



The Plainsong and Medieval Music Society

Annual General Meeting
University of Huddersfield
Saturday, 24 April 2009, 5:15 pm

Minutes

Present

Bonnie Blackburn, Lisa Colton, Helen Deeming, Barbara Eichner, Fabrice Fitch, Leofranc Holford-Strevens, Elizabeth Eva Leach (chair), Christian Leitmeir, Mary O'Neill, Nils Holger Petersen, Matthew Salisbury, Thomas Schmidt-Beste, Bruno Turner

Before the meeting, the chair extended a vote of thanks to Lisa Colton for organizing the annual conference at Huddersfield.

1. Apologies

Margaret Bent, Nicolas Bell, Anna Burson, John Caldwell, John Harper, Owen Rees

2. Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes had been posted on the PMMS website, and additional copies were circulated at the meeting. They were approved *nem. con.* without amendments

3. Matters arising not on the agenda

none

4. Chair's Annual Report

The chair presented her report for the calendar year 2008.

The fourth successful day conference of the PMMS had been held in Bristol, organized by Lisa Colton and Emma Hornby on the theme of gender in medieval music. Speakers included Bonnie Blackburn, Lisa Colton, Anna Maria Friman, Paula Higgins, Elizabeth Eva Leach, David Maw and Yolanda Plumley.

New President Bruno Turner has been developing ideas for downloadable 'mini-editions' for the website; the first two have now appeared. The chair thanked BT for his initiative.

At the council meeting in October, Thomas Schmidt-Beste had been appointed as the executive member to oversee the website.

Two issues of *Plainsong and Medieval Music* have appeared on schedule and were circulated to all subscribing members of the Society. Members of the IMS group 'Cantus planus' are now offered a discount on subscription to the Journal. Thanks were extended due to the current editors, Joseph Dyer and Helen Deeming, as well as to Nicolas Bell,

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Chairman Dr Elizabeth Eva Leach Administrator Anna Burson Registered charity number 297147

who is the reviews editor. Joseph Dyer had stepped down as editor; the Chairman thanked him for his long service. He has been replaced by James Borders.

The RSCM publications department has continued to act as distributor for the Society.

Publicity for the society (and to some extent the Journal), has been overseen by Barbara Eichner, who has been co-opted onto Council to promote the Society and its publications and to boost membership. The Society was promoted by means of leaflets and availability of publications at the Medieval and Renaissance Music Conference in Bangor in July 2008.

The Society currently has 79 members (including 3 honorary members and 6 life members).

No member of the Council received payment during the period and members of Council are to be thanked for their ongoing support of the Society.

Anna Burson has acted as administrator, and received an honorarium for this work. Operations have now been moved geographically to Bangor, where she and a number of other members of Council and ordinary members of the Society are currently based.

5. Treasurer's Report and Accounts

Christian Leitmeir presented a report and account for the calendar year 2008 (see attached). The transfer from the previous treasurer had not been completed in 2008, meaning that the elected treasurer was in effect acting as an internal examiner. Accounts have been additionally scrutinised and approved by the honorary independent examiner, Miss Alison Armstrong.

The necessity to redeem the War Bond was reiterated.

The report was approved *nem. con.* (proposed: Leofranc Holford-Strevens; seconded: Bonnie Blackburn)

The chair thanked Christian Leitmeir for his efforts.

6. Election of officers and trustees

The meeting proceeded to the following elections, which were approved *nem. con.* (proposed: Leofranc Holford-Strevens; seconded: Mary O'Neill):

i. Officers (re-elected):

Chairman: Dr. Elizabeth Eva Leach

Secretary: Prof. Thomas Schmidt-Beste

Treasurer: Dr. Christian Leitmeir

ii. Executive Trustees:

Re-elected: Dr. Nicolas Bell, Dr. Lisa Colton

Newly elected: Dr. Barbara Eichner, Dr. Owen Rees, Matthew Salisbury

iii. Advisory trustees (re-elected)

Prof. John Caldwell

Prof. Susan Rankin

iv: Honorary independent examiner and honorary legal advisor

Examiner: Alison Armstrong (Bangor University)

Advisor: Barry Williams

The status of the legal adviser was deemed to be unclear; the treasurer to enquire into the nature of this office

Action: CL

7. Conferences 2010-2012

The 2010 conference will almost certainly be held in Cambridge (organizers: Sam Barrett and Susan Rankin), date tbd. The sites of the 2011 and 2012 conferences were provisionally confirmed as Birmingham (Mary O'Neill) and Oxford (Owen Rees), dates tbd.

8. Online newsletter and membership

Barbara Eichner reported on publicity and membership activities.

The first edition of the online newsletter has appeared. It will be published twice-yearly, in March and October, just before the appearance of the respective *PMM* volumes and the AGM/Council meetings.

On Lisa Colton's suggestion, the next newsletter will contain a report of the Huddersfield conference; the chair agreed to write it.

Action: EEL

After the files had been purged of inactive members, the membership stands at just below 80. Barbara Eichner suggested for everybody to recruit new members. Bruno Turner reported cases where would-be members had not received proper feedback – BE to look into the matter with the RSCM and Anna Burson.

Action: BE

9. Any other business

Bruno Turner suggested that, given the commercial success of the Compline edition by PMMS and RSCM, to think about new projects generating publicity and revenue. A companion volume with alternative Compline melodies was suggested.

It was reported that John Harper had at one point suggested a project to build up database of English church musicians, based on the work of Roger Bowers and others. TSB to consult with JH about the status of the project and PMMS's possible involvement in it

Action: TSB

It was reported that the digital retroconversion of the earlier volumes of PMMS had been completed; the texts are now accessible through CUP, free of charge for members and for a fee by the general public. Conversion of JPPMS is planned for the near future.

10. Date of next meeting

Council meeting: London, British Library, 23 October 2009

AGM: During the annual conference 2010 in Cambridge, date tbd

End of meeting: 6:02 pm

Thomas Schmidt-Beste, 5 May 2009