

MEDIEVAL ASSOCIATION OF THE MIDWEST

MINUTES BUSINESS MEETING

Thursday, May 8, 2008

6:00 p.m.

**Bernhard Center 107
Western Michigan University
Kalamazoo, Michigan**

Present: Kristie Bixby, Kristin Bovaird-Abbo, Christina Christoforatu, Carlos Hawley Colón, Liam Felsen, Kristen Figg, John Friedman, Alison Ganze, Ronald Ganze, Peter Goodrich, Matthew Heintzelman, William Hodapp, Harriet Hudson, Justin Jackson, Timothy Jordan, Yonsoo Kim, Erin Mann, Samantha Meigs, Karen Moranski, Tony Morris, Mary Olson, Edward Ridsen, David Sprunger, Mel Storm, Mickey Sweeney, Toy-Fung Tung, Cynthia Valk, Norbert Wethington

Ms. Moranski convened the meeting at 6:12 p.m. in Bernhard Center 107. She welcomed participants and asked them to sign the sign-up sheet.

- I. **Approval of Minutes** – Ms. Moranski presented the business meeting minutes of May 11, 2007. Ms. Bixby reported one correction: Ed Ridsen's plenary talk at the University of Puerto Rico-Mayagüez was not on Medieval Romance but rather on Narrative Subversion in Medieval Literature. It was moved and seconded (Hawley Colón/Wethington) to approve the minutes as amended. Passed unanimously
- II. **Report of the President** – Ms. Moranski had no formal report but reminded folks of the next MAM conference at North Dakota State University September 26–27. She mentioned that MAM is looking for a host for the 2009 MAM conference.
- III. **Report of the Executive Secretary** – Ms. Bixby shared the financial statement for May 1, 2007, to April 30, 2008. MAM's beginning operating account balance, May 1, 2007, was \$2,242.27. Revenue for the year totaled \$6,463.36, including \$6,010.00 in MAM dues and receipts, \$347.40 in profit from the MAM 2006 conference in Puerto Rico, and \$105.96 refund from the 2007 Kalamazoo lunch/reception prepayment. Expenditures of \$1,003.43 included \$25.00 CARA dues, \$250.00 *Nuntia* subvention, \$350.00 Convener of Conferences subvention, and \$378.43 prepayment for the 2008 MAM lunch and reception at Kalamazoo. The ending balance in the operating account on April 30, 2008, was \$7,702.20. Following discussion, council members earlier agreed to leave an adequate amount in the operating account to cover the cost of *EPMAM* (approximately \$3,000 to \$5,000) plus any emergency circumstances.

MAM's invested funds in a Bank of America certificate of deposit on May 1, 2007, totaled \$26,154.04. Interest of \$1,297.82 (varying between 4.984% and 4.65%) for the period brings the ending balance of invested funds on April 30, 2008, to \$27,451.86. The CD was renewed on April 18, 2008, for another four months (to August 18, 2008) at a rate of 2.65%. Following a

motion and second (Hawley Colón/Storm), the financial statement was approved unanimously. Morris/Valk provided a motion and a second to approve the financial statement. Passed unanimously.

- IV. **Report of the Editor of *Nuntia*** – Mr. Heintzelman reported that the new MAM website is up and running, and the latest issue of *Nuntia* is available online as a pdf link. An e-mail, including the link, was recently sent out to MAM members. He provided hard copies on the meeting tables. Mr. Heintzelman shared previous council discussion about doing more electronically and printing out fewer hard copies of *Nuntia*, aiming to make them available to institutions, libraries, and those requesting hard copies. Professional announcements should be directed to Mr. Risdén, who will edit and send them on the Mr. Heintzelman for the newsletter. Mr. Heintzelman has spent \$43 of the \$250 *Nuntia* subvention. His goal is to have the next issue out by mid- to late-August so that calls for Kalamazoo MAM sessions and possibly a preliminary program for the next MAM conference at North Dakota State University can be incorporated.

Mr. Heintzelman expressed his gratitude to Mr. Goodrich and thanked him for his many years of service to MAM. Mr. Goodrich thanked Mr. Heintzelman for taking over his previous responsibilities and commended him on the new look of the website and *Nuntia*.

- V. **Report of the Convener of Conferences** – Ms. Valk reported eight sessions at this year's 2008 congress:

- (R)Evolution in Romance: Changes in Culture and Genre from Chaucer to Shakespeare
- Masculinity in Middle English Romances
- Static and Shifting Landscapes in Medieval Literature, Art, and Thought
- Costume in Medieval Literature, including Chaucer
- Prayer in the Middle Ages
- Teaching Medieval Studies to Non-Majors
- Teaching the Mystics
- The Wee Folk: Folklore and Fairytale in the Middle Ages

Ms. Valk mentioned that Thursday and Sunday are necessarily increasingly popular times for sessions because of the sheer numbers of sessions, and MAM will likely have to trade off with other organizations for the more desirable Friday and Saturday times. She urged participants to inform her of proposed sessions and short descriptions as soon as possible. May 15 is the deadline for submitting proposals to her, proposals are accepted on a first-come first-served basis up to a maximum of eight total, and others will be rolled over to the next year. She mentioned that the International Congress wants at least three papers a session and reminded session participants that acceptance of papers is contingent on MAM membership, which she will communicate at the time of session confirmation.

The 50th Annual M/MLA Convention will be held November 13–16, 2008, in Minneapolis, Minnesota, and will include three MAM sessions. She thanked Bill Hodapp for his assistance in putting these sessions together.

- VI. **Report on the *Publications* / Increasing Submissions** – Mr. Storm reported that, as of two weeks ago, he has sufficient vetted materials for the next issue, Volume Thirteen, of *Enarratio* (*PMAM*), with between 100 and 120 pages, a relatively standard size, which will be sent out sometime this summer to individuals paid up for 2007. Ms. Figg offered her assistant to help with final editing.

Mr. Storm said he is encouraging electronic submission of articles for review but is still accepting hard copy. He mentioned a slight change in submission procedures: in the future, all articles should now be forwarded to one person. In the future, they should be submitted simply to *Enarratio* and sent to Mr. Storm at his address at Emporia State University. However, since Ms. Figg is editing the next issue, authors should go ahead and send their submissions to her. He urged presenters or chairs of sessions at Kalamazoo to encourage participants to submit their papers for publication. It is important to keep in mind that *Enarratio* is no longer a proceedings publication and that any scholarship is acceptable. He asked those who would be willing to be readers of manuscripts, or already are readers, to submit their names to him and add/update their areas of interest. Since Ms. Figg has an assistant to work with her this summer, she encouraged authors to submit their papers in June, if possible, in order to more quickly produce the next issue.

- VII. **Report on the 2007 MAM Conference at Indiana State University in Terre Haute** – Ms. Hudson reported that the October 19–20 conference went well, with about 50 people in attendance. Russell Peck and Bonnie Wheeler were plenary speakers. She provided special thanks to the English department, whose lecture series funded almost all of the conference, and said that she will be able to return almost \$800 to the MAM treasury. She has received good reports and nice thank you notes about the success of the conference and commending MAM as a group that welcomes newcomers. Ms. Hudson has updated the MAM conference guidelines with information from the 2007 conference, and Mr. Heintzelman has agreed to put these on the MAM website.

- VIII. **Report on the 2008 MAM Conference** – Mr. Hawley Colón reported that North Dakota State University (NDSU) in Fargo will be hosting next year's MAM conference on September 26–27. Preparations are going well. The call for papers is in *Nuntia*, and the deadline for proposals is July 1, 2008. The keynote speaker is Barbara Weissberger, of the University of Minnesota and author of *Isabel Rules: Constructing Queenship, Wielding Power*. Plenary lectures will be given by Juanita Garciagodoy of Macalester College, talking on books of chivalry and the late medieval and early modern era, and NDSU's own Ron Ramsay from the Department of Architecture. Ms. Moranski thanked Mr. Hawley Colón for hosting the next conference.

- IX. **Discussion of Invitations for Future MAM Conferences / MAM Conference Guidelines** – Ms. Sweeney offered to host the 2010 MAM conference at Dominican University in River Forest, Illinois. Pending approval, it would be in association with the Illinois Medieval Association (IMA) conference, probably around February 21 or 22. The IMA conference is a medium-sized conference, very much like the MAM conference. Since there have been no volunteers for hosting the 2009 conference, there was discussion about accepting Ms. Sweeney's offer as the 2009 conference, only holding it after the first of the year (like the Puerto Rico conference). Following discussion, it was moved and seconded (Valk/ Ridsen) to hold the

MAM 2009 conference at Dominican University in February of 2010, pending approval of IMA, and then schedule another regular conference in the fall of 2010. Approved unanimously.

Ms. Moranski encouraged individuals wishing to host the fall 2010 meeting to let the MAM council know as soon as possible, reminding folks of the last year's request:

“Members who wish to host the annual conference of the Medieval Association of the Midwest should make their wishes known by a letter to the MAM Council that will be presented at the MAM business meeting. The offer should be made two years prior to the year in which the member's institution wishes to hold the conference. Offers may then be considered and voted on at the annual business meeting.”

As mentioned previously, Ms. Hudson has revised the guidelines (based on CARA guidelines) for planning conferences, which is a useful checklist (about two years out) with a projected/hypothetical budget. This will be posted on the MAM website. Mr. Goodrich added that this checklist can be modified continually.

- X. **Discussion of MAM Membership** – Ms. Bixby shared information on previous years' membership, reporting that a solicitation was sent in April of 2007 to 785 selected individuals who had not paid their dues for either 2006 or 2007. Another mailing was done in October 2007 to 446 selected individuals who had not paid dues for either 2006 or 2007. The latest solicitation was in March 2008 to 373 selected individuals who had not paid dues for 2007 or 2008. All solicitations have reminded folks that participants at the MAM conference, M/MLA convention and Kalamazoo congress are required to be members. To date, paid memberships for 2008 total 70, compared to only 31 at this same time last year. Since 2004, there have been 14 requests for the special membership offer of three years plus all back issues, compared to 9 reported at last year's meeting. She reminded folks of Mr. Ridsen's comment last year, which emphasized word of mouth as the most effective means of solicitation.
- XI. **New Business—Revised MAM Constitution** – Ms. Moranski invited further discussion on the Executive Council's unanimous approval last year of the amendments for restructuring its offices, as outlined below, to be confirmed by vote before the election of new officers. Mr. Ridsen suggested deleting the third bullet—retainment of the office of the past president. Mr. Goodrich read the preamble to the new amendment, as well as the points of the new amendment, as outlined here:

Amendment VIII: Restructuring MAM Governance

(Following the death of Robert Kindrick, a central figure in maintaining MAM's finances and providing the organization with an institutional home, it was decided that the new generation of MAM members must now, in lieu of someone to sponsor the organization, take responsibility for itself, sharing the duties and establishing in the presidency the strong focus of continuity that was originally envisioned. It was decided at the 2007 MAM Executive Council Meeting in Kalamazoo that these changes would go into effect in 2008, allowing the current president to serve a one-year term and electing a president for three years at the 2008 MAM Business Meeting in Kalamazoo to coincide with the three-year election of the Executive Secretary. A

motion to approve all of the amendments as outlined, with a confirming vote before the election of new officers at Kalamazoo in 2008, was passed unanimously at the May 10, 2007, MAM Business Meeting in Kalamazoo.)

Given MAM's currently solid financial footing, the MAM Executive Council will be restructured as follows:

- The Executive Secretary and Associate Executive Secretary positions will be combined into one Executive Secretary position, retaining the current three-year term. This officer would be responsible for both secretarial and treasurer functions, as currently administered by Ms. Kristie Bixby.
- The office of President will be expanded from a one-year term to a three-year term, conferring upon it the leadership roles now effectively shared between the Executive Secretary and President. The President will be able to co-sign with the Executive Secretary on MAM financial accounts.
- ~~The position of Past President, an honorary role also carrying a three year term, will be retained to provide advisory duties at MAM meetings.~~ Recommended deletion of Past President position.
- The current one-year term for Vice President, who would continue to be the previous year's annual conference organizer, will be retained. This individual will not succeed to the Presidency or Executive Secretary positions unless s/he accepted a nomination and was elected at the regular three-year interval. This will give MAM a minimum of three possible candidates for President at each presidential election.
- The Editor of *Nuntia* and MAM Webmaster will be appointed by a majority vote of the MAM Executive Council.
- The Membership Committee will be eliminated as a separate body, since it is made up entirely of Councillors, and membership issues are sufficiently discussed in the MAM Executive Council and Business Meetings.
- Other officers and terms as defined in the constitution will be retained.

Discussion ensued and questions were invited. Hawley Colon/Hodapp made and seconded a motion to adopt the new amendment, deleting the third bullet relative to retaining the office of the past president. Approved unanimously.

XII. **Election of New Officers** – The following slate of council members for 2008–09 was presented for discussion and further nominations:

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|----------------|--|
| President | - Harriet Hudson (three-year term) |
| Past President | - (eliminate position) |
| Vice President | - Nickolas Haydock (second term as VP) |

Executive Secretary - Kristie Bixby (three-year term)
Councillors (term ending 2011)- Peter Goodrich, William Hodapp, and Karen Moranski as suggested replacements for Leslie Cavell, Carlos Hawley-Colón, and William Hodapp, whose term ends in 2008.

Those councillors whose terms will continue include the following: Harriet Hudson (unless elected president), Edward Ridsen, and Mickey Sweeney (term ending 2009); and Abraham Quintanar, Annette Murrow, and David Sprunger (term ending 2010).

Ms. Moranski asked for further nominations for the position of president for a three-year term. There were none. It was moved and seconded (Morris/Storm) to elect Ms. Hudson to a three-year term as president. Approved by acclamation.

Mr. Haydock agreed to serve a second term as vice-president. It was moved and seconded (Goodrich/Storm) to appoint Mr. Haydock for a second term. Approved by acclamation.

Ms. Moranski asked for further nominations for the position of executive secretary for a three-year term. There were none. It was moved and seconded (Goodrich/Ganze) to elect Ms. Bixby to a three-year term as executive secretary. Approved by acclamation.

Nominations for councillor positions were Yonsoo Kim, Alison Ganze, and Kristen Bovaird-Abo, in addition to those suggested by the council: Peter Goodrich, William Hodapp, and Karen Moranski. It was strongly emphasized about the importance of councillors willing to commit to coming to THE MAM meetings, preferably in Kalamazoo, but also to the MAM conference in the fall. Following a ballot vote, the following councillors were elected to a three-year term ending in 2011: Alison Ganze, Peter Goodrich, William Hodapp, and Yonsoo Kim.

XIII. **Other** – There was no other business.

A motion (Colón/Hudson) to adjourn the meeting was passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 7:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristie A. Bixby
Executive Secretary