

## ICHTH

### Draft Minutes of Board/Bureau meeting Feb. 19 2024

#### **Present:**

A. De Baets (President, Chair); E. Domańska; D. Woolf (Secretary); O. Adeboye; A. Megill; M. Tamm; V. Tozzi

#### **Regrets:**

B. Bevernage; E. Gazi\*; D. Chakrabarty; X. Zhang; M. Hughes-Warrington; S. Seth

\*Prof. Gazi initially signed on but internet difficulties necessitated her withdrawal before the meeting commenced.

The president opened the meeting indicating that we lacked quorum with only 6 voting members in the zoom room. Quorum would not be achieved during this meeting, necessitating electronic votes on two motions (below, items 2 and 5).

**Minutes** of the meetings of 25 Feb 2023 and 13 Jan 2024 were approved.

#### **Agenda**

The agenda was approved as rendered but rearranged in order to allow latecomers to join before motions were made.

**1 Book Prizes:** M. Tamm reported on the INTH/ICHTH prize and that books would be accepted in several languages, with two prizes, best book and best first book. Announcement will occur at the INTH Conference in Lisbon in May, with a short list announced in late March. Two fora will be organized with *Storia della storiografia* around the winning books. D. Woolf will confine circulation of the list of entrants to board members only and password protect it. The president asked how many books would be on the short lists and whether the short lists could be circulated (the response to the latter question is positive). Winners will be informed in advance and asked to come to Lisbon but also asked to keep the information confidential to themselves. The prizes will be awarded during the final session in Lisbon; thanks to B. Bevernage for arranging this were noted.

**2 Constitution:** the current version of the draft constitution was displayed on the screen; the president acknowledged the assistance and advice of T. Mendel in the Centre for Law and Democracy, Halifax, NS. While changes had been made to the previous version of an editorial nature, there were no major changes other than the addition of a process for dismissing board members if necessary.

Action: Moved by M. Tamm and seconded by A. Megill that the draft Constitution (version of 6 November 2023; sent to the Board on 2 February 2024) be recommended to the membership for adoption at the next ICHTH General Assembly. (vote to occur electronically)

**3 INTH Conference in Lisbon.** President reported that the programme was being finalized. 3 of the panels have been proposed by ICHTH. He thanked the co-program chairs for organizing these panels. Several commission members would also be participating in INTH in other, non ICHTH panels. The president suggested a Board plus partners dinner on May 21<sup>st</sup>.

**4 General Assembly of CISH on 27 October in Tokyo;** our commission will be represented by the president. Its international prize for history will be awarded then; we have nominated F.R. Ankersmit. The Assembly will also be addressing the issue of having the 2026 event in Israel. The president has had no response to our letter from CISH, though he has received notes from commission members outside our board, all endorsing the board's decision; 5 emails from international associations were received, of which 3 seemed supportive including the American Historical Association (USA), the Associação Nacional de História (Brazil) and the Royal Netherlands Historical Society who have privately supported our objection to CISH. A negative reaction was received from the International Commission for the History of Universities, but the president assured them that the decision had not been taken lightly, and that Commission reversed its position and concurred with ours. The most negative response came from the Historical Society of Israel (the organizer of the 2026 Congress), and the president will share this and his response.

**5. CISH program:** Board discussed approval of the submitted panels. E. Domanska suggested that the call be extended till the end of September. President suggested we submit the ones that we have approved before 29 February, repeating our viewpoint on not having it in Israel.

Action: Moved by D. Woolf and seconded by A. Megill that the Board approves the list of panel proposals for the International Congress of Historical Sciences in 2026 on the presumption that the meeting will proceed in a different location than Israel, and empowers the co-program chairs to communicate this to CISH Secretary-General E. Tortarolo prior to the CISH deadline of 28 February 2024. (vote to occur electronically).

The co-secretaries / program chairs will communicate this to panel proposers after an electronic vote on this (moved D Woolf/A Megill). D Woolf will coordinate with M. Hughes-Warrington on her previously written draft.

**6. Newsletter.** O. Adeboye updated members on the third issue of the newsletter which should be forthcoming by the end of the month. The president indicated

that if a 4<sup>th</sup> issue comes out in the autumn we will have broken a record for the Commission in its 43 years of existence. He recorded his thanks to the editor, O. Adeboye.

**7. Legal status of commission.** The executive committee at its November meeting discussed an earlier memo from the president on incorporation of the ICHTH under Dutch Law. The new version of the memo articulates advantages and disadvantages, and the recommendation of the executive is that the disadvantages outweigh the advantages and thus any decision on achieving legal status should be postponed *sine die*. The consensus after discussion confirmed the president's view, though the issue of how to collect fees will continue to be a problem, currently solved by the president using his personal account. M. Tamm thanked the president for his work on this and suggested there might be another country in which the process might be less bureaucratic or expensive. The president reminded the group that our numbers are growing but still small and don't warrant going through the process. No motion was deemed necessary on this item as no positive action is being taken.

**8. Budget.** The current budget shows a balance of 5280.10 euros. The president noted he is required to pay an annual credit tax of 39.60 euros and a service fee of 39 euros, the first of which he has returned to the Commission budget as a gift. M. Tamm has served as internal auditor of the funds.

**9. Membership.** The current list of members was presented. There are currently (on 20 February 2024) 79 fee paying members out of 123 eligible to pay fees. He will continue to send reminders to those who have yet to pay, with discretion to allow for some members who contribute in other ways to continue. 12 of the 14 new members recently approved for membership have responded to the invitation and paid their fees. The remaining 2 have not yet replied. E. Domańska pointed out that the current list included one now deceased member. E. Domańska volunteered to check the list for accurate emails. She indicated that perhaps anyone who has not been active or paid for 5 years should be deleted (as per the Constitution). The president indicated that he had written to all members individually in late 2022 and then repeatedly approached them collectively with reminders and that he was unwilling to write individually again to members who had persistently failed to reply.

**10. Wikipedia.** A.A. Assis and F. Varela have drafted a Portuguese Wikipedia page but the English page was rejected (twice). Once it is deleted from Wikipedia in 6 months it can be resubmitted from elsewhere. M. Hughes-Warrington may be able to facilitate its resubmission in Australia. Volunteers are sought to translate the document into other languages once the English page is mounted somewhere on Wikipedia.

**11. Journals.** The president thanked A. Megill and K. Pihlainen for assisting with the discounts from *JHI* and *Rethinking History*, E. Tortarolo for *Storia della storiografia*, and Chiel van den Akker for the *Journal of the Philosophy of History*; a *History and Theory* decision is still pending with Wiley according to E. Kleinberg. There are other journals related to us but which operate on an open access basis. Should we receive an invitation to organize special issues in these journals the program co-chairs will lead on organizing these.

**12. AOB.** There being no other business the meeting adjourned at 5:10 pm EST.