

## **Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held in Verona, on 4 August 2022 at 16:15-17:30**

Chair: Ecaterina Lung, Secretary: Jasmin Lukkari, Treasurer: Liisa Lalu



### **TOP 1 Opening of the AGM**

Alessandro Arcangeli and Ecaterina Lung, the Chair of the committee, open the meeting at 16:36.

### **TOP 2 Reception of the report of the committee**

Ecaterina Lung presents the report of the committee: it can be downloaded on the website ([link](#)). The report presents the current composition of the committee, the essay prize committee, journal editors, book series editors, the new contract with EUP that allows the ISCH to buy only digital copies of the journal for the members, the new design of the ISCH website, the new partnership with the South African Society for Cultural History, and the latest issues of the journal and of the book series. New annual membership fees starting from 2023 are presented: 50€ for the waged and 30€ for the unwaged. Higher fees are necessary for example because of constantly rising costs for the journal, increasing PayPal fees, and inflation. It will still be possible to pay for a discounted 3- or 5-year membership.

### **TOP 3 Reception of the treasurer's report**

The treasurer Liisa Lalu presents the financial report of the society for 2021. The year was difficult for the society financially because there were very few membership payments because of the lack of a conference in presence (pandemic) and the journal fees kept running normally. Donations helped the ISCH to get through the two pandemic years, during which the society used all its reserve money to pay for the journal. Opening balance on January 1, 2021, was 4976,16€, and during the year the expenditures were higher than the income, amounting into a loss of 2405,79€. The closing balance on 31 December, 2021, was very low: 2570,37€. The treasurer's report was audited and accepted.

Verona conference has been very successful and will help to restabilize the financial situation at least temporarily. A few years will be necessary to rebuild the reserves.

### **TOP 4 Reception of the report of the editorial board of the society's journal**

Christopher Forth, the chief editor of the journal, presents the report. The journal's editorial board remains the same. The journal is doing great: downloads have increased from 15000 in 2020 to 28000 in 2021. The October issue will be a themed issue on Chinese theme parks. The April issue will be open and is already full. There is still space in the October issue which also is an open issue. Chris encourages the members to suggest more themed issues for the journal.

## **TOP 5 Reception of any other reports esteemed necessary by the committee**

### **a) Publication series**

The newest publications were already presented in the committee report.

### **b) The ISCH conference 2023**

Ecaterina presents the venue for the 2023 conference. We had two offers: Singapore and Baku. Mainly because Singapore is only possible in 2023 (joined conference with the SGNCS - Society for Global Nineteenth Century Studies), the committee agreed to accept the offer from Singapore. Kevin Morrison, who organised the New York conference in 2018, will organise the Singapore conference as well. Kevin presents his proposal via Zoom. The conference dates are 19-22 June 2023. The theme of the SGNCS conference is “Comparative Empires -Conflict, Competition, and Cooperation, 1750-1914”. Their conference’s website is: <https://www.sgnscscongress.com/> It remains to be decided which will be the conference theme for the ISCH. “Cultural histories of empires” is suggested: this ties well together with the SGNCS conference but allows a wide chronological framework appropriate for an ISCH conference. Plenaries, social activities, and workshops would be shared. Only one membership payment and registration fee will be required to attend both conferences. Kevin will find out what the online options are as soon as possible. Singapore has visa-free access. Josephine Hoegaerts notes that June will be difficult to many who teach. Alessandro Arcangeli emphasises that online option would be very important. Kevin says that also separate meetings for SGNCS and ISCH are possible, but logistically and financially it is much better to have a combined conference. More information about the conference will be announced soon.

### **c) Internet activity**

The secretary Jasmin Lukkari presents to the members different ways to keep connected with the ISCH throughout the year: the website, the newsletter (801 subscribers: this year, conference registration was integrated with newsletter subscription), Facebook page (2297 followers), unofficial Facebook group (208 members), Twitter (1052 followers), and the Culthist-mailing list that is not managed by the ISCH. Follower numbers in social media are steadily growing. Launching an ISCH Instagram account will be considered in the future. Members are encouraged to send their calls for papers, publications, etc., to the ISCH (isch@culthist.net), to be publicized on these channels.

## **TOP 6 Reception of the chair’s report on the call for the election of members for the committee**

Ecaterina announces the new committee members for a three-year term. There were four open positions and only four eligible people applied, so elections were not necessary. The new committee members are Alessandro Arcangeli (Verona) and Hannu Salmi (Turku) who are returning members, and Jukka Kortti (Helsinki) and Anna-Leena Perämäki (Turku) who are new members. They will take the place of the following retiring committee members: Heta Aali (11 years in the committee), Maria Neklyudova (4 years), Marina Montesano (4 years), and Marek Tamm (5 years). Ecaterina encourages ISCH members to apply to the committee next year, as there will be open positions.

## **TOP 7 Essay Prize competition**

Alessandro Arcangeli, the chair of the essay prize committee, suggests that essay prize be reformed somehow because there are so few submissions every year. Josephine Hoegaerts, who is in the prize committee as well, reminds that the purpose of the prize is to support early career scholars. It would also be good if the prize committee included some junior scholars. The public is invited to suggest how this prize could be made more attractive. One alternative to the essay prize could be a thesis prize or a book prize for example. This is attractive to early career scholars, because all of them are already writing/have written a thesis, but this would produce lots of work for the prize committee. Also, it would not be fair to those who write their theses/books in languages other than English. Josephine suggests a second alternative: that the prize could be awarded for the best presentation at the ISCH conferences. Anna Brunton says that in some conferences they leave pieces of paper in each room for audience to vote anonymously. The decision could also be left to the committee, and the willing presenters could register to the competition in advance. We will continue to consider the alternatives.

### **TOP 8 Other issues**

Anton Carl Van Vollenhoven from the South African Society for Cultural History (that has begun partnership with the ISCH from 2022) tells about their society. Their journal *South African Journal of Cultural History* mainly focuses on African Cultural History. They are now trying to internationalise their society and invite people from outside Africa to their journal editorial board, for example. He encourages more collaboration between the two societies.

### **TOP 9 Closing of the AGM**

Ecaterina closes the AGM at 17:35.