

DRAFT

Minutes of the second Annual General Meeting of the Society for the History of the Map

The second Annual General Meeting of the Society for the History of the Map was held on Sunday 30 June 2013 at 09.00-10.45 in the Baltica Room 1st Floor Marina Conference Centre, Helsinki

Present: Matthew Edney, Leif Isaksen, Diana Webster, Alexander Kent, Nick Millea, Madalina Verres, Merve S Arkan, Andrew S Cook, Peter Barber, Joost Depuydt, Koji Hasegawa, Francis Herbert, Paul Harvey, Tony Campbell, Paula van Gestel, Elri Liebenberg, Gilles Palsky, Imre J Demhardt, John Docktor, Ed Dahl, Catherine Delano-Smith, Henrik Dupont, Jim Akerman, Sarah Tyacke, Evelyn Edson.

Apologies were received from Zsolt Török, Thomas Horst, Sonali Siriwardena, and Catherine Hofmann

Welcome and introductory remarks: Sarah Tyacke the Honorary Secretary explained that the chair, Zsolt Török, was unable to attend the ICHC in Helsinki and had sent his profound apologies to all the members. In his absence he had asked the Council to agree that Sarah Tyacke should conduct the meeting and she then formally took the chair.

1. The draft minutes of the first Annual General Meeting held in Budapest on 30 June 2012 were approved and signed by the acting chair.

2. Matters arising.

2.1 The issue of the text of the Constitution as presented on the Society's website was raised since it was the model constitution provided by the UK Charity Commissioners which included pages of guidance. It was unclear that this was the Society's own Constitution since the Society's website provided a link to the text on the Commissioners' website. Members agreed that they wished to see the Constitution as adopted and signed at the Foundation meeting of the Society on 1 Dec 2011. Leif Isakson agreed to raise this with the web-team and Sarah Tyacke agreed to send the signed PDF to the web team.

3. The Annual Report for 2012, with an update for the first six months of 2013, was introduced.

3.1. The Directors of Imago Mundi and the publishers Taylor and Francis were thanked for their assistance in agreeing the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Taylor and Francis for the period 2013-15. It was pointed out that there was a discrepancy between the Annual Report special rates for ISHM members for IM and those in the Treasurer's report. The Annual Report was corrected to the right figures which are: individual members - IM print only £38, print and online £41.80, online only £38.40.

3.2 Members wanted to know what would happen after the initial three year period of the MOU and were reassured that the officers would be seeking to negotiate with Taylor and Francis before the period ended to secure the best rates they could at that time.

On the proposal of Andrew Cook, seconded by Catherine Delano-Smith, the Annual Report was then approved by the meeting.

4. The Accounts for the period 1 January 2012-31 December 2012 and the Treasurer's report on financial activities to date were presented.

The matter of the rate for the online-only subscription to Imago Mundi was raised since it seemed strange to members that it was higher than the print-only subscription for individual members. The acting chair explained that this was the result of the rates of VAT on online e transactions in the UK whereas VAT was not levied on print. Members asked for there to be an explanation of this to be put on the website for members to see and the chair agreed to ask the Treasurer to do this.

The approval of the Accounts 2012 was proposed by Matthew Edney and seconded by Leif Isaksen and approved by the meeting.

5. Election of officers/trustees to Council.

5.1 The acting chair thanked all the trustees, chair and officers for their work in the past year and especially the contribution made by Joost Depuydt who was not now seeking re-election owing to his commitment to ICHC 2015 in Antwerp.

5.2 Matthew Edney took the chair at this point to deal with the election of the officers: Zsolt Török, Chair; Sarah Tyacke, Secretary, and Sonali Sirwardena Treasurer. He proposed the officers be elected and the meeting agreed *nem con.*

The acting chair then took the chair again and the nominated trustees, Catherine Delano-Smith, Matthew Edney, Thomas Horst, Leif Isaksen and Gilles Palsky were proposed by Nick Millea and seconded by Joost Depuydt. The trustees were elected by the meeting.

6.1 The proposed addition to Council of the webmaster Domonkos Hillier (membership secretary) and Adam Berces (web manager) as *co-opted* members for a period of two years in the first instance was discussed. The role of co-opted members is to give advice to Council. They do not have voting rights. They may receive an honorarium which is the case in respect of these two co-opted members. The meeting thanked them both for their hard work in 2012-13. Domonkos had established the subscription system for Imago Mundi and Adam was developing the website as his report at item 12 demonstrated.

Sarah Tyacke proposed their co-option and Francis Herbert seconded and the meeting duly co-opted them.

7.1 The appointment of a suitable person according to UK to audit the Accounts for the year ending 31 Dec 2012.

The meeting expressed its gratitude to Peter Walker who had audited the Accounts for 2012 and was pleased that he was available to do the same for 2013.

Andrew Cook proposed and Francis Herbert seconded the appointment of Peter Walker as the Society's auditor for 2013.

At this point the order of the Agenda was changed, so that items 10 and 11 and 12 were moved up to ensure that these items were considered before the end of the meeting.

8. (Previously 10): Subscription rates for 2014-15.

The chair referred to the Treasurer's concerns in her report that the present level of subscription was only just covering our costs and the suggested rise to £20 for the year 2014.

A number of views were expressed including the issue of what members were actually getting for their subscriptions at the present time. The special rate to Imago Mundi was very helpful but was the sole benefit and some sign of greater activity was needed. On the other hand some members thought that the Society was not just about benefits but should be promoting the study of the history of maps and building the community. Some favoured putting up the subscription. Others were concerned that the number of members was small and this rise might discourage new members and, in any case, the Society should be promoting itself and getting new members and not raising the subscription. Paul Harvey proposed that the rate should stay the same for 2014 and then a rise be considered for 2015. Peter Barber proposed an amendment that the £20 rise should go ahead but that if the Society did not show clear evidence of activity and a growing membership then it should be dissolved.

The two proposals were put to the vote. The meeting rejected Peter Barber's proposal and decided that the rate should remain the same for 2014 as for 2013.

9. (Previously 11 and 12): The proposal for an ISHM symposium in Paris on 13 June 2013.

Gilles Palsky spoke to this item and outlined the proposal which the council had already discussed. The meeting thanked him and the BnF for their collaboration and agreed that it would be good to hold a symposium in Paris and the Annual General Meeting of ISHM for 2014 there. The ISHM symposium would be immediately after the Comite francais de Cartographie's conference and would be held at the same time as an exhibition at the BnF (Tolbiac site) on the First World War. There was some discussion about the theme which would be concerned with maps war and diplomacy. [The final title was decided at the meeting of Council on 1 July was 'Mapping Conflict, Conflict in Maps' which would be a wide enough theme to attract some good map historians]. Imre Demhardt pointed out that there may be a clash with the ICA Commission's conference in Ghent, although Jim Akerman noted that if the dates were close but not overlapping this would be beneficial to members outside Europe.

Tony Campbell requested more advanced notification for similar events in future so that they could be added to the calendars of meetings. The meeting accepted the proposed ISHM symposium with thanks.

9.2 (previously 11 and 12): Symposium Guidelines.

There were endorsed by the meeting and referred to Council for any revisions that might be necessary. [These were amended at the Council meeting on 1 July]

10. The meeting discussed the change of Society's acronym to 'ISHMap' and agreed the change. It also discussed the logo and agreed it, but pointed out that on printed, and especially in black and white, materials the full logo would not be legible so suggested the central part be used in such circumstances.

12. The report on the development of the website by Adam Berces.

Leif Isaksen introduced this matter and congratulated Adam on his work. He noted however that further developments were needed, which he would take forward with the web team. The following specific requests were made:

1. An FAQ (Frequently Asked Questions) section. One question needing explanation is why online only subscriptions are more expensive than print only subscriptions)
2. An RSS feed for news stories
3. The possibility for members to add comments to news stories
4. A link to twitter, including the #ISHMap hashtag (we may also wish to register @ISHMap)
5. A link to remind users of forgotten usernames/passwords
6. The option (as suggested in the report by Adam) that members be allowed to upload their own news stories. These should be moderated by the Web master with support from the Council where necessary.

13 Developing the Society for members

13.1 The acting chair on behalf of the chair Zsolt Török, raised the proposal for reconsideration of the issue of the information listserv for members since it is clear that the forum format has not worked. People expect to have the information in their mailbox/desktop not to visit a forum.

There was discussion of this issue. The members were of two minds that if there were to be such a list function it should be open to all, not just members; while others thought in that case that it should be possible to have a link to the Society. There was no clear way forward given the differences of opinion and the role of

the Society in this matter also remains unclear. [It was decided to refer this to Council—which has indeed taken it on }

13.2 The matter of a proposed Newsletter for the Society was raised but only briefly since the meeting was adjourned. This and any other matters outstanding, Paris symposium arrangements, guidelines for symposia and how to take the information listserv forward (13.1) were referred to Council.

Sarah Tyacke
Hon Secretary
20 July 2013