

**Society for Neo-Latin Studies  
Annual General Meeting 2015**

**MINUTES**

**27 November 2015, 3 pm  
London, Inns of Court, Middle Temple, Sherrard Room  
(3rd floor of Ashley Building, Middle Temple Lane, London EC4Y 9BT),**

Present: Gesine Manuwald, Victoria Moul, Paul White, Luke Houghton, Brian Bishop, Valery Rees, Sarah Knight, William Barton, Caroline Spearing, Elizabeth Sandis, Lucy Nicholas, Bernhard Schirg, John Gilmore

1. Apologies: Jacqui Glomski, Ann Moss, Brenda Hosington, Andrew Taylor, Ingrid De Smet, Máté Vince

2. Minutes of the last AGM (held on 28 November 2014) and matters arising

The minutes were approved.

There were some reported difficulties accessing the documents in advance of the meeting: email attachments could not be opened. GM will look into these distribution issues.

3. Report on SNLS activities in the past year

Gesine Manuwald reported on SNLS activities in addition to those mentioned in the regular newsletter. Máté Vince was thanked for his work in updating the SNLS website. Victoria Moul reported that the Facebook and Twitter presence was growing, with a gratifyingly large number of members in the Facebook group in particular.

GM reported on the successful postgraduate event in May 2015; regular events of this type will continue in future. A new postgraduate and early career essay prize was introduced this year.

William Barton ran an SNLS panel at the Classical Association conference in 2015; another panel organised by him has been accepted for the Spring 2016 conference.

GM reported that the SNLS is now affiliated with the French Neo-Latin society and with the Society for Early Modern Classical Reception.

Luke Houghton reported that the membership list has now been brought fully up to date.

4. Report on CSNLS activities in the past year

Andrew Taylor submitted a written report.

5. Report on IANLS (Vienna 2015)

Sarah Knight spoke on the Vienna IANLS congress, which was attended by several members. This was the largest Neo-Latin conference to date. Many colleagues in attendance were aware of the SNLS and its work, particularly the online teaching anthology. It was suggested that the SNLS could have more systematic involvement. Victoria Moul commented that there was already an SNLS sponsored panel at the conference. It was remarked that poster presentations could be a good way for SNLS to be represented, and are a particularly good means of exposure for postgraduate research. Thanks were expressed to all SNLS members who

attended. Ingrid De Smet was congratulated on her impressive performance as incoming President of the IANLS.

#### 6. Report by postgraduate representative and early-career representative

Elizabeth Sandis (Postgraduate Representative) was congratulated on the recent successful completion of her D.Phil. In her report she focused on the strong showing from postgraduates at the Vienna IANLS, and expressed the intention to build on this.

William Barton (Early-career Representative) remarked that it was also encouraging to see good representation from early career researchers in Vienna. He reported that the SNLS graduate training event held in May at UCL was considered a success, with positive feedback from those who attended. The new essay prize is a good way to show support for early-career researchers. A list of recently completed Ph.Ds in Neo-Latin is currently being compiled by the webmaster. It was also suggested that the SNLS might use its presence at the IANLS to help doctoral and postdoctoral researchers.

Sarah Knight suggested that SNLS colleagues in three or four sub-disciplinary areas might take responsibility for organising panels at the next IANLS. It was remarked that this would need to be done early, as there is a long lead-in time.

It was further remarked that the RSA requires sponsoring organisations to be on a verified list. GM to look into this.

#### 7. Report by treasurer

Luke Houghton reported that with no major event or conference to fund, this year was one of financial consolidation. The account and membership list have been fully updated, and the membership forms have been revised. New membership options have been introduced to enable international members to pay for multiple years, or lifetime membership.

Since the graduate event was funded by the London Doctoral Consortium, the main expenses for the SNLS this year have been the website and the essay prize. The Society is in a position to be able to fund a major event next year.

LH further reported on the process of applying for charitable status for the SNLS. Before applying, some technical changes had to be made to the Statutes, to be approved in this meeting (item 9). All were in favour of going ahead with the application for charitable status.

Brian Bishop raised a question about interest earned on the society's balance; LH to investigate further to see if the Society's finances could be moved to an interest-earning current account.

#### 8. Elections (Article 4 of the SNLS Statutes)

All officers stood for re-election. There were no new nominations. All were re-elected unanimously.

#### 9. Plans for the future

GM tabled a revised version of the rules for the essay prize. Sarah Knight suggested it should be specified further that applicants should not be in a permanent academic post. The changes were approved.

Members were encouraged to submit texts to the online teaching anthology; and to send information on new publications to be included in the regular newsletter. It was suggested that more could be done with the website, for example the inclusion of a discussion forum; but it was generally felt that the Facebook group and social media presence already fulfil that purpose. It was suggested that the SNLS should have a presence on academia.edu. GM to follow this up.

The discussion moved on to possibilities for collaboration with the new Centre for Early Modern Studies at KCL.

It was proposed that there should be a 20% increase in subscription rates, since the SNLS membership rates are disproportionately low compared to other comparable learned societies. The money would be used to fund the Society's regular events and larger events in future. The general feeling was that the increase should be greater, in order to avoid the need to increase fees regularly. An increase to £15 for salaried members and £7.50 for students was agreed for the next 5 years.

GM next raised the matter of the revision of the SNLS Statutes. All changes were approved by general consent, with the exception of the clause imposing a limit of 15 years on the term of office of committee members. It was generally felt that this was not necessary, unless a specific requirement of the Charity Commission.

GM reported that she would attend in November 2015 a British Academy meeting of the presidents of learned societies. She will explore possibilities for affiliation with the Arts and Humanities Alliance, which advocates for smaller and less understood areas of study. Sarah Knight added that REF advisor on Neo-Latin had been successfully lobbied for at the last REF.

The next AGM and annual lecture will take place in November 2016. Possibilities discussed included an event at the Museum of London to tie in with the Fire of London anniversary; or a Shakespeare-related event at the Globe. GM to follow this up.

There was some discussion of plans for another postgraduate event. Ingrid De Smet is running a summer school in Venice (July 2016) in connection with the IANLS. It was generally felt that this was a very worthwhile undertaking, but a quite different kind of event; and that the SNLS should not look to support other events at the expense of its own graduate training event. Elizabeth Sandis suggested the possibility of hosting an event at the Oxford archives.

The next SNLS conference will take place in either 2016 or 2017. Andrew Taylor has offered to host an event in Cambridge in September 2016 or 2017, since the CSNLS has no plans for a colloquium in those years. The general preference of the meeting was for the later date. There was some discussion of possible topics. An Italian Renaissance theme was thought to be a good prospect to attract interest from Italianists. 'Neo-Latin outside Europe' was also generally thought to be a promising topic. It was agreed that a conference should take place, with the topic to be confirmed.

#### 10. Any other business

Caroline Spearing reminded members of the London neo-Latin seminar taking place on 1 December. Bernhard Schirg informed the meeting of a three day conference on 'The Economics of Poetry', to take place in Rome in April 2016.

GM announced the winner of the inaugural SNLS essay prize. The committee was pleased by the high quality of submissions and the wide range of subjects. The prize was awarded to Bernhard Schirg, who was warmly congratulated. His essay will be published in the *The Journal of the Warburg and Courtauld Institutes*.

The meeting ended at 4.28pm