via Paypal, which is a secure online payment platform. Paypal retains a percentage of each transaction as a user charge. On our request, Paypal has agreed for the Society to benefit from Paypal's charity rate being 1.4% +20p for each transaction. Additionally, there is a currency conversion charge applied by Paypal for processing payments made in currencies other than GBP. The currency conversion charge is dependent on the specific currency but is generally between £38p-64p per transaction.

The Society has had no other expenditure for the Relevant Period nor has it incurred any liabilities over the Relevant Period.

The Society's financial year is the period ending on December 31 of each year. The Society's first financial year shall be the period commencing 1 December 2011 and ending 31 December 2012. Audited accounts will be prepared in due course for this period.'

#### **4. The Rules 'Bye-Laws' of the Society (on the website)**

The rules had been drawn up which, together with the Constitution (on the website), comprised the basis for running the Society. The secretary reported that two members of the Society who had extensive experience of 'Rules' had advised, and so had the relevant officer of another non-UK Society to complete the task. No comments or alterations had been received since March 2012 when the Rules were published on the website.

**The Chairman proposed and the meeting agreed *nem con* to adopt the Rules.**

#### **5. Election of Trustees including the honorary officers of chairman, secretary and treasurer for the period from the AGM 30 June 2012 until the AGM in Helsinki on Sunday 30 June 2013 (see below item 11).**

5.1 Nominations had been received for nine trustees including the honorary officers.

At this point the chairman gave up the chair and *Professor Roger Kain* assumed the chairmanship of the meeting for the purposes of electing the chairman. He proposed *Zsolt Török* and *Professor Mark Monmonier* seconded the proposal.

**The meeting elected Zsolt Török to the chairmanship *nem con*.**

5.2 Zsolt Török took the chair and thanked the members for the confidence it had shown in him. From the chair he proposed to the meeting that the following be elected as officers and trustees: *Sarah Tyacke as Trustee and Hon Secretary and Sonali Siriwardena as Trustee and Hon Treasurer; Catherine Delano Smith, Joost Depuyt, Matthew Edney, Thomas Horst, Leif Isaksen and Gilles Palsky as Trustees.*

(Biographical information of the new trustees is on the website).

**The meeting agreed that they be elected *nem con*.**

5.3 *Catherine Delano Smith* as the editor of IM and a new trustee offered to allocate to ISHM a page for its own news, either once or twice in the year to reach IM's readers and to give a report on its activities. The meeting accepted her generous offer.

## 6. Auditor

The **Secretary** reported that the treasurer had someone in mind for this task and was taking it forward. She hoped that there would be no fee involved. The meeting agreed that the Trustees should deal with this matter and inform the members once it was resolved in time for the end of the Society's financial year Jan 2012-Dec 2012.

## 7. Membership secretary.

The **Chairman** introduced the next item, which was to propose that the Society would need a suitable person to act as membership secretary to process membership registrations and subscriptions, to control and maintain the online database, to handle issues relating to subscriptions to Imago Mundi and to provide timely and accurate information to the officers and Council. This also brought into sharp relief the work already done by the student members involved since Oct 2011 as mentioned in item 2.3 above.

**The meeting was persuaded by this argument and agreed in principle to the post**, as long as the Trustees had oversight of the job description for the post, and that any financial compensation was carefully considered by them in the light of the overall financial position of the Society.

## 8. Website manager

The **Chair** proposed that a similar post would be needed for a website manager to deal with the maintenance of the website and the technical facilities necessary to accommodate the developments envisaged for the website as described in item 9 below. **The members agreed in principle subject to the oversight of the Council.**

## 9. Developing the Society and its website.

9.1 Creating a Society website was crucial in the foundation process and the website was and remains a major tool for communicating and promoting ISHM. The original structure of the website was based on the recommendations of the Founding Group and the comments received from experts. Technically the website is a high-tech product, designed as a community website, where contributions from any member can enrich the content.

However, our experience shows that even our news editors were not as active as we expected. Perhaps we should re-consider our philosophy and allow all members to contribute to the News page. At the same time, the Members Section of the website also needs re-consideration. We may shut down the very rarely used forum and, apart from membership data, we may make all content

available for the public. At this point the **Chairman** emphasized that the Trustees and web team can not provide new content for each section on the website. We clearly need the input from our members and the chairman encouraged all members to be more active content providers.

9.2 The members present then discussed a number of possibilities for the future of the Society. *George Carhart* and others considered widening the appeal of the subject of the history of the map beyond map specialists and the best ways of doing this effectively through presentations at other conferences and also how to attract student members.

9.3 **In relation to the website a number of suggestions** were discussed including whether the website should be open to members only or to everyone since the Society was using the website as a vehicle for promoting scholarship in the field as a whole. *Mathew Edney* and others considered that RSS feeds were essential and that the members should be able to add to the website themselves. The **Chairman** noted that social media is available on the website. He also reminded the meeting that earlier a member had offered to create a Facebook profile, but in the end this was not realized.

9.4 Various ways of asking the membership about their views were discussed. It was thought that perhaps it would be better to test a **'beta version'** of what ISHM might look like and ask for reactions before modifying it rather than asking the membership for their initial views. Bookmarks and 'alerts' were requested for the website. **The Chairman confirmed that the work on these is in progress.**

10. **Subscription rates Jan 2013- Dec 2014.** It was not proposed to change the rates at this AGM. Council would take a view about 2014-15 rates in December and bring forward any changes they might wish to propose at the next AGM.

11. **The members all congratulated Zsolt** and his colleagues, as well as the speakers *Roger Kain, Matthew Edney and Leif Isaksen* for an excellent first symposium on the subject of advancing the history of the map itself, and thanked the members in Budapest for the work they had done in preparing the symposium and carrying it out so well.

11.1 **The date for the second AGM was confirmed as the morning of Sunday 30 June 2013 in Helsinki at the ICHC.**

## 12. Any other Business

There were a number of other matters raised including the progress of a new online edition of the Directory of those working in History of the Map field, commonly known as 'D10'. *Mark Monmonier* was concerned that it should not disappear since it had last appeared in print form in 1998. He thought that it might possibly be included in the development of ISHM. *Matthew Edney*, who now has the task of bringing the new online version to fruition on the Osher Map Library website, on behalf of the Imago Mundi Ltd who owns the copyright, responded that there was indeed progress, but that he would not wish to stand in the way of any other useful outcomes. The **Chairman** reminded that from the beginning ISHM offered to cooperate with the D10 project, to serve the public and for the mutual benefit of IM and the Society's membership. The form of this cooperation should be explored by the Council and the IM Board in the future.

There being no other AOB the **Chairman** closed the meeting and he and the officers were kindly thanked once again for all their hard work since Oct 2011.

*Sarah Tyacke,*

Hon. Secretary

Budapest and London 2-3 July 2012.