

DRAFT\*

**Minutes of the Foundation Meeting of the  
International Society of the History of the Map  
1 December 2011**

The Foundation Meeting of the *International Society of the History of the Map (ISHM)* took place at the *School of Advanced Study, University of London*, by kind permission of the Dean at 3pm on Thursday 1 December 2011.

Present:

*Paul Harvey, Zsolt Török, Sarah Tyacke, Sonali Siriwardena, John Henry, Peter Walker, Carolyn Chapman, Damien Bove, Peter Barber, Nick Millea, Catherine Hofmann, Eunice Gill, Rose Mitchell, Bill Shannon, Toby Fountaine, Tom Sutton, Magdalena Peszko, Joost Depuydt, Anne Taylor, Tom Harper, Hugh Clout, Rory Hill, Gillian Hutchinson, Andrew Cook, Yolande Hodson, Richard Oliver, Alexander Kent, Roger Kain, Pamela Purdey, David Purdey, Tony Campbell, Christopher Board, Alessandro Scafi, Catherine Delano Smith, Ljiljana Ortola-Baird, Felix Driver, John Dikes, Jacqueline Cuthbert, Joe Walker, Anthony Payne, Mike Heffernan, Gina Margaret Fairfax, and Alexander Johnson.*

*[44 in all, some who attended may have failed to sign the attendance sheet –if so can they let me know directly at [styacke@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:styacke@blueyonder.co.uk)].*

1.1 **Professor Paul Harvey** took the chair and welcomed the participants to the meeting. He explained the purpose of the meeting which was to found the International Society of the History of the Map (ISHM) by adopting the **Constitution** (available at the meeting and had been available on the ISHM website at <http://ishm.elte.hu>) and the **Objectives** of the Society (tabled at the meeting and on the website). If those present were in agreement the objectives and the constitution would then be adopted; those who wished to do so would be invited to sign the Constitution and to subscribe, thus founding the Society. At this point the honorary officers, who would also be trustees, would need to be elected for the period up to the first Annual General Meeting of the Society in order to continue the work necessary to develop the Society.

1.2 He invited *Zsolt Török*, the Chair of the **Founding Group**, to give a resume of the deliberations leading up the Foundation Meeting. Zsolt Török said that the idea of an international learned society had originated from proposals put forward by Catherine Delano Smith, concerning the options for the future of the

subject, and from subsequent discussions amongst the Directors of *Imago Mundi* and others. A working group of *Sarah Tyacke* and *Zsolt Török* as chair was established by the Imago Mundi directors to explore the possibilities and a Founding Group was established by invitation from the Chair of the Founding Group to inform deliberations. The Founding Group comprised *Ingrid Baumgärtner*, University of Kassel; *Chet van Duzer*, independent scholar, USA; *Catherine Hofmann*, Bibliotheque nationale de France; *Thomas Horst*, University of Bundeswehr, Munich; *Joel Kovarsky*, independent scholar, USA; *Carla Lois*, University of Buenos Aires; and *Liudmilla Zinchuk*, Russian National Library.

1.3 He then provided the meeting with relevant background. In December 2009 a report had been presented to the Imago Mundi directors which indicated that the Founding Group thought and proposed that the potential society should be international, independent and interdisciplinary. The next step was to test this and other ideas by an online survey which was carried out in 2010. The response to the idea of an International Society was most encouraging with 93% of the respondents (185 persons) expressing an interest in joining such a society and agreeing that there was a need for the formation of a new independent international society for advancing scholarship and the community of map historians. The *ISHM Founding Group* worked independently thereafter and in July 2011 held an *Open Forum* on the proposals for such a Society at the *International Conference on the History of Cartography* in Moscow by kind permission of the organisers and Imago Mundi directors. It was decided then to hold the Foundation Meeting in London on 1 Dec 2011 and to start the Society in 2012. Arrangements were then made to hold this Foundation meeting and our thanks go to *Catherine Delano Smith* and *Tony Campbell* for helping us to organise the meeting in conjunction with the Maps and Society lecture to be given later that afternoon. In particular Zsolt Török thanked *Roger Kain* Dean of the *School of Advanced Study, University of London*, for his generous support. He also thanked the members of the Founding Group, which was hereby dissolved as the new society came into being.

2. There being no discussion at this point, the Chair of the meeting, Professor Paul Harvey moved to item 2 '**To adopt the Objectives and the Constitution.**'

2.1 The Constitution followed the exact text and requirements of the *UK Charity Commissioners* for forming an Association, which had been proposed as the best way forward for the new Society that would in due course wish to register as a UK Charity so that it could attract donations. There was no discussion of the Constitution itself, except to point out that it would be necessary to have internal

rules (or bye-laws) for the running of the Society which would deal with matters such as the upper limit of numbers of Trustees to be elected and the period of the full term of office of elected officers and trustees. *Sarah Tyacke*, as a member of the Founding Group present, confirmed that these internal rules would be drawn up once the Society was founded in readiness for the AGM.

2.2 The objectives themselves must satisfy the Charity Commissioner's requirements to provide public benefit in some explicit way and accordingly had been formulated with advice from a former Charity Commissioner. When the Society comes in due course to apply for registration, however, the commissioners involved on the day might require some further alterations and the officers would attend to this should it become necessary.

The present Objectives were: '*To advance the study of the history of maps in all societies and over all periods of time by promoting the education of the general public in the subject, by promoting communication between members and others interested in the subject, and by promoting the research, teaching and funding of the subject. These tasks would be carried out by the members of the Society or in association with relevant organisations, by means of publications, conferences, seminars, courses, and other suitable methods at any university or other institution (e.g.) libraries, archives or museums) worldwide.*'

It was pointed out that the title of the Society was the *History of the Map* but that the objectives referred to the history of maps in all societies etc. Did this matter? Some discussion followed and it was noted that the title of the society followed the French all-embracing concept of the *Histoire du Livre* (History of the Book) and, while this might to some imply the study of the map as artefact, it did not by any means exclude all other aspects of maps and mapping and their role in society. It did not seem absolutely necessary to have the wording of the title of the Society mirrored in precisely the same words as in the more descriptive wording of the Objectives of the Society.

2.3 The chair of the meeting proposed that the meeting adopt the Constitution and the Objectives and they **were adopted *nem.con.***

3. At this point the chair invited the participants to sign the Constitution so that the requirements of the Foundation Meeting could be fulfilled. A number of participants did so and the Society was duly declared founded. The chair also informed the participants that they could subscribe at the end of the meeting if they wished and they would all become ***Founding Members.***

4. The chair then moved onto the election of the first officers and trustees. The minimum required by the constitution was three, and three persons had been suggested for election for the period up to the First Annual General meeting to be held in June 2012. They were listed together with short CVs on the Agenda paper.

**Zsolt Török** was proposed to be the new Chair of ISHM by *Roger Kain* and seconded by *Nick Millea*; **Sarah Tyacke** was proposed as the Hon Secretary by *Yolande Hodson* and seconded by *Tony Campbell*; **Sonali Siriwardena** was proposed as Hon Treasurer by *Peter Barber* and seconded by *Andrew Cook*.

5. The elected Chair then took the chair, having thanked Paul Harvey for his careful chairmanship of the foundation procedure and the members for his and his fellow trustees' election.

5.1 He pointed out that the Society would need some more trustees and that they would need to be nominated and elections held for the AGM. There was some discussion about the upper limit on numbers and eventually members present decided that the upper limit should be **12** with the option to co-opt non-voting other trustees if necessary for the Society's business. This proposal was **agreed nem.con.**

5.2 He then proposed, as indicated on the Agenda, that the subscription rate for the year 2012 would be: **members £15, student members £7.50** and **institutional members £45**. There was some discussion about the year concerned for subscriptions and it was agreed that those who joined before 31 Dec would become Founding Members and that the subscription year would run from January to January each year thereafter.

Although the Society was not yet a Charity it was pointed out that for UK tax payers Gift Aid tax relief could be backdated when the Society became a charity. There was also some discussion about what the institutional subscription would be used for and whether some potential members could belong as part of such a collective membership, although only one of them would have a vote as stipulated in the Constitution. The officers agreed to explore the possibilities before the AGM and report back.

The subscription rates were proposed by the chair and seconded by Roger Kain and **agreed nem.con.**

6. The Chair then introduced the new website of ISHM and explained the online registration process and the Hon Treasurer explained the use of **PayPal** and the confirmation of payment of subscriptions procedure. She and the Secretary were

to open the ***Society's Bank Account*** on 2 Dec, following the meeting and it was hoped that the online system and connection to PayPal would happen in the following week. [*This was done.*]

7. The Chair then proposed the date of the first ***Annual General Meeting*** which would be held in Budapest on Saturday 30 June 2012 immediately after the ICA Commission on the History of Cartography Symposium. The date and place **was agreed.**

8. Under Any Other Business the matter of the imminent shut down owing to technical changes of the ***MapHist*** list, moderated by *Peter van der Krogt*, was raised, since he asked for our help. The Chair of ISHM said that ISHM would be glad to offer a free and open facility to the community if that was what was wanted. There was general agreement to make an offer to host MapHist, in the format he suggested, on the Society's website. An additional point was raised about MapHist being hosted as independent [from the Society] but this element was not explored. [*In the event the ISHM offer was refused.*]

9. The Chair thanked the participants and invited them to subscribe. *Paul Harvey* very kindly proposed a vote of thanks to the Officers and the Founding Group members for their work in managing to found the new Society.

[*Update as at 6 Jan 2012 there are over 110 Founding members.*]

The meeting closed at 4.30pm.

***Sarah Tyacke***  
Hon. Secretary  
6 Jan 2012

*\*DRAFT. Minutes are to be accepted by the 2012 Annual General Meeting.*