

The Society for Old Testament Study

Minutes of the Business Meeting held on 24th July 2013 at the University of Bangor under the presidency of Dr Eryl W. Davies

1. Welcome and Apologies

The President welcomed one new member to their first Business Meeting of the Society. Apologies had been received from Carly Crouch, Anthony Gelston, Alec Gilmore, Lester Grabbe, Maria Haralambakis, Elizabeth Hayes, Charlotte Hempel, Rex Mason, Alan Millard, Mary Mills, Casey Strine, Lena-Sofia Tiemeyer, Kristin De Troyer, Rebecca Watson.

2. Minutes and Matters Arising

The Minutes of the previous Business Meeting (4th Jan 2013), which had been displayed, were approved by the meeting and signed by the President. There were no Matters Arising not already covered under the Agenda.

3. Reports from Officers

(a) **The President**, Dr Eryl W. Davies, reported that since his installation as President in January 2013 there had been no particular issues outside the Society that have required him to work on its behalf. He had been engaged with other officers of the Society in making the necessary arrangements for the summer meeting of SOTS to be held at Bangor during July 22-25 2013 and he particularly wanted to record his thanks to the Hospitality Secretary for his help in this regard. At the instigation of Professor David Chalcraft, and at the behest of the SOTS committee, he had written to the Society of Biblical Studies in India (SBSI) on behalf of SOTS to congratulate them on celebrating their Jubilee Year. He had received a reply from the Secretary of their Society thanking SOTS for its good wishes and wishing our own Society well in its forthcoming centenary celebrations. Finally he wished to express his appreciation to all the officers of SOTS for their help and support since his installation as President.

(b) **The Treasurer**, Dr Alastair Hunter reported on the financial affairs of the Society as follows:

BANK & INVESTMENT ACCOUNT BALANCES

Barclays Current A/C	£20,383.85
Barclays IAS (Business Premium) A/C	£110,979.89
TOTAL	£131,363.74

As was always the case at this point in the year, the final figure included income in respect of the Summer Meeting which would be paid out in due course. In general terms, the non-meeting expenditure of the Society (accounted for in the main by the production of the Book List and the costs involved in mailings to members) exceeded subscription and other income by about £1500. Available assets (other than the legacy funds of about £58,000) were in the region of £55,000. While this was an encouraging reserve, it was not growing, and bank interest was effectively zero. Final accounts for the winter meeting in Cambridge were not

yet available (both the Treasurer and the Hospitality Secretary being new in their roles), but the final figures were likely to show a small loss in line with that recorded in recent years. There were currently 26 members in arrears with their subscriptions. A few of these had been in arrears for up to three years, and would be deemed to have lapsed at the end of the year. One of the encouraging features of SOTS was that, although life members were entitled to free membership of the Society, a significant number continued to pay regularly. Their voluntary contributions—amounting this year so far to £1424—were added to the bursary fund which assists those with limited income who wish to attend meetings.

(c) The Secretary, Dr Hilary Marlow, reported with regret the deaths of Professor Victor Hurowitz in January 2013, Professor Geza Vermes in May 2013 and Mr Simka Friedman in July 2013, shortly before the Summer Meeting. She had written on behalf of the Society to express condolences to the widows of Victor Hurowitz and Geza Vermes, and received a short note of thanks from Mrs Vermes. She would also be writing to Ora Lipschitz the wife of Simka Friedman. On a more positive note, congratulations were due to Professor Ronald Clements, who had been awarded the British Academy Birkett Medal in Biblical Studies.

(d) The Secretary for Honorary Members, Professor Lester Grabbe, reported *in absentia* that he had received news updates from the following Honorary Members: Otto Kaiser, Tryggve Mettinger, Johannes de Moor and Kirsten Nielsen, all of whom sent their greetings to the Society. He had also received good wishes for the Summer Meeting from Walter Brueggemann and Tamara Eskenazi. He was currently unable to find contact details for two honorary members: Menahem Haran and Eduard Nielsen, and would be grateful if SOTS members could pass onto him any such information. He had written to Honorary Member Sara Japhet following the death of her husband earlier this year.

(e) The Membership Secretary, Ms Vivienne Rowett, reported a current membership figure of 489 with a male/female of 350/139. This represented a gain of 3 members over the same time last year, and 1 since the beginning of this year. Of this total, 145 were now life members, hence more than 30% of the Society's members were over 52 years of age. She would continue to monitor the age profile of the Society. She reported that 472 copies of the Book List were mailed to members this Summer, meaning that only 17 were not sent copies. Alastair Hunter had continued Janet Tollington's success in keeping the number of non-receivers due to unpaid subscriptions at a very low number. She thanked Officers, members of the Committee and ordinary members of the Society for their help in making her work as Membership Secretary continue smoothly and pleasantly.

(f) The Hospitality Secretary, Mr James Patrick, reported that the Winter Meeting was running smoothly and noted that the attendance figure of 90 was low for the Summer Meeting. However an encouraging number of booksellers were in attendance. He thanked the President and other members of the Committee for their support over the course of the year and expressed his appreciation to Elizabeth Harper, his team of conference helpers and the

Bangor University conference office. He also thanked David Clark for suggesting the Welsh Highland Railway trip for the Members' outing and Eryl Davis for providing the coach and cream tea.

(g) The Book List Editor, Dr Deborah Rooke, reported that the 2013 edition of the Book List was a bumper edition, such that over 50 reviews had to be held over to the 2014 edition. She proposed to ask the publishers whether they would increase the page budget for future editions. She thanked members for their continued willingness to send in reviews in a timely fashion and to those who have responded to promptings to submit reviews for books allocated in previous years. In her capacity as chair of the Publications Sub-Committee, she reported that the final issue of the Ashgate SOTS monograph series had now been published and that Lena Tiemeyer had approached CUP about the possibility of hosting a new SOTS monograph series but as yet had received no response. She informed the Meeting that her term of office as *Book List* Editor would come to an end in 2014 and asked Members to give her possible names for a successor.

(h) The Information Officer, Dr James Aitken, expressed his gratitude to Members who notify him of corrections and areas that needed updating. The design of the website was deliberately kept simple so some of the more ambitious suggestions may prove difficult to implement. He reported that he was working with Stuart Weeks to flesh out the Wiki project and that Walter Houston had agreed to be its editor.

4. Elections

a) Officers and Committees

1. The Meeting unanimously elected Professor Hans Barstad as President of the Society for 2015.
2. The Meeting unanimously elected William Tooman, Anselm Hagedorn and Rebecca Watson as ordinary members of the Committee.
3. The Meeting unanimously approved the appointment of Jonathan Stökl as Information Officer.
4. Two new Honorary Members were proposed: Professor Carol Newsom and Professor Martti Nissinen. The Meeting unanimously elected both as Honorary Members.
5. The Meeting unanimously approved the addition of Katharine Dell and Casey Strine to the Programme Sub-Committee to replace those whose term of office had ended.
6. The Meeting unanimously approved the addition of Ann Jeffers, Matthew Collins and Elizabeth Hayes to the Publications Sub-Committee to replace those whose term of office had ended.

b) New Members

A list of persons proposed for membership had been displayed, and the following were duly elected to membership of the Society: Dr Bryan D. Bibb, Ms Alma Broderson, Dr Yi Samuel Chen, Dr Kirsi Cobb, Fr Tony Curtis, Ms Mari Jorstad, Mr Kurtis Peters, Mr Kim Phillips, Mr Cian Joseph Power, Miss Laura Quick, Ms Amber Shadle, Dr Andrew Shead, Dr Charles Shepherd, Mr Zachary Thomas.

5. Future Meetings

The forthcoming Winter Meeting would take place at Collingwood College Durham on 6th-8th January 2014. The 2014 Summer Meeting would be held at St Hilda's College, Oxford on 21st-24th July 2014 and would be followed by a special day conference on 24th July at Lady Margaret Hall, Oxford, in honour of Professor John Day.

There being no further business, the President thanked Mr James Patrick and those who had enabled the smooth running of the Summer Meeting, the Committee Members and all those who had read papers at the Meeting. He declared the Business Meeting closed and wished members a safe homeward journey.

Signed: Date: