

INTERNATIONAL MARITIME ECONOMIC HISTORY ASSOCIATION

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

14.00 THURSDAY, 24 JUNE 2004, IONIAN ACADEMY, CORFU.

1. Call to Order. The President David M. Williams welcomed members and non-members. The Agenda was approved and the President took the Chair.
2. Apologies. Dr James Reveley (Secretary) Professor Edward W. Sloan (Treasurer).
3. Minutes of the Assembly of 2000 in Esbjerg. It was explained that these had been approved at a special meeting in Fremantle in 2000. The item appeared on the Agenda to be formally received by the Assembly.
4. Matters Arising. None that was not to appear in subsequent items.
5. President's Report. The President noted that the business of the Association had proceeded smoothly in the last three years. He spoke of the honour and responsibilities of office and the progress that had been made in fulfilling the aims of the Association since its founding in 1986. He noted the higher profile of maritime history, the enormous success of the *Journal* and the *RIMH* series and the conduct of four major international congresses. In particular he stressed the role of the Association in creating a unique community of scholars in which members shared interests, provided support and took pleasure in the research and company of others. And moreover, a community where newcomers, especially young scholars were enthusiastically welcomed. All this had been achieved through the dedication and commitment of many colleagues and he paid tribute to and thanked all those involved. He invited members to consider further assisting the Association and non-member delegates at the Congress to join the Association.
6. Treasurer's Report The Chairman expressed his regret that the Treasurer, Prof. Sloan, who was to have been present at the Congress was unable to

attend. The Chairman reported that Professor Sloan had undertaken considerable work on the Association's accounts and had submitted financial statements for the four financial years commencing 2000-01. These had been accepted by the Executive and the Editorial Board of the *International Journal of Maritime History* - publishing items being the chief element of the Association's expenditure. The Treasurer had provided a lengthy Report which the Chairman summarised. Currently the Association has a bank balance of around C\$60,000. This has declined slightly over the last four years and in two of those years expenses have exceeded revenues due to re-print costs in the *RIMH* series. In general terms there were healthy features notably that membership was stable at around 400 and a slight financial surplus was predicted for 2004-05. It was noted however that the *Journal* still gained considerable support from Memorial University and that profits on foreign exchange were likely to decline. The Assembly expressed its appreciation and thanks for the work of the Treasurer.

7. Report of the Chairman of the Editorial Board, Professor Lars Scholl. Prof. Scholl reported on the work of the Board and the publications of the Association. He commented on recent outstanding issues in the *RIMH* series. He regretted the delays in the publication of the latest *Journal* issues; these were due to unforeseen circumstances and the lag was likely to be soon rectified. He paid tribute to the work of the Editor in Chief, Editors and the Managing Editor and also to the retiring secretary of the Editorial Board, Dr Merja-Liisa Hinkkanen.

8. Report of the Chairman of the Nominating Committee for the New Executive, Professor Lewis R. Fischer. Prof. Fischer submitted the Committee's nominations: for President, Prof. Gelina Harlaftis; for Vice-Presidents, Prof. John Armstrong and Prof. Jesús M. Valdaliso; for Secretary, Prof. Berit Eide Johnsen and for Treasurer, Prof. Edward W. Sloan. Both Professors Valdaliso and Sloan would be serving a second term of office as permitted under the Association's constitution. The Assembly received the Report.

9. Election of the New Executive. The Chairman reminded the meeting that Association members could make nominations from the floor. There were no further nominations and Association members approved the new Executive.

10. AOB. 5th International Congress of Maritime History 2008. The Chairman reported that two invitations had been received to host the 2008 Congress: from the Canadian Nautical Research Society and the Greenwich Maritime Institute. After considerable deliberation the Executive had chosen to recommend the acceptance of the offer from the GMI. The recommendation was put to the membership and approved.

11. Distinctions. IMEHA has decided to make Professor Robin Craig the first Honorary President of the IMEHA for his outstanding contribution in forming the field of maritime history. IMEHA has decided to make Dr David M. Williams Honorary Life Member of the IMEHA for his scholarship in the field of maritime history and his invaluable contribution and dedication in the formation and function of the IMEHA.

The meeting closed at 16.00.

Berit Eide Johnsen
Secretary, IMEHA