

**INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR EIGHTEENTH-CENTURY STUDIES
SOCIÉTÉ INTERNATIONALE DES ÉTUDES DU DIX-HUITIÈME SIÈCLE**

**Meeting of the Executive Committee, Graz
Friday 28th August 2009**

Present: Keith Baker (President), Wolfgang Adam, Lise Andries, Dimitri Apostolopoulos, Pascal Bastien, Marc André Bernier, Lorenzo Bianchi, Maria Grazia Bottaro Palumbo, Andrew Carpenter, Maria Helena Carvalho dos Santos, Simon Davies, Zdravec Dejan, Anton Diomine, David Dunér, John Dunkley, Christophe Guant, Nelson Guilbert, Soren Peter Hansen, Harald Heppner, Pasi Ihalainen, Anna Grzeskowiak Krwawicz, Mark Ledbury, Hans-Jürgen Lüsebrink, Laurenz Lütteken, Heather McPherson, Jonathan Mallinson, Makoto Masuda, Maria Cristina Melo, Anne-Marie Mercier, Ilena Milhaila, Jean Mondot, Fritz Nagel, Alberto Postigliola, Peter Reill, Lyn Roberts, Wolfgang Schmale, Catriona Seth, Ingi Sigurdsson, Stefanie Stockhorst, Motoichi Terada, Daniela Tinkova, Danièle Tosato-Rigo, Wiep Van Bunge, Eva Velasco Moreno, Byron Wells, Raïa Zaïmova, Renate Zehninger

Apologies: Jean-Claude Bonnet, Etienne Hofmann, Anne-Marie Mai

MINUTES

1. Welcome from the President

The President welcomed members and delegates, and thanked Harald Heppner for his work in organizing the Graz 2009 Executive Committee meeting and conference.

2. (i) Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the Dublin EC meeting, which took place on August 28th 2008, were approved with no amendments.

(ii) Preliminary remarks from the President

The President reiterated the goals agreed upon at the previous EC meeting, namely:

- improving the visibility of ISECS / EC activities to society members
- improving the visibility of the EC decision-making process to society members

He announced that much progress has been made on these issues, thanks to the work of several people: particularly Lise Andries and Andrew Carpenter from the Committee on Communications, Canadian members of the Executive Committee Marc André Bernier and Pascal Bastien, and Jonathan Mallinson and Lyn Roberts from the Voltaire Foundation. The main changes in the running of ISECS would be seen during the course of the meeting. The key points were:

ISECS website and directory

- technical administration transferring to the Université Laval, Canada
- expanded contents and scope of the website; more powerful search engine for the directory
- the website and directory would rely on national societies and individual members providing updated and correct content and data

Secretariat services

- continuation of other services of the technical secretariat by the Voltaire Foundation, free of charge

The president introduced the three separate reports concerning these changes: the General

Secretary's report, the Technical Secretariat's report and the Committee on Communications' report.

3. General Secretary's Report

Lise Andries, the General Secretary, presented the key points from her report.

(i) The Committee on Communications was created at the Montpellier EC meeting (July 14th 2007) to improve ISECS' visibility through its website and through communication with members. The committee decided to appoint a new Website Content Editor, Nelson Guilbert, who is a doctoral student of Marc André Bernier, and also holds a diploma in computing. Since November 2008 Nelson Guilbert has transformed the look and feel of the ISECS website, and since January 2009 he has been updating the website on a weekly basis.

(ii) In October 2008, Jonathan Mallinson, Acting Director of the Voltaire Foundation, informed ISECS that the Voltaire Foundation would no longer be able to manage the website and online directory since its technical specialist, Robert McNamee, had recently left the Foundation. Jonathan Mallinson advised ISECS to look for another organisation to provide these services. Keith Baker, Andrew Carpenter and Lise Andries began a search for alternative providers. At the suggestion of Marc André Bernier, discussions were opened with Thierry Belleguic, Dean of the Faculté des Lettres, Université Laval in Canada, which has a strong information technology department.

An important meeting took place with APTI (the information technology department) at the Université Laval in February 2009, attended by Keith Baker, Lise Andries, Jonathan Mallinson, Marc André Bernier and Pascal Bastien. The needs of the ISECS website and directory were discussed, following which APTI provided a project plan and costs for a complete overhaul of the website and directory architecture. A total cost to ISECS of £8,300 was established, with additional funding provided by the Université du Québec à Montréal [UQAM] and Université du Québec à Trois Rivières [UQTR]) thanks to initiatives taken by Marc André Bernier and Pascal Bastien. The Voltaire Foundation agreed to transfer the relevant data to APTI upon completion of the new website/directory architecture.

The President and the General Secretary judged it important to take an early decision to sign an agreement with APTI to overhaul the directory and website, given the urgency of the next two years' build-up to the ISECS Congress in Graz and so that the new site could be demonstrated at the Graz 2009 EC meeting. The General Secretary stressed that national societies and individual members would need to be much more responsible for providing content and data for the new website and directory, and suggested that national societies/members update the directory on an annual basis.

The ISECS-APTI contract is for 9 years, with early termination clauses. Under the terms of the new ISECS-Voltaire Foundation contract, the Foundation is offering technical secretariat services (accounting and secretarial) free of charge. One issue still to be resolved was the transfer of the ISECS domain name (www.isecs.org) from the Voltaire Foundation to ISECS; this would be done with Robert McNamee's agreement on September 3rd.

(iii) Other important ISECS activities were continuing, with the 2009 Junior Scholars Seminar scheduled to take place in Lisbon in September, under the direction of Maria Helena Carvalho dos Santos.

4. Technical Secretariat's Report

Lyn Roberts from the Voltaire Foundation presented the Technical Secretariat's Report,

highlighting the following points.

(i) The links between the Voltaire Foundation and ISECS are long-standing and organic; both were founded by Theodore Besterman, and the VF has acted as the Technical Secretariat to ISECS since the Society's inception.

(ii) Following the Dublin 2008 EC meeting the Voltaire Foundation reviewed how best it could continue to service the growing needs of an international organisation such as ISECS, whilst also taking into account changes within the VF itself. This resulted in a proposal to the EC to change the services it provided to ISECS as follows:

- to continue to provide administrative and financial services, including collecting subscription payments, annual servicing of the EC meetings and other services to the EC, and administration of the 4-yearly elections
- to provide these services free of charge

A further recommendation was made that ISECS engage a dedicated technical organisation to host and develop the ISECS website and the online directory. After fruitful discussions between the VF and members of the EC, APTI, within the Université Laval, Canada, was chosen to overhaul ISECS-direct, and update and host the website. This means that the Voltaire Foundation is no longer responsible for the website or ISECS-direct. Lyn Roberts also reiterated the General Secretary's and the President's remarks that the success of the overhauled website and online directory would depend on the increased participation of national societies and individual members.

(iii) Technical Secretariat work carried out by the Voltaire Foundation during the past year involved:

(a) Meeting preparation, attendance and organisation, with Jonathan Mallinson, attending the February 2009 meeting in Canada; organisation of the Committee on Communications meeting in Oxford in October 2008, and a meeting with the General Secretary in Oxford in May 2009.

(b) Drawing up three new contracts (ISECS-Nelson Guilbert; ISECS-APTI; ISECS-VF).

(c) Updating the online directory (with data received up to October 2008), providing APTI with access to the directory for data transfer in the summer of 2009, and assessment of trial sample data (for e-ballot purposes) in July 2009.

(d) Providing draft minutes of the Dublin EC 2008 meeting.

(e) Finalising revisions of the updated and amended ISECS Statutes and Constitution in conjunction with the General Secretary.

(f) Collecting the national society subscriptions, preparing the budget for 2009 and finalising the accounts for 2008. Lyn Roberts noted that national societies were becoming more prompt in paying subscriptions.

Lyn Roberts closed the Technical Secretariat's report by saying that the Voltaire Foundation was very pleased to continue its support of ISECS, and was committed to a fruitful and collaborative relationship in the future.

5. Committee on Communications' Report

Andrew Carpenter, as Chair of the Committee on Communications, referred EC delegates to his previously-circulated report, which repeated many elements from the General Secretary and Technical Secretary reports. He felt that the EC would be very pleased with the progress made towards greater communications with members, and thanked all those individuals who had spent much time and effort on the future changes. Special thanks went to the General Secretary, Lise Andries for her unflinching energy and commitment.

6. Questions from the floor on the changes and three reports

(i) The Voltaire Foundation was asked to clarify its service provision.

The Voltaire Foundation will provide financial, secretariat and e-ballot services for free. They will no longer be responsible for the website or the online directory.

(ii) Questions were asked about the cost of the overhauled website and directory as they appeared on the accounts.

The total cost of £8,300 was to be paid in two installments, the first having been paid in the 2008 financial year (which ended July 31st 2008), and the second installment to be paid in the 2009 financial year.

(iii) The President concluded this discussion with comments on the directory.

Individuals would be able to update their own data, and national societies could also update individual member data, and that updating should take place at least once a year. Byron Wells asked if the task of updating – which would be greater for some national societies than others – could be done during timeframes chosen by the societies themselves. It was decided that the EC would set an annual deadline by which all updates should be made, with national societies deciding when to conduct this work so that it adhered to the overall deadline. It was decided to appoint a new Membership Secretary to the Committee on Communications who would be the contact person for national societies. On the president's proposal, the nomination of Pascal Bastien to this post was approved by the EC.

7. Treasurer's Report

(i) Maria Grazia Bottaro Palumbo presented the key points from the Treasurer's Report, namely that income received totalled £12,644.49 / €14,820.86 and expenditure totalled £10,785.30 / €12,641.67

Questions on the accounts were asked, and comments were made:

(ii) The accounts and ISECS moneys are in sterling, so following a suggestion from Catriona Seth, Lyn Roberts will explore whether ISECS moneys can be held in both euros and sterling for known annual expenses, as this would avoid losing money on according to currency exchange rates.

(iii) As two institutions are now working with ISECS (=APTI and the Voltaire Foundation) ISECS should be clear in its committed costs.

It was outlined that following the initial outlay to APTI, the only cost would be an annual £250 for website hosting, and Nelson Guilbert's annual payment as the Website Content Editor. It was added that the initial outlay to APTI for the reorganization of the website and directory would be recouped as a result of savings from the low annual fee.

(iv) Byron Wells suggested that the monies saved could be put towards the Junior Scholars Seminars, since the annual subvention of £2,800 had not changed since the year 2000.

It was proposed and agreed that the annual subvention increase to £3,800.

(v) Mark Ledbury questioned the budgeted 0% interest rate for 2009, and asked whether Oxford University, who look after ISECS' monies in the University depositors' pool, guaranteed the capital.

The Technical Secretariat would report back on this question.

(vi) It was agreed to put the budget on the ISECS website.

The President highlighted the fact that in accepting the 2009 budget, the EC was accepting an annual website maintenance fee of £250, an annual payment of £2,000 for the Website Content Editor, and a subvention of the Junior Scholars Seminars of £3,800. The budget was unanimously approved.

8. International Congress in Graz, 2011

Harald Heppner presented a report on the next International Congress, which will take place in Graz, July 25th-July 29th, 2011. The conference theme is 'Time in the Age of Enlightenment: situating the present, imagining the future' with a sub-theme of 'Central and Eastern Europe in the Age of Enlightenment'.

(i) Conference organisation

The organising committee has been set-up, and Harald Heppner presented key dates :

- October 1st 2009 : conference website (www.18thCenturyCongress-Graz2011.at) live, registration / application to present papers open.
 - October 1st 2010 : accommodation open for booking, with 100-200 beds (some in shared rooms) provisionally booked. Cultural programme ready.
 - March 31st 2011 : closing date for the applications to present papers. Possible to apply to present a paper after this date, but these papers would not appear on the programme.
 - May 31st 2011 : publication of the program.
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- EC outgoing committee meeting : the afternoon of Sunday, July 24th 2011
 - EC incoming committee meeting : the morning of Saturday, July 30th 2011
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- Tuesday or Thursday evening, a concert
 - Wednesday afternoon, excursions

(ii) Conference finances and costs

Until March 31st 2011, registration fees would be €170 for a participating individual and €90 for an accompanying guest.

After April 1st 2011, registration fees would be €190 for a participating individual and €110 for an accompanying guest.

Fees include entries to museums and galleries, the concert and the welcome cocktail and the reception. The only additional cost would be the excursions.

(iii) Bursaries

Harald Heppner hoped for contribution to bursaries from the Austrian Society and ISECS.

Requests for contributions to the bursaries from other potential sponsors would be sent out during the autumn of 2009, so that a definitive sum would be known by December 31st 2010. Bursary applications could commence from October 1st 2010, with the allocation of bursaries by January 31st 2011.

The bursaries sub-committee, set up at the Dublin 2008 EC meeting and led by Jean-Claude Bonnet, had sent in bursary allocation guidelines, which will be shared with Harald Heppner (see key points under **8 (v)** below).

(iv) Various questions were asked concerning the allocation of bursaries, conference scheduling and costs for ISECS members.

(a) It was clarified that the call for papers would be posted on the conference website, along with the rest of the schedule.

(b) Travel to Graz from non-European countries would be limited and potentially costly. Harald Heppner will investigate any potential reductions for ISECS attendees with the serving airlines and train companies. There will also be special conference rates for hotels and other accommodation.

(c) Due to the nature of ISECS as an interdisciplinary organisation, members of the local organising committee should comprise of scholars from a range of disciplines (e.g. history, cultural studies, philosophy, literature). The names of the local organising committee should also appear on the conference website.

(d) There was extensive discussion on the proposed schedule for registration, applications to present papers and acceptance, and bursary applications and allocation.

(e) Harald Heppner will investigate whether payments can be taken in forms other than credit card.

(f) There was discussion of the conference fees and potential alternatives, including:

- separate fees for those wishing to attend the final reception and those who would not. Harald Heppner hopes that the final reception will be free for all participants.
- reduced fees for under 35-year olds. The President argued against age-related reduced fees as arbitrary in relation to academic status.
- reduced fees according to when a participant's thesis was defended (which would indicate whether one was a new scholar, with a lower income);- this could be difficult to manage as different countries have different criteria for defending theses.
- fees based on income level.
- fees based on whether an individual was salaried or not

The discussion was inconclusive, and the President commented that if there were lower fees for some participants others would need to pay more. The President suggested that a single be kept, with time and energy spent on raising money for bursaries.

(v) Bursary applications

There was discussion of bursary applications, evaluation and allocation.

(a) The key points from Jean-Claude Bonnet's guidelines were presented by Lise Andries as follows:

- The scientific value of the subject is essential. Applications with titles alone are insufficient so the application should include a minimum 10-line overview of the

proposal. The proposal should also tie-in with the Congress themes.

- The status of the person seeking a bursary, whether s/he is a student, employed or unemployed, and whether s/he can find alternative funding. Questions on these issues should be on the application form, and priority should be given to students from poorer counties.
- Each bursary application should be reviewed by two or three people, to include one person from the local organising committee.
- There should be no more than two proposals per person, as some applicants were proposing up to five round tables at the Montpellier 2007 Congress.

(b) Comments and suggestions on the evaluation criteria were made, including:

- The distance candidates need to travel.
- That it is difficult to assess whether a country is 'poor' or not.
- That those reviewing the bursary applications simply need an indication of the economic situation of the applicant.
- For the Montpellier 2007 congress, the average bursary allocated was €200, with free registration for those in receipt of bursaries.
- That bursary applications include one or two letters from tutors to a) support the scientific value of the proposal, and b) attest the economic situation of the applicant.
- For the Dublin 1999 Congress those in receipt of bursaries had free accommodation and registration, and travel costs were reimbursed.

The President concluded the discussion on bursaries by setting-up a sub-committee comprising himself, Vice-President Andrew Carpenter, and Harald Heppner. He also stressed that work needed to start as soon as possible on bursary applications and evaluation criteria.

(vi) Communicating information on the Graz 2011 Congress to members

The President stated that an initial postal mailing was provisionally scheduled for autumn 2009, so having key programme dates included in the mailing would be essential. Mailings should also be sent out electronically, but currently a high proportion of individual members (40%) had not provided their email address on ISECS-direct, so a concerted effort by national societies, with the support of Pascal Bastien, to urge members to update their personal data, would be needed.

A discussion ensued on the proposed autumn mailing, and the importance of members providing their email addresses.

Lyn Roberts clarified that ISECS would need to pay for any mailings sent out by the Technical Secretariat, which include electronic mailings, as there were time and labour costs attached to both paper and electronic mailings. She further stressed that both paper and electronic mailings need planning at least 6-8 weeks in advance of their being sent out.

- Mark Ledbury argued against a paper mailing and in favour of posting all this information on the website or in national society bulletins.
- Pascal Bastien stated that an electronic mailing sent out by ISECS itself would have no costs attached.
- Lise Andries suggested an electronic mailing by ISECS using the data as in the current directory, with paper mailings sent from national societies as necessary at their own costs.

A proposal to send out a paper mailing was made. 13 delegates voted in favour of a paper

mailing, 23 delegates voted against, so the proposal was turned down.

The President stated that other means of communicating information on the Graz 2011 Congress would need to be explored.

[The meeting terminated at 13.30 for lunch, and recommenced at 14.30.]

Lise Andries opened the afternoon session with an appreciation of the life and work of Michel Baridon, a key person in ISECS' development and previous General Secretary, who had recently passed away.

9. Elections to the EC, 2011

(i) The President reminded delegates that the ISECS statutes requires that a list of nominations by the current EC to positions on the next EC are needed at least two years in advance of the elections, and that this list is circulated to all national societies and members at least one year in advance of the elections.

(ii) A Nominations Committee had been set-up, chaired by Andrew Carpenter, who presented the proposed list of nominations, reminding the Assembly that EC members can be elected for a maximum of three terms.

Key points raised by Andrew Carpenter:

- As Vice-President he had decided not to stand as President for both professional and personal reasons. Andrew Carpenter proposed Marc André Bernier as the nominee for presidential candidate, highlighting his commitment to ISECS, especially his involvement in the current changes within the organisation, and his international reputation.
- Due to the decision of both Japanese EC delegates, Makoto Masuda and Motoichi Terada, not to stand for positions, the Committee would lack any Japanese delegates.
- That the list of proposed candidates needed to be expanded as this would show individual members that the elections are very open, which would hopefully increase voter enthusiasm and turnout.
- That the Slovenian Society will be asked to add names to the list.

(iii) At the request of the President, the General Secretary read out the rules for the nominations list:

- The list of candidates is established by the EC two years in advance of the elections.
- This list is circulated to individual members by national societies, who can then nominate additional candidates during the following six months. Any new candidates added to the list must be fully paid-up members of national societies and ISECS. New candidates for the positions of President and Vice-President require 50 supporting signatures; candidates for all other positions require 25 signatures.

It was agreed that each national society that wishes to add to the list of proposed candidates must send the names of the candidates in one single list to the Technical Secretariat by June 1st 2010, along with the supporting signatures for each new candidate.

- One year before the elections, the EC registers any new candidates proposed by national societies. The EC can then add further candidates if two-thirds of the EC present at the meeting are in agreement.

It was argued that the official languages of ISECS are English and French. Candidates should therefore have a very good written and spoken command of one language, and a good level of understanding of the other.

[At this stage all nominated candidates present left the meeting room to allow for open discussion of their suitability for candidacy]

(iv) Discussion ensued on the number of candidates put forward for each position.

A suggestion that there should be at least three nominations for each position was found to be unfeasible as this would mean a total of six candidates for the position of Second Vice President. It was then stated that it is important to increase and maximise the number of countries represented.

The President proposed a vote on the candidate list as follows:

President : Marc-André Bernier (Canada)

First Vice-President: one from the following:

Jean-Claude Bonnet (France)

Bernadette Fort (USA)

Hans-Jürgen Lüsebrink (Germany)

Second Vice-Presidents: two from the following:

Lise Andries (France)

Penelope J. Corfield (UK)

Peter Reill (USA)

Secretary General: one from the following:

Anne-Marie Mai (Denmark)

Catriona Seth (France)

Assistant Secretary General: one from the following:

Dimitris Apostolopoulos (Greece)

Rosamaria Loretelli (Italy)

Laurenz Lütteken (Germany)

Treasurer: one from the following:

Eva Velasco-Moreno (Spain)

Mark Ledbury (UK/USA)

Assistant Treasurer: one from the following:

Dena Goodman (USA)

Wiep Van Bunge (Dutch/Belgian)

Elected Members: 8 from the following:

Laura Brown (USA)

Gavin Budge (UK)

Pascal Bastien (Canada)

Michel Delon (France)

Harald Heppner (Austria)

Lorenzo Bianchi (Italy)
Anna Cullhed (Sweden)
Anton Demin (Russia)
John Dunkley (UK)
Pasi Ihalainen (Finland)
Heather McPherson (USA)
Wolfgang Schmale (Austria)
Geraldine Sheridan (Ireland)
Stefanie Stockhorst (Germany)
Danièle Tosato-Rigo (Switzerland)
Raia Zaimova (Bulgaria)

The proposed list was approved by unanimous vote.

(v) Electronic voting

Peter Reill raised the issue of the conflict between the requirements of European Union data protection laws and non-EU countries which does not have these legal requirements. To clarify, in order for organisations to send emails to individuals, the European Union stipulates a positive opt-in clause, whereby an individual must accept to be emailed (by, for example, ticking a box on an online form). Peter Reill asked whether the Technical Secretariat could assure North American voters that they would be able to vote online without completing any such forms. This was especially important to clarify now, as increasing voter turnout was a priority.

Byron Wells suggested a sub-committee focused on increasing participation in the elections, and Andrew Carpenter stated that the elections sub-committee would undertake this.

Answering Peter Reill's question, Lyn Roberts explained that although the VF would be administering the elections, it was the responsibility of ISECS-APTI to ensure that the website, where individuals register to vote, includes the necessary opt-in tick-boxes for voters from the EU, whilst making clear to non-EU voters that they could bypass this stage. She also added that it is crucial that the design of the website correctly capture the data of both EU and non-EU voters who registered to vote. Lise Andries said that this had been taken into account and that two types of opt-in tick boxes have been designed, one opting-in to receiving mailings from the Voltaire Foundation, and one for receiving mailings, including elections, from ISECS.

The President suggested that the Committee on Communications work on election issues during the forthcoming year, with a presentation at the 2010 EC meeting in Denmark.

The President thanked Andrew Carpenter for organising the Nominations Committee and also thanked EC candidates.

10. ISECS EC Meeting, Kolding, Denmark 2010

Soren Peter Hansen presented the Danish Society's plans for the 2010 EC meeting. This will take place in Kolding (Jutland) at the University of Southern Denmark, from August 25th-August 28th 2010. The outline schedule is:

- Wednesday August 25th, evening reception
- Thursday, August 26th, EC meeting
- Friday, August 27th, conference
- Saturday, August 28th, possible excursions to nearby cities (Christianfield and Ribe)

The theme of the conference will be 'Joy and Laughter in the eighteenth-century', which could comprise papers on topics from popular culture, Enlightenment philosophy, religious living, the body and gender.

Delegates can either fly direct to nearby Billund, or fly to Copenhagen and take a train to Kolding (approx 2 hours' journey). Soren Peter Hansen stressed that Denmark is an expensive country. He has block-booked rooms at three hotels that fall within different price brackets. A €20 subvention may be necessary for the Saturday excursion.

The conference will be announced on the ISECS website in the autumn of 2009, and proposals for presentations should be sent to Anne-Marie Mai by March 1st 2010. The conference timetable/schedule will be announced on May 1st 2010. The University of Southern Denmark will publish selected papers from the conference in the University's periodical.

The EC will receive further details electronically, but should also consult the ISECS website regarding accommodation booking and practical details. It will be the responsibility of EC members to book their own accommodation and travel. The Danish Society's presentation will be placed on the ISECS website.

11. Proposal for hosting the ISECS International Congress 2015

At the 2008 EC meeting in Dublin, Wiep van Bunge had offered the possibility that the Dutch-Belgian Society would host the ISECS 2015 congress on the theme of 'Opening markets: trade and commerce in the eighteenth century.' The EC had enthusiastically welcomed that proposal and had urged Wiep van Bunge to develop it further.

Wiep van Bunge briefly outlined the following points:

- The Dutch-Belgian Society is very active and growing. It currently comprises 300 members, has an annual conference, and publishes three issues of its journal per annum. Its last conference in January 2009, on the theme of 'Taste and Distinction', attracted 135 participants. The Dutch-Belgian members are in full support of hosting the 2015 Congress.
- The Congress would be hosted by the Erasmus University in Rotterdam, founded in 1973, where Wiep van Bunge is the Dean of the Faculty of Philosophy. The University has 20,000 students. Rotterdam was a major eighteenth-century port, and today's population is around 600,000. It is an accessible city for travellers, and has three large museums. The University campus is currently being renovated, with work scheduled for completion in 2013. The University Rector has outlined his support of hosting the Congress in a letter, with the proposal that university accommodation would be free of charge. The Dutch-Belgian Society has a member / friend who works in event planning, and he would offer his organising services free of charge.
- Renate Zehninger asked to what extent the Belgian members (the French-speaking members in particular) of the Society would be involved. Wiep van Bunge answered that the Dutch-Belgian Society is open to everyone, but it remained a fact that the majority of members are Flemish.

A vote took place on whether to support the proposal to hold the 2015 Congress in Rotterdam, and the proposal was accepted with two abstentions. It will now be presented for formal approval to the General Assembly in 2011.

12. Junior Scholars Seminars

Brief reports were made on the following seminars:

- 2008 Seminar, Pardubice, Czech Republic

The theme was 'Friends and conviviality in the eighteenth-century', and 16 junior scholars attended. The organiser, Milena Lenderova, was happy with the level of discussion and debate that the seminar generated. Financially, the Czech Society found that the £2,800 subvention from ISECS did not cover their costs and had needed an additional £1,000 and a further £250. Jean Mondot thanked Milena Lenderova for her organisation of the seminar, and her budgeting in such difficult financial times.

- 2009 Seminar, Lisbon and Sintra, Portugal

The seminar will take place in September 2009, under the theme 'Europe and the colonial world in the eighteenth century'. Maria Helena Carvalho dos Santos is the organiser. Out of 27 proposals received, 14 had been accepted (from the U.S.A., Canada, France, Portugal, Switzerland, Turkey and other countries).

- 2010 Seminar, Belfast, United Kingdom

The theme will be 'Cultural intermediaries in the eighteenth century', organised by Simon Davies. Simon Davies is grateful that the ISECS subvention to junior scholars' seminars has increased to £3,800, and added that the University of Belfast will cover the cost of meals and accommodation. He thanked ASECS and SFEDS for publicising the seminar. The closing date is September 30th 2009. Successful proposal applicants will be notified by December 2009. Simon Davies requested the help of two EC colleagues to assess proposals, and Catriona Seth and Marc André Bernier offered their services. Mark Ledbury asked all seminar organisers to take photographs of seminar attendees so that they could be posted on the ISECS website.

- 2011 Seminar, Graz

Harald Heppner has not yet had time to start organising the seminar, but will accept the help and advice of Jean Mondot. Catriona Seth added that, from her experience as a co-organiser of the Montpellier seminar, it is desirable to start planning at least 18-24 months in advance. Wolfgang Schmale said that a meeting for this purpose would take place the following week, and that organisation would start thereafter.

The President noted that proposals for future seminars would be needed at the 2010 EC meeting in Denmark.

13. Committee on Communications

(i) Website

Pascal Bastien said that the ISECS website is currently hosted by the Université Laval in Canada, although the hosting of the site could easily be transferred in the future if necessary. The issue of the domain name being registered in the name of Robert McNamee would be revisited.

The new Web Content Editor, Nelson Guilbert, presented the ISECS website, which he updates every Friday.

(a) technically, the website is compatible with all browsers

(b) visually, several designs were looked at and the current one was chosen by Nelson Guilbert, Lise Andries and Marc André Bernier. The welcome page content has been significantly restructured, with 'News and Updates' at the centre and 'Events' and information about ISECS to the right and left. There is much new content, including

information on publications with links to Champion ISECS publications, new content under ISECS Activities / Seminars for Junior Scholars, and a photo album of the 2008 Dublin EC meeting. More content would be very welcome, and societies are asked to send information either to Lise Andries (lise.andries@wanadoo.fr) or to Pascal Bastien (bastien.pascal@uqam.ca).

In terms of future developments, Nelson Guilbert is exploring the possibility of an audio-visual facility (for short video clips). Other suggestions from EC members include an online journal for ISECS, publishing recently defended theses, and linking to the tables of content and summaries of articles from journals published by the national societies of ISECS.

The President thanked Nelson Guilbert for all his work.

(ii) ISECS-direct

(a) overview

From September 1st, Pascal Bastien is the person to contact for all questions relating to ISECS-direct, and the email 'admin@isecs.org' will soon be working.

Pascal Bastien presented the key features of ISECS-direct:

Individuals can search for members by a variety of criteria (name, research interest, national society). It was highlighted that the 'research' search field will only prove useful if members themselves complete and update this field. There will also be the possibility of selecting all members of a national society, and of printing out the pages. This will enable national societies to have their own 'printed' directory.

(b) Pascal Bastien outlined the steps for different people accessing and updating the online directory.

- new members

To create an entry for themselves, new members need to be a member of a national society. They subscribe to a national society via the directory, tick the various boxes as desired on accepting emails from ISECS for the elections, and from the Voltaire Foundation, and then click 'subscribe'. An email then goes to the national society the new member is subscribing to, and the new member waits for a reply. Once the national society has collected the subscription payment, they activate the new member via the directory.

- existing members

Existing members need to use their email address and password in order to update their personal details. There is a button to click if passwords have been forgotten.

- administrators

The administrator pages of individual members contain an additional tick box (not available to new or existing members) which allows administrators to suspend members who have not paid their subscriptions. Administrators can also modify and update members' profiles.

The President thanked Pascal Bastien and Nelson Guilbert, and urged societies and members to continue to send more content to Nelson for the website, and to update their profiles on ISECS-direct. The President also added that a vote on accepting ISECS-direct or the website was unnecessary as this had been voted in by accepting the budget.

(iii) Questions on the updated website and ISECS-direct followed, and Pascal Bastien added that all other questions should be sent to himself, and that he will answer these or resolve them with technical colleagues.

- Catriona Seth asked about the issue of a member belonging to two societies.
- Alberto Postigliola asked who would have access to ISECS-direct, raising the question of whether it should be publicly available free of charge.

Anyone can access ISECS-direct, but to be in the directory, it is necessary to be an ISECS member and receive a password.

- Anne-Marie Mercier suggested a list of keywords for searching under ‘research topic/theme’.
- Wolfgang Schmale suggested posting notification of prizes on the ISECS website.
- Hans-Jürgen Lüsebrink asked how societies would be contacted.
- Raia Zaimova asked how members would know who to contact for help.
There will be a button ‘contact’ on the directory page.

The President drew the discussion to a close and asked EC delegates to email further suggestions to Pascal Bastien and Nelson Guilbert.

The President and the General Secretary will write a text on the changes to the directory, that national societies can send to their members.

14. Other Business

Motoichi Terada brought up the expense of subscribing to the ECCO and EEBO databases, which is particularly high for smaller universities with smaller budgets. He asked whether ISECS could provide subventions, or provide other means of accessing the databases. The President replied that this discussion should continue by email.

The meeting ended at 6.00pm.

Keith Baker, President
Lise Andries, Secretary General