

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

XXXIV Annual Byzantine Studies Conference

Rutgers University

Saturday, October 18, 2008

1. L. Safran, President of BSANA, called the meeting to order at 1:10 p.m.

On a motion duly made by R. Mathisen and seconded by E. Maguire, the agenda as presented was approved unanimously.

2. L. Safran appointed S. Fernandez to preside as parliamentarian for the meeting.
3. Discussion and approval of Business Lunch Minutes 2007: L. Safran invited discussion of the minutes from the Business Lunch of the XXXIII Annual Byzantine Studies Conference, Toronto, Canada. No discussion was raised. W. Hanak moved and G. Majeska seconded that the Minutes be approved. The Minutes were approved unanimously.
4. Governing Board Elections: L. Safran 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 A. Papalexandrou and W. Hanak. The following nominees were elected to the Governing Board from the six candidates on the slate: Elena Boeck, Sharon Gerstel, Margaret Mullett, and Nancy Ševčenko. These Board Members will serve until 2012.

5. President's Report:

- a. L. Safran reported that at the most recent Governing Board Meeting (17.X.08), the Members of the Board voted to ratify the existing By-Laws. She drew members' attention to amendments of article III.3 that remove the requirement that anyone attending the BSC be a member of BSANA and exempted faculty members of the hosting institution from the requirement of being members in order to preside over panels. K. Corrigan asked for clarification regarding the final sentence in article III.3: "Only members who have paid dues will receive a copy of the abstracts." L. Safran explained that anyone in attendance at the conference receives a copy of the abstract, and members who attend the conference receive their copy of the abstracts at the conference, while those members not in attendance receive their copies by mail. D. Olster raised concern that the existing rule requiring those submitting abstracts to be members of BSANA (article III.3) might discourage participation. D. Olster submitted a motion to amend the article to read: "Payment of membership fees is mandatory for any person presenting a conference paper or presiding as a session chair, unless the session chair is a faculty member at the institution hosting that year's BSC." S. Takas seconded the motion. A. Gonosová stated her opposition to the

- proposed amendment, noting that many organizations require those submitting abstracts for conference presentations to be members of the organization and that requiring BSANA membership was not an unreasonable expectation for those wishing to present a paper at the BSC. L. Safran noted that the Governing Board had discussed this question at length and indicated the Board's ratification of the By-Laws as a recommendation to the membership. R. Mathisen noted that he had expressed a minority opinion at the Board Meeting and that he believes requiring membership for the consideration of a paper proposal amounted to a "submission fee" and discouraged the widest participation possible. E. Ivison inquired whether members from foreign countries are still allowed to pay dues at the BSC. L. Safran confirmed that this continues to be the policy although it is not included in the By-laws. L. Safran called a vote on the motion presented by D. Olster. The motion passed: 48 in favor; 33 opposed; no abstentions. A. Papalexandrou motioned and A. Gonosová seconded that the membership vote to ratify the By-laws. The By-laws were ratified: 85 in favor; none opposed; no abstentions.
- b. L. Safran reported that due to the lack of viable submissions for the BSANA-sponsored session at the 2009 International Congress on Medieval Studies at Kalamazoo, MI, she delegated the organization of the panel to A. Olsen, who has organized a session entitled "Women in the Medieval Mediterranean." The speakers and paper topics will be: Sarah T. Brooks, "Byzantine Women Living under Crusader Rule: The Evidence from Hospitaller Rhodes"; Barbara R. McNulty, "The Venetian Period on Cyprus: Constructing the Ideal Woman"; and Lourdes Maria Alvarez, "'A Natural Disposition to Eloquence': Remembering the Female Poets of al-Andalus." A. Weyl Carr will serve as the discussant. The conference will take place 7-10 May, 2009.
- c. L. Safran noted that at the most recent Governing Board meeting (17.X.08), the Board voted to invite proposals for a BSANA-sponsored session to take place at the 2010 International Congress on Medieval Studies at Kalamazoo, MI. An announcement with details for submissions will be circulated shortly after the BSC.
- d. L. Safran reported that the BSANA website has been overhauled and moved to a new address: www.bsana.net. She noted that sections on opportunities and events, organizational archives, and other useful subjects had been updated and expanded. She noted that BSANA now maintains the list of graduate programs in Byzantine studies (formerly hosted by Dumbarton Oaks), but that only ten programs responded to a recent appeal for updated information. She asked faculty of current programs to update their programs through the on-line form available on the website. She also invited the membership to submit suggestions for additional improvements to the website.
- e. L. Safran reported that current membership in BSANA is ca. 304, an increase over membership this time last year, which was ca. 220.

- f. L. Safran informed the membership that the Governing Board plans to undertake a survey of BSANA members. A. Schor added that the survey is particularly intended to gain insight into members' opinions and ideas regarding the future of the BSC. L. Safran stated that further details would be circulated to the membership as the project develops and requested that members participate in the survey when it becomes available.
 - g. L. Safran noted that at the most recent Governing Board meeting (17.X.08), the Board voted to increase stipends for graduate student attending the BSC from \$300 for those presenting papers and \$100 for those simply attending the conference to \$500 for those presenting papers and \$300 for those simply attending the conference. This announcement was greeted with strong approval from the membership.
6. Treasurer's Report: A. Gonosová presented the report of the 2008 budget and invited questions from the membership. She noted the healthy financial state of the organization was due in part to income from the upsurge in membership during 2008 (\$5,280), generous gifts from members of the organization (\$1,140), and the successful fundraising accomplished by L. Safran in her capacity as Chair of Local Arrangements Committee for BSC 2007, which produced a substantial surplus of funds (\$13,953). A. Gonosová noted that the income from BSC 2007 is not the norm and that the organization should not rely on such funds as it plans its financial future. She emphasized that collecting membership dues remains an essential factor in the organization's continued financial health. She highlighted that BSANA can expect an influx of income this coming year with the renewal of subscriptions to the BSC Abstracts, which begin a new series in 2009, but that these funds will not likely cover the total cost of the production and distribution of the abstracts over the next five years. No questions were raised. D. Olster thanked A. Gonosová for her service to BSANA and this sentiment was enthusiastically affirmed by the membership.
7. Report from Dumbarton Oaks (D.O.): A. M. Talbot, Director of Byzantine Studies, addressed the membership on recent news from D.O. and circulated a written summary of this information. She noted that operations at D.O. are back to normal following the completion of renovations. She highlighted new research opportunities available to graduate students, who can now apply for pre-doctoral residences of up to four weeks. Post-doctoral scholars can now apply for non-residential grants, which stipends of \$3,000/month to support their use of research facilities at D.O. In addition, D.O. is launching a new three-year post-doctoral teaching fellowship, which will rotate fields. For the first year, 2009, the fellowship will be in art history and archaeology. The hosting institution will be in the Washington D.C. area, but the precise location is to be announced. During summer 2009, D.O. will sponsor its seminar in numismatics and sigillography. Details regarding these and other opportunities and events are available on the D.O. website. A. Talbot also noted that the Gennadius Library at the American School in Athens will host a workshop on Medieval Greek during June–July 2009. She announced that the D.O. spring symposium is entitled "The Morea: The Land and Its People in the Aftermath of the

Fourth Crusade,” and that S. Gerstel is the Symposiarch. In closing, she noted that M. Mullett will assume the position of Director of Byzantine Studies at D.O. on July 1, 2009.

8. 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). G. Majeska announced that the XXII International Congress of Byzantine Studies will be held in Sofia, Bulgaria, 22-27 August 2011. He reported that W. Kaegi and he had represented the USNCBS at the planning session for the Congress held in Athens at the President Hotel, 27-28 September 2008. He drew members’ attention to several written statements distributed at the Business Lunch, which provide updates and summaries regarding planning for the Congress. He asked for suggestions and comments on the proposed program, which has been made available in a limited number of hard copies located at the conference registration desk, and requested that members peruse the document and communicate their questions and suggestions to the Board of the USNCBS before 30 October, 2008. He drew members’ attention to the current lack of art historical representation in the proposed program and to the tentative registration fee structure, which is proposed to range from 100 to 300 Euros depending on the registrant’s academic status and time of registration. He also noted that a variety of exhibits and tours are being planned in conjunction with the Congress. He then summarized the proposed structure of the conference sessions and proposed topics for plenaries and panels. He strongly encouraged members to voice their suggestions, concerns, and opinions to the members of the USNCBS board as soon as possible. D. Michelson noted that the Congress will coincide with the Oxford Patristic Conference, which might detract from attendance at one or the other meeting. L. Jones Hall observed and T. Kolbaba affirmed that many universities require faculty to submit expense reports in the year that an event is attended, making it difficult for scholars to take advantage of early registration fees and discouraging advanced registration for the Congress. A. Cutler reiterated concern that art history was underrepresented in the proposed program and that the way in which it did appear implied that it was not an autonomous discipline. At the same time, he cautioned against the marginalization of art history into segregated sessions and advocated the integration of art historical papers into multidisciplinary, topical sessions. A. Cutler strongly urged the membership to consider this issue thoroughly and to voice their concerns to the USNCBS Board. G. Majeska reported that both American and British committees at the planning session conveyed their strong objection to the lack of art historical coverage and that the American committee had emphasized the sizeable contingent of art historians in the USNCBS. R. Nelson motioned that the President of BSANA write to the organizers of the Congress expressing the membership’s disapproval of the lack of art historical representation and requesting that a specifically art historical panel be added with a possible topic being “The Icon.” D. Olster seconded the motion. L. Safran called for a vote on the proposed motion: it passed by a simple majority. L. Safran noted that the matter would be added to the agenda of the next Governing Board Meeting (18.X.08).

9. Report from the Canadian Committee of Byzantinists: L. Safran noted that CCB was represented by A. Littlewood at the planning session in Athens. She also brought to the attention of the membership that CCB publishes an annual newsletter, *Canadiobyzantina*, which is posted on the BSANA website.
10. Announcement of the winners of the 2007 Tousimis and BSANA Graduate Student Prizes: On behalf of G. Peers, Program Committee Chair for the BSC 2006, L. Safran announced the winners of the Tousimis awards: first prize and winner of the BSANA Graduate Student Prize, Richard Payne, Princeton University; second prize, Kevin Kalish, Princeton University; and third prize, Justin Leidwanger, University of Pennsylvania. None of the recipients was present, but all were warmly recognized with applause from the membership. L. Safran warmly thanked A. Tousimis, benefactor of the graduate student awards, and invited him to the lectern. A. Tousimis expressed his deep satisfaction in being able to sponsor the award and reasserted his commitment to promoting graduate study of Byzantium. A. Tousimis was warmly recognized and sincerely thanked by all present. L. Safran also thanked E. Fisher for serving as the 2007 Graduate Prize Coordinator.
11. Necrology: L. Safran recognized Miloš Velimirovič, Professor of Musicology, University of Virginia, and Bezalel Narkiss, Professor of Jewish Studies and art history, Hebrew University, who both passed away in 2008. A moment of silence was observed in their memories.
12. Announcements from the Chair of the Local Arrangements Committee BSC 2008: L. Safran warmly thanked T. Kolbaba and L. Neville in their capacities as Chair of the Local Arrangements Committee and Chair of the Program Committee, respectively, for BSC 2008. T. Kolbaba thanked those present for attending the conference.
13. Invitation to the BSC 2009: L. Jones, Chair of the Local Arrangements Committee for the BSC 2009, read a letter of invitation from Sallie McRorie, Dean, College of Visual Arts, Theater and Dance, Tallahassee Campus, and Dwight Currie, Historic Asolo Theater, Ringling Center, Florida State University, Sarasota inviting all members to attend the Thirty-Fifth Annual Byzantine Studies Conference to be held 5-8 November 2009 at the Ringling Museum in Sarasota, Florida. L. Safran announced that BSC 2010 will be held at the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia and that R. Ousterhout will be the Chair of the Local Arrangements Committee. BSC 2011 will be held at DePaul University in Chicago and E. Boeck will be the Chair of the Local Arrangements Committee.
14. Announcements:
 - a. L. Safran announced that the exhibition *Byzantium, 330-1453* will be held at the Royal Academy of Arts in London from 25 October 2008 to 22 March 2009.

- b. L. Safran thanked S. Fernandez for his extensive service as pro bono lawyer for BSANA. L. Safran generously recognized the service of A. Papalexandrou, A. Gonosová, and A. Walker to BSANA in their capacities as Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary, respectively. L. Safran also thanked the Governing Board for their service during the 2006–2007 term, especially those members cycling off the Board in 2008: S. Boyd, W. Hanak, L. Neville, and A. Papalexandrou. A. Papalexandrou commended L. Safran for her service to BSANA during her tenure as President, noting especially her massive revamping of the BSANA website. Many rounds of warm applause conveyed the membership’s appreciation.
- c. R. Mathisen announced the publication of a new scholarly periodical, *The Journal of Late Antiquity*, and invited members to order personal and institutional subscriptions. He also invited submissions for future issues.
- d. Date and Time of next Governing Board Meeting: 6:15 p.m., 18.X.08, Hyatt Hotel.

15. New Business: No new business was raised.

16. Adjournment: On a motion duly made by A. Papalexandrou, seconded by S. Papaioannou, the meeting adjourned at 2:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Alicia Walker, Secretary