



Draft Minutes

LLS Annual General Meeting, 6 July 2016

1) **Welcome**

1) **Apologies:** Matthew Beaumont, Brycchan Carey, Mita Choudhury, Susan Fischer

2) **Minutes of previous meeting:** approved

3) **Matters arising:** none

4) **Reports on the year's work from:**

a) **President:** Reflects on successful changes to the website and launch of the new logo: extends particular thanks to Craig Melhoff, Nick Bentley and Lisa Robertson. Comments on changes to the makeup of the Committee and the need for a new Journal Editor and Secretary. Thanks Simon Goulding, who inspired the new LLS logo and has the honour of being the second-longest LLS attendee, for his contribution to the Society in his capacity as an Ordinary Member. The Committee is also grateful to the outgoing Journal Editor, Susan Fischer, and Secretary, Adele Lee, for all their efforts over the years.

b) **Vice President:** Pleased to announce that the winner of the President's Prize is Flore Janssen (Birkbeck University of London) for her paper "Toilers' in the Literary Marketplace: Margaret Harkness, publishing and publicising sympathy for the poor." Also announces that three PG bursaries have been awarded. These have gone to: Emily Soon (KCL): "From Cathay to London: Reinscribing the Globe in John Harrington's Orlando Furioso," Jonathan Memel (University of Exeter): "Thomas Hardy and the London School Boards;" and Frances Molyneux (Stanford University): "'Too Long Away from Home': Topological Navigation in Joseph Conrad's Short Fiction."

c) **Secretary:** announces that she will be resigning as Secretary as she is leaving the UK to take up a new academic position in the States. Expresses that it has been a pleasure and a privilege being involved with the Society since it was founded in 2011 and wishes everyone all best wishes for the future. She also assures the Committee that she will do everything to ensure a smooth handover of responsibilities.

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d) **Treasurer:** Pleased with the activities arranged and managed by the LLS this year and regards the Society's financial position to be satisfactory. The Society's unrestricted reserves at 30 June 2016 amounted to £3879.27. There were no restricted reserves, making total reserves of £33879.27 (sufficient to meet the cost of our activities for the next 12 months). There were 88 paid-up members of the Society at 30 June 2016 (92 at 30 June 2015). However, this is the first year the Society made a loss. This can be attributed to the fact the IES sent invoice earlier this year, and IT expenses were more costly than usual; thus we need to be more careful this coming year. Phil Tew has now signed off the 2014-15 account, but a new auditor is still needed.

Please refer to "Financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2016" for more details.

e) **Journal Editor:** (*in absentia*) Regrets missing this year's conference, but wishes everyone a successful and stimulating conference. Reflects fondly on having been involved in the Literary London Conference and Society from the very beginning and having also joined *The Literary London Journal* early on, first as Book Reviews Editor, under the Editorship of Lawrence Phillips, and since the Spring 2013 issue, as Editor. As a long-time Literary Londoner, she continues to be extremely grateful for this vital intellectual home. However, as she now wishes to focus on new projects, she has decided not to seek another term as Editor. It has been a privilege to work with the many inspiring individuals who have contributed to the Journal in so many different capacities: as authors, book reviewers and peer-reviewers, and as members of the Society, the Editorial Board and the Executive Board. Particular gratitude extended to Susie Thomas, the Book Reviews Editor, and to the former and new Web Editors, Brycchan Carey and Craig Melhoff respectively, for their tremendous work on the Journal. The Editor also extends her sincere thanks to all those who have been involved with *LLJ* during her time, thanking them for their ideas, advice and fellowship. The Journal will of course continue, and no doubt be invigorated by new leadership. The indefatigable Reviews Editor, Susie Thomas, will continue on the Journal, as will the Web Editor Craig Melhoff, who has already enlivened the website. She wishes them—and all Literary Londoners—every success as the Journal and Society move into ever more fruitful directions.

f) **Reviews Editor:** reflects on continued success of *LLJ* and the publication of 5 reviews in the latest issue, including Nicolas Tredell's discussion of the prominent role that London plays in James Shapiro's *1606: William Shakespeare and The Year of Lear* (2015); Adam Hansen's assessment of Ged Pope's *Reading London's Suburbs: From Charles Dickens to Zadie Smith* (2015) and Sonya Barker's review of Hannah Lowe's *Long Time No See: A Memoir of Fathers, Daughters and Games of Chance* (2015).

g) **Conference Organiser:** Pleased with this year's programme and its inclusion of lots of panels as well as more creative elements, including an exhibition, film screening, and choir performance. This is also the first year keynote speakers will be recorded. Appreciates the help of Adam Hansen and the IES and encourages the Committee to publicise the event via Twitter. Unfortunately plenary speaker Rachel Gilmore had to pull out due to unforeseen circumstances, but, thanks to Martin Dines, a (excellent) replacement has been found in form of Patricia Phillippy (Kingston). The number of delegates this year is slightly down, perhaps due to financial reasons, which has led to some concerns regarding a shortfall. Suggests

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turning the conference into a two-day event, with the committee meeting held the evening before, while the AGM takes part after the keynote/official start of conference.

h) **Web Editor:** Comments that it's been a busy year and he is pleased with the launch of new platform. There is more work to be done, however, and residual traces of old format are still evident. The Journal archive in particular needs work, but this is a labour intensive job.

i) **Overseas Rep:** (via email) Regrets that after many years she won't be able to attend the conference this year as she has a summer appointment at the Technische Universität Dresden. She would like, however, to commend Susan Fischer for her work and the time and effort she has put into *LLJ* over the years. She would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate Peter Jones on having done an outstanding job.

j) **Postgraduate and Early Career Reps** (including LLS reading group): In this academic year, the LLG organised six successful sessions, all of which were well attended. October's session on Orwell's *Down and Out in Paris and London*, introduced by Luke Seeber (UCL), drew over 20 attendees and inspired a trip to the Spike, a workhouse and casual ward in Guildford, Surrey. The Reps made a concerted effort this year to branch out from conventional genres and organised sessions on the Mass Observation publication *May the 12th*, another on early modern "murder pamphlets," a short story, and children's literature. They are currently looking for 18th century specialists and more theorists (esp. Space theorists). They are also on the lookout for people to replace them and have identified one or two regular attendants of the LLRG who would make good candidates, e.g. Lucie Glasheen (QMUL).

The LLRG continues to have a presence on Twitter (386 followers) and Facebook (573 members) also continues to be a useful place to advertise sessions. The Group is also experimenting with ideas for podcasts.

- 5) **Receive the audited accounts of the Society:** Pending
- 6) **Elect officers and ordinary members to vacant positions on the Executive Committee**

Nominations for the following positions were approved:

Journal Editor: Bianca Leggett (nominated by Jenny Bavidge; nomination seconded by Martin Dines)

Secretary: Lisa Robertson (Nominated by Jenny Bavidge, seconded by Martin Dines)

8) Ratify the appointment of appointed members of the Executive Committee

The following posts were ratified:

Journal Editor: Bianca Leggett

Secretary: Lisa Robertson

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9) Provide a formal occasion for members to question the Executive Committee

Simon Goulding asks about and approves of the themes for the 2017 and 2018 conferences. He also takes this opportunity to say it has been an absolute pleasure serving as an ordinary member on the Committee since 2011.

10) Transact any other business of an annual nature

None

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