

Minutes of Annual Meeting, May 4, Chapin Hall Room 210, Amherst College

Becky Sinos convened the meeting at 4:40. Present were Sinos (President), Eric Poehler (Vice-President), Scott Bradbury (Treasurer); Council members Gina Closs, Pam Russell, and Brian Shelburne; and Elizabeth Klarich. Keffie Feldman (Secretary) was absent by previous arrangement, so Becky took minutes.

The meeting began with a welcome to Liz Klarich, a new member of the Western MA Society.

Michael Sugerman, Department of Anthropology, University of Massachusetts, then presented a bang-up lecture entitled "People and Pottery in the Late Bronze and Early Iron Ages of the Eastern Mediterranean: A Microscopic Perspective," sharing the expertise of thirty years of excavating around the Mediterranean, mostly in Israel and Palestine. A spirited question-and-answer period followed the lecture.

After thanking Sugerman for sharing his sherd specimens as well as for his presentation, the group proceeded to Society business.

The Minutes of the meeting of September 17, 2015 were approved unanimously. (Last year's annual meeting minutes were approved soon after the meeting, via email vote.)

Sinos read the Secretary's report for Feldman; there is one new member, Gary Drimmer. She noted that some long-term members do not appear on recent membership lists, which accounts in part for a reduction in membership, now standing at 39. Russell reported that the membership form requires new members to make use of a drop-down list of local societies in order to indicate their preferred local affiliation. Poehler suggested asking the national office to improve the application form so as to encourage affiliation with a local society.

Treasurer Bradbury presented the Treasurer's report and called attention to the modest gain in income since last spring, \$129. He noted the need for an audit of the accounts, which Closs and Shelburne performed with great efficiency.

VP Poehler reported that there was a fine series of lectures this year. He said that the website has a regular trickle of visitors, but would like to encourage more, perhaps by including a link to the website in the digital notices sent out by the various Colleges and on their lists of events. He suggested also a blog that might attract those seeking information about current topics of interest. The groups that might be targeted for membership, in different ways, are students, local members of historical societies, and high school teachers.

President Sinos read the list of AIA lectures this year, and the list of additional lectures of interest throughout the Valley this year; altogether there were eight lectures, five of them in April. She reported that in February, less than a year after the Society finished revising its bylaws, she received a message from the national office conveying a new requirement, that all Societies incorporate in their Bylaws an article with specific language stating the Society's relationship to the Archaeological Institute of America and its mission, and the Society's

obligation to maintain at least 35 members. The change must be made by June 30, 2017. The other procedures and rules that should be included in each Society's Bylaws, as stated in this message from the national office, are already included in our Bylaws, Sinos said. The group agreed to take up next year the matter of how to handle the new required article.

The report of the Nominating Committee (Laetitia LaFollette, Pam Russell, Brian Shelburne) was given by Russell and Shelburne. The slate they proposed was adopted by unanimous vote. Next year's President will be Jason Moralee; Eric Poehler, Keffie Feldman, and Scott Bradbury will continue in their current offices as Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer, respectively. Next year's Council members will be Gina Closs, Paula Debnar, Pam Russell, Brian Shelburne, and Tony Tuck (all continuing) and new members Elizabeth Klarich, a Five-College professor of Anthropology, and Murray McClellan, an adjunct professor at River Valley Community College in New Hampshire.

The group then turned to discussion of lecture program for 2016-17. The Council has discussed and accepted via email the national office's proposal that Owen Doonan, next year's Hanfmann Lecturer, present a lecture in the area on October 20. It remained to decide where he should lecture and on which of his proposed topics. The choice is "Archaeological Expedition to Sinop, Turkey: Exploring the Origins of Trade at the Nexus of Civilizations" to be hosted by the University of Massachusetts.

For our second lecture, of the three lecturers proposed Chris Hallett was chosen, to deliver a lecture at Mt. Holyoke College. The President will ask Bettina Bergmann at Mt. Holyoke which semester is better and which lecture best suited to classes there.

The Lehmann lecture for next year has been scheduled for March 25. John Clarke will deliver a lecture on Oplontis, in connection with the exhibition planned for the Smith Art Museum.

Discussion of the next year's Lehmann lecture considered Professor La Follette's proposal of Jane Fejfer, a professor at the University of Copenhagen. Other proposals were made, including Brian Rose and John Camp. It was growing late, and so it was decided to take up this question at the next Council meeting, in the fall.

Sinos added that there is a colloquium planned at the University to celebrate the excavations at Poggio Civitate's anniversary, on November 5-6 next fall. Closs and Poehler added that Ray Lawrence, a Roman historian, will be at the University between September 16-21 to speak on urbanization.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 7:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Becky Sinos

Attachments: Western MA AIA existing (amended) bylaws, the national office message on the requirements, and their sample bylaws