

Minutes of the Annual Business Lunch of the Byzantine Studies Association of North America, Inc.

XXXV Annual Byzantine Studies Conference

Florida State University and the John and Mable Ringling Museum of Art, Sarasota, FL

Saturday, November 7, 2009

1. S. Bassett, President of BSANA, called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m. On a motion duly made by A. Walker and seconded by A. White, the agenda as presented was approved unanimously.
2. S. Bassett appointed R. Mathisen to preside as parliamentarian for the meeting.
3. Discussion and approval of Business Lunch Minutes 2008: S. Bassett invited discussion of the minutes from the Business Lunch of the XXXIV Annual Byzantine Studies Conference (BSC), New Brunswick, NJ. No discussion was raised. R. Nelson motioned and D. Krueger seconded that the Minutes be approved. The Minutes were approved unanimously.
4. Governing Board Elections: S. Bassett presented the ballot for the election of new Governing Board members, introduced those nominees who were present, and instructed members regarding the voting process. The ballots were collected and counted by E. Dauterman Maguire and N. Ševčenko. The following nominees were elected to the Governing Board from the six candidates on the slate: Elizabeth Fisher, Kathleen Maxwell, Robert Ousterhout, and Claudia Rapp. These Board Members will serve until 2013.
5. President's Report
 - a. S. Bassett circulated the text of two amendments to the BSANA By-laws that the Governing Board approved to be brought to a vote of the membership.
 - i. The first amendment aims to resolve conflicting wording in sections III.3 and V.1 of the By-laws with the following revision to section V.1: "The BSC takes place annually at venues approved by the Governing Board. Both members and non-members of BSANA may submit an abstract to present their work at the BSC. Non-members whose papers are accepted for presentation must pay the annual membership fee to participate (see above III.3)." R. Mathisen motioned and L. Jones Hall seconded that the amendment be put to a vote. The amendment to By-laws was ratified: none opposed; no abstentions.
 - ii. The second amendment, intended to bring the By-laws into conformity with current practice regarding the Program Committee, would revise the wording of section IV.6 to the following: "The Governing Board selects the Program Committee for the Byzantine Studies Conference at the Board Meeting of the year prior to the BSC. The Committee consists of a chair and six members. Appointments are for two years and terms are staggered,

with three or four members replaced annually. Committee members must include balanced representation of the disciplines that make up the field of Byzantine studies. In addition, it is desirable that the Program Committee include one member from both the current and the upcoming host institution or area. The Program Chair is responsible for the annual Call for Papers for the BSC, and the Committee is responsible for determining the annual Program from the submitted abstracts. A member of the Program Committee serves as the graduate-student prize coordinator." C. Rapp asked why the wording stipulates "three or four" members rotating off; L. Jones Hall responded that some members resign and offered the friendly amendment to replace the word "annually" with "in alternate years." W. Kaegi offered the friendly amendment to strike "from the submitted abstracts" from the penultimate sentence. D. Olster asked about the reasoning behind including members "from both the current and upcoming host institution or area." D. Krueger responded that it became clear after the BSC in St. Louis that including these members allowed the Program Committee to coordinate better with upcoming events. E. Schwartz stated that the proposed wording leaves it unclear how the Committee Chair is selected and offered the friendly amendment to insert "including the Chair" to the first sentence. D. Krueger motioned and D. Olster seconded that the revision to section IV.6 of the By-laws be passed with the aforementioned friendly amendments (thus reading: "The Governing Board selects the Program Committee, including the Chair, for the Byzantine Studies Conference at the Board Meeting of the year prior to the BSC. The Committee consists of a chair and six members. Appointments are for two years and terms are staggered, with three or four members replaced in alternate years. Committee members must include balanced representation of the disciplines that make up the field of Byzantine studies. In addition, it is desirable that the Program Committee include one member from both the current and the upcoming host institution or area. The Program Chair is responsible for the annual Call for Papers for the BSC, and the Committee is responsible for determining the annual Program. A member of the Program Committee serves as the graduate-student prize coordinator."). The amendment to By-laws was ratified: none opposed; no abstentions.

- b. S. Bassett reported on BSANA-sponsored sessions at Kalamazoo.
 - i. The first BSANA-sponsored Kalamazoo session took place in May, 2009. Andrea Olsen chaired the session entitled "Women in the Medieval Mediterranean," in which papers were presented by Sarah Brooks, Barbara

McNulty, and Lourdes Maria Alvarez; Annemarie Weyl Carr was session discussant.

- ii. The second BSANA-sponsored Kalamazoo session is entitled "Places of Medieval Monasticism," is organized by Kristine Hess and Cristina Stancioiu, and will take place in May, 2010.
 - iii. S. Bassett reported that the Board has voted to continue sponsorship of a BSANA session for the next five years and then reassess that sponsorship. S. Bassett stated that the 2009 BSANA membership survey indicated that this initiative finds overwhelming support from the members but that there have been very few session proposals submitted in the past two years. She announced that a Call for Submissions for the BSANA-sponsored session will be distributed later this fall and urged members to consider putting together a session for consideration.
- c. BSANA website update. S. Bassett reported that Amanda Wagner continues to serve as the technical maven for the website and that L. Safran has agreed to continue oversight of the website. She reminded members that posted on the website is a form for updating information about individual graduate programs and urged members to update the status of their program.
- d. S. Bassett announced that the 2009 membership count as of November 1, 2009 was 254. The total number of members for 2008 was 308 and for 2007 was 220. She also announced that there are currently 445 people registered with the BSANA Yahoo listserv.
- e. S. Bassett reported on the survey of the membership that was undertaken in 2009 by the committee composed of Ralph Mathisen, Linda Safran, and Adam Schor. She noted that A. Schor led a discussion session the previous day, November 6, 2008, and will summarize the results in the Vice-President's Report to follow.
6. Vice-President's Report. A. Schor summarized the results of the 2009 membership survey. The survey, posted on the Survey Monkey website, generated 160 responses, and for comparison, he reported that in the last five years there have been 542 individuals who have been BSANA members for at least one year. He also reported that in the discussion session held the previous day there was not a great deal of support for the idea of starting a journal and that this initiative would not be pursued for the time being. A. Schor invited members interested in reviewing the survey results to email him for a copy. D. Michelson asked if there was any plan to organize a regular survey. A. Schor responded that there was not, but that the Board has taken such a project on approximately every 5-15 years, as deemed necessary.

7. Treasurer's Report. A. Gonosová presented the report of the 2008-2009 budget and invited questions from the membership. She noted that the organization was not as well off as it had been in the previous year and reported a net loss for 2008-09 of \$8,742. A. Gonosová reported that the \$3,000 Tsousimis prize funds were received last year and therefore do not show up as income in this year's budget. Though the membership was down slightly from last year, A. Gonosová gratefully acknowledged that 46 members had generously added gift contributions to their membership dues. She also noted that there are four additional graduate students on the program this year and that with last year's Board decision to increase graduate travel stipends the organization currently incurs greater expenses in this regard. She announced that the Board had approved a small amount of money for secretarial support (\$500) at its last meeting and that conference costs exceeded income generated by the local arrangements committee for the 2008 BSC at Rutgers. Lively discussion ensued about the costs of the annual conference. R. Nelson suggested that the Board take up the issue of raising the membership dues \$5, cutting all Board member reimbursement, and cutting financial sponsorship of Kalamazoo sessions. A. Walker pointed out that the money spent on Kalamazoo sponsorship was paid to cover the travel expenses of the graduate student organizer, and S. Gerstel added that the Board has recently approved covering up to \$500 for Kalamazoo sponsored-session travel expenses. C. Rapp endorsed R. Nelson's suggestion of raising membership dues, and S. Bassett pointed out that the By-laws state that changes in the dues need to be proposed by a vote of the Governing Board and then approved by the membership at the Annual Meeting. Discussion then proceeded to the issue of the over-budget expenses of the annual conference. D. Olster remarked that in the past when the Governing Board was considering an institution as a potential BSC venue, the institution had to supply a letter of support in advance. T. Kolbaba remarked that there was considerable fundraising for the 2008 conference at Rutgers, but due to rising costs the expenses were much higher than anticipated. D. Krueger suggested that conference budgetary shortfalls should be covered by raising registration fees noting that raising the fees \$30 per person, for the approximately 160 attendees, would come close to meeting the \$5,000 shortfall of the 2008 conference. D. Krueger motioned and A. Walker seconded accepting the Treasurer's Report. The report was accepted: none opposed; no abstentions. D. Olster commended A. Gonosová for her service to BSANA and this sentiment was enthusiastically affirmed by the membership with applause.
8. Report from Dumbarton Oaks (DO): M. Mullett, Director of Byzantine Studies, addressed the membership on recent news from DO and circulated a written summary of this information. She noted that as part of a new Loeb-style series A.-M. Talbot is working on editing new facing-page translations of Greek texts; the first volumes are expected to be delivered in May, 2010. M. Mullett announced that Örgü Dalgiç holds the post-doctoral, DO-Catholic University of America teaching fellowship from 2009-2012 and that DO is currently accepting applications for the next post-doctoral teaching fellowship, which is in Byzantine History. She also noted that it is expected that next year there will be one or perhaps two additional post-doctoral teaching fellowship competitions. She encouraged members to sign up for DO events announcements

and reported that DO is considering future meetings on the following topics in Byzantine studies: perception and cognition; personal relations and social structures; seals; authorship; relics. M. Mullett announced that C. Morrison will once again offer a summer workshop on Coins and Seals. She also drew members' attention to the list of upcoming DO publications circulated including *DOP* 62 which will be coming out shortly. She reported that DO is considering electronic publication options, and she encouraged members to consider submitting material for *DOP* 64.

9. Report from the United States National Committee for Byzantine Studies (USNCBS): The members of the USNCBS Board are: W. Kaegi (President), A. Cutler (Vice President), and G. Majeska (Secretary-Treasurer). W. Kaegi circulated the USNCBS Treasurer's report and requested that questions regarding the report be directed by email to G. Majeska, who was not present. W. Kaegi reported that the USNCBS Board forwarded the BSANA members' views on the proposed program to the Congress organizers and noted that there are now a number of North American scholars on the program as well as a round-table session on "The Icon." W. Kaegi reminded members that conference details can be found at <http://22byzantinecongress.org/> and that Oct. 31, 2010 is the deadline to register for the discounted rate. He also announced that, subject to final approval, Istanbul is expected to be the location of the 2016 International Congress.
10. Announcement of the winners of the 2008 Tousimis and BSANA Graduate Student Prizes: On behalf of L. Neville, Program Committee Chair for the BSC 2008, E. Fisher announced the winners of the Tousimis awards: first prize and winner of the BSANA Graduate Student Prize, Benjamin Anderson, Bryn Mawr; second prize, David Yeats, Brown University; and third prize, Henry Schilb, Indiana University. Anderson and Yeats were not present, but all were warmly recognized with applause from the membership. E. Fisher warmly thanked A. Tousimis, benefactor of the graduate student awards, who was also not present.
11. Necrology. S. Bassett recognized Julian Chrysostomides (London), Angeliki Laiou (Cambridge, Ma.), and Fr. Michele Piccirillo (Rome) who died in 2009. A moment of silence was observed in their memories.
12. Invitation to the BSC, 2010. R. Ousterhout, Chair of the Local Arrangements Committee for the BSC 2010, invited members to the next BSC to be held in Philadelphia at the University of Pennsylvania, 8-10 October, 2010.
13. New Business: No new business was raised.
14. Announcements
 - a. S. Bassett announced that Istanbul has been named European Culture Capital for 2010.

- b. S. Bassett announced the upcoming exhibition, "De Byzanz a Istanbul" to be held at the Grand Palais, Paris, from October 10 – January 25, 2010.
- c. C. Rapp noted that the American Historical Association has announced that the theme for the 2011 annual meeting in Boston is "History, Society, and the Sacred" to be chaired by Michael Fisher and Barbara Rosenwein. She encouraged BSANA members to consider submitting proposals, the deadline for which is February 15, 2009.
- d. L. Jones, Chair of the Local Arrangements Committee, offered thanks to R. Manjak, Florida State University, the John and Mable Ringling Museum of Art, and the Helmsley Sandcastle Hotel for their assistance with the 2009 BSC. S. Bassett recognized the service of L. Jones Hall and the BSC Program Committee, and of L. Jones and the Local Arrangements Committee. She thanked Mrs. Margie West for her work on the program and abstract design. S. Bassett also thanked Segundo Fernandez for his service as pro bono lawyer for the association. S. Bassett generously recognized the service of A. Schor, A. Gonosová, and A. M. Yasin to BSANA in their capacities as Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary, respectively. She also commended R. Mathisen, L. Safran, and A. Schor for their work on the membership survey. S. Bassett also thanked the Governing Board for their service during the 2008–2009 term, especially those members cycling off the Board in 2009: A. Gonosová, H. Maguire, and R. Mathisen. A. Schor commended S. Bassett for her service to BSANA during her tenure as President, and the members conveyed their appreciation with a warm round of applause.

15. Adjournment: On a motion duly made by A. Schor, seconded by A. Walker, the meeting adjourned at 2:25pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Marie Yasin
Secretary, BSANA