

Draft

Minutes of the third Annual General Meeting of the Society for the History of the Map (ISHMap)



The third Annual General Meeting of the Society for the History of the Map (ISHMap) was held on **Friday 13 June, 2014**, 15.45 -18.15 in the *Salle des Commissions, Bibliothèque nationale de France, Paris (BnF)*.

Present: *Merve S Arkan, Peter Barber, Francis Herbert, Gilles Palsky, Catherine Delano-Smith, Sarah Tyacke, Zsolt Torok, Bill Shannon, Thomas Horst, Catherine Hofmann, Alex Zukas, Lorna Zukas, Jean-Marc Besse, Christophe Klein, Floria Benavideo, Mike Heffernan, Felix de Montety, Nicholas Gliserman, Camille Serchuk, Manuel Schramm, Roberto Chauca, Emmanuelle Vagnon, Jean-Francois Palomino, Roger Kain and Maike Schmidt.*

Apologies were received from *Leif Isaksen, Sonali Siriwardena, Wulf Bodenstern and Tony Campbell.*

Welcome and introductory remarks: The chairman (**Zsolt G. Török**) was in the chair and welcomed the members and observers present.

1. The draft minutes of the second Annual General Meeting held in Helsinki on Sunday 30 June Budapest 2013 were **approved and signed**.

2. Matters arising.

All matters arising were to come up under the agenda items.

3. The **Annual Report for 2013** was introduced by the Hon Chairman. It included reports from the Membership Secretary about administration and registration and Imago Mundi subscriptions and membership issues.

The Chairman noted that the ListServ was very successful, but in line with requests from some members, the Council was considering **removing the moderating element** from those who had joined the ListServ and agreed the conditions of membership. There was a discussion of this proposal with some members expressing the view that this would leave the Society open to a number of abusive or other inappropriate postings which would harm the reputation of Society and ruin the use of the ListServ for others.

As a result **Society's Webmaster** will monitor the posted messages and report any problem to the **Hon Secretary**, who proposed that she and **Thomas Horst** (the present moderators together with **Zsolt** as the List's **Administrator**) would undertake to look at those messages (every other day, if possible) to check the content. In the event

that someone was posting inappropriately they would alert the Administrator and have the person banned according to the specific condition they had broken. Of course members who noted an abuse could also alert the Administrator at any time. The Council would review the matter again after three months. The meeting was content with this way forward.

The Chairman noted that **members could now post their own news directly onto the website** using the facility the website manager Ádám Bérces had provided. It was hoped this might encourage more members to take advantage of this facility as well as increase numbers.

Under the section on '*Future Development*' (which is also at item 13 below) the Chairman indicated that it was clear that academics and other researchers in the field needed shorter and cheaper scholarly meetings. The present symposium in Paris had proved this point so such types of symposia would continue to be part of the ISHMap programme for members and for the wider community.

The chairman thanked all the trustees, the *Hon. Secretary and the Treasurer* and the *webteam* in Budapest for all their work in the past year.

The adoption of the Annual Report was proposed by *Catherine Delano - Smith* and seconded by *Peter Barber* and duly **adopted** 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 discussed.

Bill Shannon enquired about the possibility of the Society offering Gift Aid to UK members. The officers were reviewing the current status of the Society in respect of its eligibility for charitable status and hoped to be able to form a view in the coming year, but the matter was complicated by the lack of sufficient income, according to advice received, to satisfy the Charity Commissioners' requirements.

The approval of the Accounts and the Treasurer's Report for 2013 was proposed by *Bill Shannon* and seconded by *Peter Barber* and agreed by the meeting.

5. The **subscription rates** for 2015 were discussed.

The Chair referred to the Treasurer's concerns in her report that the present level of subscription was only just covering the Society's costs and suggested a rise to **£20** for individual members, **£10** for students and **£50** for institutions for the year 2015. In the light of the improved benefits to members during 2014, as noted in the Annual Report, the meeting was agreeable to the proposal from the Hon. Treasurer to raise subscriptions to **£20** for individual members and to **£50** for institutional members. *Bill*

Shannon however proposed that the rate for student members given their very limited funds remain the same for 2015. The meeting agreed to keep the *student rate at £8* (plus handling fee) for 2015.

6. Election of officers/trustees to Council.

6.1 *Sarah Tyacke* took the chair at this point to deal with the election of the chairman. *Zsolt Török* was thanked for his chairmanship and hard work for the Society during the year and was then proposed by *Roger Kain* and seconded by *Camille Serchuk*. His election for 2014-15 was **agreed** *nem con.*

6.2 The chair then proposed that the other officers and nominated trustees *Catherine Delano-Smith, Matthew Edney, Thomas Horst, Leif Isaksen and Gilles Palsky* together with the newly nominated trustees *Antti Jacobson* and *Junia Furtado* should be elected. [Details of the new Council members are on the website] *Gilles Palsky* seconded the proposal and the trustees were duly **elected** to Council for 2014-15 *nem. con.*

7. The **co-option** of *Domonkos Hillier* (membership secretary) and *Ádám Bérces* (web manager) as members of Council for a period of a **further two years** was agreed. Co-opted members are there to give advice to Council and do **not** have voting rights. They may receive an honorarium, which is the case in respect of these two members. The meeting thanked them both for their hard work in 2013-14.

8. The appointment of a suitable person according to UK to audit the Accounts for the year ending 31 Dec 2013. The meeting was very grateful to *Peter Walker* who had audited the Accounts for 2013 and was pleased that he was available to do the same for 2014. *Peter Barber* proposed and *Bill Shannon* seconded the appointment of *Peter Walker* as the Society's auditor for 2014. The meeting **agreed**.

9. The report on the development of the *ISHMap Listero (ISHMap-List)* had been included in the Annual Report by the Chairman at item 3 above.

10. *Gilles Palsky* as the chair of the Paper Selection committee and of the organising Committee for the **Paris Symposium 'Mapping Conflicts: Conflicts in Maps'** gave his report on the Committee's experiences in preparing the Symposium.

10.1. He thought that it would be sensible to re-engineer the selection process so that the Paper Selection Committee could be assured of receiving all the proposals submitted, since two applicants had said they had not heard about the paper selection result, although they had sent in their proposals in due time to the ISHMap website. There was some discussion about this, and how to solve it while ensuring the anonymity of the applicants at point of selection. The Chair

noted that after he had noted the problem the website manager amended the website's function and automatic message confirmed each submission.

10.2. In future it would help to know roughly the numbers of proposals being received as they were received rather than all at the end of the process so the Selection Committee could schedule the right amount of time to deal with the selection i.e. not in a rush at the end of the period. It was noted that the website manager has offered this existing function of the system, but it was not required by the committee.

10.3. At the point of composing the sessions it would be best then to have the names of the authors of the papers, in case there was any difficulty arising in arranging the sessions which could then be dealt with at that stage.

The meeting agreed that the symposium had been a great success, and the papers were all very interesting and of good academic standard. It was clear that the previous day's conference organised by the *Comité de Cartographie français* on the mapping of the First World War had also contributed to the success of the ISHMap symposium, in terms of attracting a good number of colleagues to attend and to contribute to the discussions as well as giving papers. Gilles and his committee and the BnF, especially *Catherine Hofmann*, were congratulated and thanked for their excellent planning and hosting of the symposium.

11. The organisers of the *International Conference on the History of Cartography* in Antwerp have offered a slot for our **next AGM** which can be held on **Saturday 11 July 2015 at 4pm** in the Felix Archief, Oudeleeuwenrul 2 (Antwerp). This would not clash with any other pre-meetings envisaged. The meeting gladly **accepted** the offer.

12. The meeting received a very welcome invitation from *Thomas Horst* of the *Interuniversity Centre for the History of Science and Technology* (CIUHCT) for the **2016 symposium to take place in Lisbon**. The Centre (a report about it may be found in BIMCC-NL No.49, May 2014) pp. 22-24) collaborates with the National Library of Portugal and he thought that they would be pleased to provide a room with technical facilities for a day at no cost to the Society. The AGM discussed this possibility and agreed in principle to go ahead subject to an **invitation being received** from the Centre and the National Library. The Council was asked to take the matter forward and would report in due course to the members.

13 Developing the Society for members and increasing the membership

13.1 A wide ranging discussion took place. The Chair suggested amongst other ideas that, as part of the *International Map Year* events (2015-16), the website front page should include a *'Map of the Week'* perhaps offered as a scan by a member complete

with the full description of it. He showed two options for showing this on the website, developed by the website manager. Catherine Hofmann pointed out that the BnF already had its map collection on line in 'Gallica' and maybe items from 'Gallica' could be linked to the page as could, of course, other online collections of maps to alert and help researchers and other interested people. There was some hesitancy about the actual use of this facility in practice, but it would be an attractive addition to the front page of the website on which, as requested at the last AGM, members could now post their own map news directly. It was **agreed** that the larger scan for the front page would be the better of the two options offered, and the meeting agreed to go ahead with the new front-page as shown.

13.2 This would not, however, of itself increase membership and *Catherine Delano Smith* listed some ways forward for Council to consider and act upon, such as that:

--each member of the Society should add a line to their **e-mail signature** along the lines of "*Are you a member of ISHMap – The International Society for the History of the Map? If not, here is the link: <http://ishm.elte.hu>*";

--each member should make a point to carry around and make available at any and all occasions (symposia, lectures, meetings) an up-to-date version of the **leaflet** (needed in a number of languages) inviting membership of ISHMap;

--all members who use Twitter and/or Facebook should likewise include the **online version of the leaflet** and **draw attention** to current activities linked to ISHMap (e.g. the appearance of the current Newsletter [once this is up and running], the next meeting, the posting of a major new feature added to/linked to the ISHMap site etc]

[*Gilles Palsky* has agreed to set up an ISHMap Twitter site; Facebook exists already, maintained by *David Derzsenyi*]

-- all members should try to get ISHMap **included in any register** in their own country of learned societies;

--all members should **actively encourage** their own students to consider joining, not only to gain something from the society but also to contribute to their field of academic interest in the face of difficult times for all the Humanities everywhere; also encourage their colleagues in other institutions and cognate fields to do likewise (i.e. spread the word);

-- somebody might like to **prepare a poster** for the Antwerp ICHC meeting;

13.3 It was also suggested by *Peter Barber* that an occasional piece in a newspaper perhaps informing people about a new discovery might also bring the Society to

people's attention or even a TV slot! In Lisbon it might be possible to interview some of the speakers and participants.

A list of all ListServes in our field should be made available to Council and Officers so that our symposia could be advertised more widely by Council and by those organising them.

13.4 *Nicholas Gliseman* (a new member himself) suggested that subscriptions be payable **for three years** at a time to overcome the lapsing of membership which was occurring each year and which then had to be recovered during the following year, if possible, by the membership secretary.

He also suggested that an **award** might make it easier to travel to symposia for doctoral and post-doctoral scholars and encourage them to become members. Perhaps an award for the best poster session in Antwerp might also be an encouragement but would need a sponsor. The idea of a prize was liked; sponsorship is needed and members' advice would be needed on this matter.

13.5 A **newsletter** which might include shorter pieces, e.g. the proceedings or a report of the Symposia held was also recommended by the Chair already in 2013. This was regarded again as essential and urgent.

It should not be too ambitious to start with, i.e. twice a year would be reasonable for a start. The Council was asked to take into account these suggestions and to see if it would be possible to find an editor or maybe form an editorial group to take forward the idea of a newsletter or journal. *Peter Barber* pointed out that a newsletter might find favour with institutions, who might then join up. [Post meeting *Camile Serchuk, Emmanuelle Vagon and Merve Arkan* expressed interest in editorial jobs, but time was the limiting factor. In July 2014 *Catherine Delano Smith* has suggested a possible student editor who is keen and expects to be available for 5 years or so. This offer will be explored by the Hon secretary and the Chairman who, with the co-opted Council members would provide a template for an on-line Newsletter for use by the editorial team.]

14 Any other business. Information about the visit to the *Service historique de la Défense* on 14 June for participants was given out, and the Chairman thanked the BnF once again for hosting the symposium and the meeting.

Sarah Tyacke
Hon Secretary
5 July 2014