



Minutes of the General Assembly meeting of July 30th, 2010 in Munich

Claire Hudson, President, reads the agenda sent to the members and makes some modifications to point 6 Reports from Commissions and 8 Elections, so the voting can be done after point 5 Membership Secretary Report, leaving enough time for the election committee to count the votes during the following points. A note is made of an error on the Agenda, this General Assembly is held in the XXVIII issue of the Conference and not XXIX as written in the Agenda. Apologies are given by the General Secretary.

1) Acceptance of the minutes of the General Assembly in Glasgow 2008

A note is made requesting to add the year following the titles of the Minutes. The minutes that have been published in the Proceeding of Glasgow are accepted with unanimity.

2) Report by the President

The last 2 years have seen a continuation of our work in a number of areas. The excellent efforts made by the editorial team under the leadership of Nicole Leclercq has resulted in yet another successful publication – this time the proceedings from our 2008 conference in Glasgow. We were successful in raising sufficient sponsorship to cover all the costs of publishing these proceedings. I hope that you are as happy as I am with the handsome volume which Nicole, Jan Van Goethem, Kristy Davis, Mathias Auclair, Sylvie Francois and Helen Adair have produced. On the subject of the Glasgow Conference, I can report that the organizer, Alan Jones, won an award from the City Council for his contribution to the promotion of the Glasgow internationally.

My President's Newsletter which I began when I was elected in 2004 has continued, as a means of keeping in touch with our membership and promoting our activities. This has been recently joined by the eNewsletter which has been produced by Désirée Neumann and published under the direction of Jan Van Goethem in Brussels.

Work on developing our website has been going on behind the scenes, and you can expect some major changes before the end of this year, as a first phase of replacing the existing site is implemented. In this case, we have Jan, Guy and Sylvie to thank for driving this forward.

Our networking projects with other international organizations are continuing. This week's conference has provided some really valuable opportunities to meet members of IFTR and I hope very much that SIBMAS members can exploit the opportunities which exist for partnership projects with the academic sector.



Our partnership with Perspectiv, the association for historic theatres in Europe, is moving forwards through a joint funding application to the EU to create a touring exhibition about the relationship of theatre to the development of European culture. A revised proposal will be submitted in September, and if successful, SIBMAS partners will be working with Perspective to create an exhibition which will tour to partners' institutions and allow for the addition of locally sourced exhibits.

OISTAT too, as we've heard, is working on an ambitious project to continue the work of René Hainaux on world stage design. Several of our members are contributing to the 3 volumes planned to be published from next year, covering the period from 1976 onwards.

At this conference we have been delighted to make the acquaintance of Kenneth Schlesinger, the Chair of TLA (Theatre Library Association) which has also become an important associate for us, especially through negotiations for the joint TLA / SIBMAS conference planned for Austin in 2012.

Throughout the last two years, many people have contributed greatly to the work of our organization, and also over the six years of my presidency. One especially has had a major impact on improving the operation of SIBMAS and the financial health of our organization. This has allowed us to plan more strategically and also to invest in initiatives where necessary. The next Executive Committee will inherit a very positive bank balance which will allow the plans we have been developing to be implemented. That person of course is Jan Van Goethem, who is standing down as Treasurer and Membership Secretary after eight years. He will be sorely missed from the committee table, and on behalf of us all I wanted to make this small presentation to him and put down on record in my report an acknowledgement of his achievements and of our gratitude.

Finally, I would like to extend my thanks to Claudia Blank and her team at the Theatre Museum in Munich for their hard work and care in planning a really enjoyable and interesting week of papers and events. They have provided an ambience which has encouraged good networking and the exchange of information and ideas. Thank you on behalf of us all. This token of our gratitude is not only for Claudia's efforts to create this week's programme, it is also in recognition of her outstanding work on behalf of SIBMAS, as a member of the ExCom and as President. I think her record of service to our organization, extending over fourteen years, is probably unsurpassable.

And finally, I would like to add that my six years as president has been very enjoyable as well as challenging. I have really appreciated the opportunities which it has given me to meet members and learn from their experiences. I wish every success to the new president and to the continuing growth and wellbeing of SIBMAS.

Claire Hudson



3) Report by the Secretary General

Sylvie François thanks the Board for their collaboration in her first tenure and looks forward to another term now that knowledge of the function has been gathered.

4) Report by the Treasurer

Also see attached document.

Jan Van Goethem gives an overview of the state of the budget during his tenure (2004-2010). After some difficulties in the income (mainly generated by members fees), the revenue has stabilised and some other sources of revenues (mainly funding for proceedings) were added. The Proceedings of Rome are planned to be published in 2011. Maria Teresa Iovinelli had worked quite a lot on the organisation of its content and Nicole Leclercq will undertake to work to bring it to publishing. SIBMAS has a total of 17 000 euros available budget for new projects. The accounting books have been verified by 2 members of SIBMAS (not ExCom members), Ramona Riedzowski and Agathe Sanjuan. Ramona Riedzowski attests to the controls made and agrees that the expenses are in order.

A question from the audience is asked regarding the membership fee that seemed that has been constant since 2004. The Treasurer confirms this and adds that this issue may be brought to the new ExCom of whether the fee should be raised or not considering the current financial health of the association.

A question is asked regarding the slide in membership payment for 2010. The treasurer explains that it is because the year has not finished yet and many groups (ex Sibmas Belgium, Theater Interest Group in the UK and SIBMAS Holland) make one large payment when all their members have issued their payment, so usually at the end of the year.

5) Report from the Membership Secretary

Jan Van Goethem reflects on the work undertaken in the last 6 years to clear the membership database of all individual and institutions with no active status. A letter has been formatted and is sent to all members who have not paid their subscription to verify whether they are still interested to be active members or not. In 2004 there were 157 members registered, in 2010 there is a total of 180 members including the 10 honorary members. Members are distributed as follows: 85% Europe, 9% America, 3% Oceania, 3% Asia. It is hoped that the next Conference in Austin (USA) will bring more international members.

6) Election of new Executive Committee and Council members

Voting officials are designated: Ulrike Dembski and Helena Hantakova who are not running for positions at ExCom. A total of 23 ballots for institutions



and 10 ballots for individuals were valid and were counted. Abstentions were noted:

- 2 votes on Council members and 1 for ExCom member on the individual ballots
- 7 votes for Council members and 1 for President on the institutional ballots.

The following persons were elected unanimously:

President	Winrich Meiszies (D)
1st Vice-President	Helen Adair (USA)
2nd Vice-President	Nicole Leclercq (B)
General Secretary	Sylvie François (CAN)
Treasurer/Trésorier	Véronique Meunier (F)

EXCOM MEMBERS

Mathias Auclair (F), Kristy Davis (UK), Guy Baxter (UK), Susan Cole (USA)

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Ramona Riedzwenski (UK), Janine Barrand (AUS), Tatiana Egorova (RUS), Nena Couch (USA), Christina Mühlegger-Henhapel (AT), Anne Zendali (CH), Knud Arne Jürgensen (DK)

7) Reports from the Commissions

7a) Exhibition Commission – report not received yet

7b) Web Commission

Guy Baxter provided an update on changes to the website administration since the 2008 Conference, including the development of the e-newsletter and the discussions of a new website structure by the SIBMAS ExCom.

Jan van Goethem introduced a proposed redesign of the site, and there were several very useful comments and suggestions from the Commission. Details of how to access the test site were distributed and further comments were encouraged. Guy Baxter thanked Jan for his supreme efforts in moving the project forward.

There followed some further discussion of priorities for the online presence of SIBMAS: suggestions included the dynamic use of images, more information on the site about how and why to subscribe to the e-newsletter, the addition of RSS technology, and the addition of subject headings to institutional members' entries on the site. There was also a long discussion of issues surrounding the potential restriction of some content in a "members only" section. The potential of web 2.0 applications was also raised.



Guy Baxter thanked the Commission for the many useful suggestions, contributions, and offers of help, and he confirmed that he would be in discussion with the Chairs of the other Commissions regarding their needs.

7c) **Cataloguing Commission**

Kristy Davis, Chair, thanked the SIBMAS members who attended the commission and then gave an overview and update on the previous meetings in Vienna (2006) and Glasgow (2008) highlighting the creation of the Commission's webpage on the SIBMAS site for resources for international cataloguing and bibliographic control standards and the subsequent thought to add brief descriptions to each. A discussion followed on how to proceed with the webpage for the future. It was decided to leave the page alone for the moment, but to ask the SIBMAS webmaster to add in a 'Cataloguing News' section to the e-newsletter in which Commission members could submit information or requests for more international links to standards to be added to the Commission's resource page. Then, at the Commission's meeting in Austin in 2012, we would review the response and then decide how to proceed. It was hoped that the new website would be operational by then so that some of our other ideas may be accommodated at that time. It was also proposed that we ask the SIBMAS webmaster to make the Cataloguing and Bibliographic Commission Resource page, which also has information about the Commission itself, more visible on the new site.

8) **SIBMAS conferences 2012 and 2014**

Helen Adair presents the conference theme: Engaging Communities, Reimagining Collections. This theme aims to explore the main relations between collections and their users, donors, and the general public in putting forward and telling the performance history. Helen Adair gives an overview of the host venue, the Harry Ransom Centre at the University of Texas in Austin as well as the lively cultural scene of Austin. Kenneth Keslinger, the president of Theatre Library Association (TLA) is introduced, as this conference will be jointly organized with TLA. Kenneth Keslinger presents TLA and its membership mainly American students, librarians, archivists, scholars, and curators brought together by the practice of performing arts. 2012 will be the 20th anniversary of TLA, a great way to celebrate by joining interests with SIBMAS. TLA has published documents on the documentation of costume designs and is preparing another one on the documentation on set designs.

The conference will be held early to mid-June, date to be confirmed soon. This will mark the second collaboration of SIBMAS and TLA, the first one happened in 1985.

Regarding the 2014 Conference, two propositions have been put forward but need to be confirmed by the administrations. Claire Hudson reiterates that



for any institutions interested in hosting a future conference, they should not hesitate to ask her any question.

9) Other Business

Claire Hudson thanks Claudia Blank for organising the conference as well as on her 14 years involvement with SIBMAS, as she is standing down from the ExCom and presents a gift from the ExCom. Claudia Blank thanks all present for their participation and gives her deep appreciation to her team at the Deutch Theatre Museum who have made this possible.

Claire Hudson invites the new president to give a few words. Winrich Meiszies confides that he was surprised but honoured to be asked to run for president. He formulates his vision of the work to come by 2 questions to the participants: Are you proud of being a SIBMAS member and do you show it? Does being a SIBMAS member changes your daily life?

Winrich Meiszies offers thanks to Claire Hudson as well as Jan Van Goethem for their hard work as they are both standing down and offers a gift, as vanishing as theatre...

Meeting is adjourned at 10:25am.

President

Secretary