

Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc.
Meeting Minutes
27 June 1982

Board Members Present: Staff Members Present: Others Present:

Larry Mannion, Chair Cliveden Chew Haas, Guy K. Haas
Carol Bowman-Porter Corporate Secretary Woody Hendrick
Henrik Olsgaard
Tracie Brown
Michael Woodford

The meeting was called to order at 1:30 pm at the house of Cliveden Chew Haas.

I. Establishing the Agenda: The agenda was approved as corrected.

II. Approval of Minutes:

M/s/c Carol-Henrik to approve the 8 June Minutes as corrected.

III. Reports:

A. Steward: She has contacted the group in Australia and recommended that they and the potential group in New Zealand work through the Steward's office for a while, rather than trying to do everything through one of the established Kingdoms. There has been some problem coordinating letter writing and responses to their questions, as they are so far away.

The meeting of Kingdom Seneschals will be held 4-5 December 1982 in Houston.

M/s/c Henrik-Carol as per the Steward's recommendation the SCA shall acquire travel cards for Board members who must travel to meetings by air, and for the Steward.

The Secretary will write Exchequer to acquire the cards. They should be specific to the individual and for North American use only.

The Steward recommended that the Board move quickly in the direction of raising membership fees to \$15; sharing with Kingdom coffers, and increasing newsletter monies, requiring membership for participation; and providing insurance coverage as part of the members' benefits.

Membership requirements and fees will be discussed at the 29 August meeting. The Steward, Registrar, Chroniclers, and Legal Committee should all prepare backup material for the Board discussing the future needs of the Society.

B. Exchequer: No formal report. Henrik will help Gordon prepare the office to send to the Deputy Chancellor of the Exchequer (Shelly Stone) as soon as possible. The year-end report for 1981 has not yet been presented.

C. Registrar: We continue to process more memberships each month than the proceeding. The new pamphlet series has been added to the Patron memberships and the first issue labels have been run.

D. Marshal: No report.

E. Chroniclers: T.I. should be out by late June. The Fall issue should be mailed on schedule about August 20th. The Board discussed the continuing lateness of T.I. We have already run afoul of Postal regulations once due to late issues, the Registry finds it difficult to produce updated labels after the mailing date has been missed, and members who have paid for T.I. are entitled to receive it promptly on the published schedule (and complain vociferously when they don't!). Some of the difficulty of keeping T.I. on schedule appears to be caused by the split production responsibilities, with copy travelling back and forth between the editorial offices and paste-up in Pennsylvania and typesetting, printing, and mailing in Texas.

The Board agreed by consensus to recommend that the production of T.I. be moved under the direct supervision of the Chroniclers. The Secretary is instructed to write.

The Board directs the Exchequer to set up an account for production of THE COMPLEAT ANACHRONIST as convenient for Exchequer and the editors. The Board authorized a 1000 print run originally, and all reasonable expenditures should be paid and a proper accounting kept.

M/s/c Henrik-Carol As per the recommendation of the National Chroniclers, reprint 500 copies of the Caerthan Heraldry Symposium, to be sold at \$6.00 each book rate.

F. Arts: No report.

G. Sciences: No report. The Steward is requested to write the Master of Sciences and remind him that regular reports are required of all Corporate Officers by the Board.

H. Herald: Bill Keyes' warrant expires this month. This led to a discussion of the procedure for appointing Corporate Officers. The Board needs to set a procedure for filling vacancies which includes a public search. There may be interested and qualified members willing to serve as a Corporate Officer who are not known to the Board nor to the current office-holder. It would be useful

to establish a standard term of office. The Steward is requested to inform the Board of expiration dates of current terms of office. They might be made a part of the phone and address list of officers which she keeps and sends out. (In a side note, the Board noted that it would be an excellent idea for the list to go to all people on it, including the crowns of the various kingdoms.) The Board would like to be informed of expiration dates of Corporate office terms 6 months in advance, to allow time for a public search.

Although the above discussion grew out of the necessity for rewarranting Bill Keyes, the Board had no hesitation in doing so, as he has been doing an excellent job and is willing to continue.

M/s/c Henrik-Mike (Unanimous) to rewarrant Bill Keyes (master Wilhelm von Schlüssel) as Laurel King of Arms for a period of 2 years from this date.

Henrik will inform Bill.

The Board requests Laurel to be more careful in his choice of words in his reports, as several times some confusion has arisen over what is and is not his interpretation. In Laurel's report of 5/25/82, pp. 3-4, a quote from the Board regarding when an award is official causes some problems. The quote runs "An award is legal when the Sovereign or the Sovereign's authorized representative bestows the award at an official SCA event and announces the award to the populace." The quote from the Board stops at this point, but is not so marked, and the rest of the paragraph is Laurel's interpretation, though it appears to be from the Board.

I. Chirurgeon: No report.

J. Legal Committee: The Legal Committee of the Board of Directors (Henrik Olsgaard, Chair, Larry Mannion, Carol Bowman-Porter, Cliveden Chew Haas, and Yoko Olsgaard) presented a written report. Among the tasks assigned to the Committee by the Board were:

1. Legal audit and preparation of procedures manual for the Society as a whole.
2. Investigation and recommendation as to national and international insurance coverage for the Society.
3. Determination of the real need for establishing legal status in other states and countries.
4. Recommendation as to the types and wording of waivers.

The Committee contacted Mr. Luther Avery, the attorney retained by the Board, for guidance as to the above.

It has also begun collection of contributions from experienced people relative to developing procedures manuals for principal offices in the SCA. The Committee is working with a major insurance broker to formulate an insurance program to protect the Society and its members in appropriate areas.

The Committee made the following interim recommendations:

1. The SCA drop the registration in other states and work as "unofficially" as feasible in other countries. Legal counsel recommends that incorporation or registration of a non-profit organization within each of a multitude of governmental jurisdictions serves no useful purpose. It merely adds restrictions, work, and costs.
2. The Committee and the SCA obtain a proposal for national insurance coverage through Johnson and Higgins. Legal counsel has advised on areas where we should be insured.
3. The Committee will rewrite the current general and fighting waivers and show to the insurance brokers, but will discourage any tendency toward excessive legal language. The use of waivers by the Society is desirable, although they are not legally binding documents. They should be short, easily understandable, and in accordance with the principles and psychology of the Society.

M/s/c Carol-Mike (unanimous) As per the recommendation of the Legal Committee and Mr. Avery that the effort to register the SCA in states and foreign countries be abolished.

The Secretary will inform the various legal agents.

IV. Routine Business

- A. Changes in Status: none.
- B. Legal Agents:

M/s/c Carol-Tracie (unanimous) To remove Legal Agent as an item in Routine Business.

- C. Establishing the Next Meeting: The next two meetings will be 1 August and 29 August, both at 1:00 pm, both at the house of Cliveden Chew Haas.

V. Old Business

- A. Vuong Manh Petitions: The Board examined the various petitions and letters received since September 1981. The original cause of complaint was the position of the Laurel King of Arms on the subject of reserved titles, particularly

his suggestion that bearers of Grants of Arms be called Squires. The Board noted that the position of Laurel on this and other issues has changed since the petitions started coming. The Secretary is directed to write Vuong Manh (Dick Eney) and request him to send the Board a resume of the current status of his complaint for the Board to consider. In particular, they wish to know whether Laurel has satisfied his complaint, or whether some problem still remains.

B. Registry Computer: Cliveden and Guy presented their final recommendation to the Board for the purchase of a computer system. After much research into the various systems available, especially considering the size and complexity of the files maintained by the Registry and the sophisticated programming already written, they found that the \$18,000 originally allocated by the Board would not be enough. They recommended the Board purchase Convergent Technologies IWS 111. Total system cost, including central processor, keyboard and screen, 10 megabyte disk, floppy diskette, streamer tape backup, 2 phone modems, ANSI 74 COBOL Level 2, ISAM/Sort package, word processing software package, one high-speed printer, one high-quality printer, work station furniture, and chair, is estimated at \$27,000.

M/s/c Carol-Henrik (unanimous) Than an additional \$9,000 be allocated for completion of the computer system acquisition as recommended by the Corporate Office.

The terms of purchase will be worked out by the combined efforts of the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the Corporate Office. This purchase will free the Society from its dependence on donated computer time and permit full development of an extended data base. This system has the potential to permit remote access for other Corporate and Kingdom officers and could be available to SCA branches and officers through the Corporate Office.

C. Board Comments on the EARL MARSHAL'S RULEBOOK: No written comments were handed in. The Board members will complete their review of the proposed text and send written comments to Cliveden by 15 July for distribution to the Board members, Steward, and Earl Marshal.

VI. New Business

A. Resignation of Knighthood: The resignations of Sir Frea Geardson and Sir Dragomyr Androvitch Donskoil from the Order of Knighthood were accepted by the Board.

B. Membership Requirements for Holding Office: Robert Himmelsbach (Geoffrey d'Ayr, Seneschal of the East) and Andrew Sigel (Lord Colin Andras) had both written the Board inquiring about an apparent conflict between membership requirements for holding office expressed in the BY-LAWS II.1.e. (page 2) and in CORPORA VI.A.1.b. (page 13). The BY-LAWS state that Associate Membership conveys the right to hold office in the Society (other than Kingdom Great Offices of State, the Crown or Coronet, and heads of Corporate Offices). CORPORA states that each competitor in the Crown Lists and each prospective consort shall be a member of the Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc. Each such member shall either be an associate or family member with immediate access to newsletters provided by a subscribing membership, or shall themselves be a sustaining, contributing, or patron member.

Much discussion followed concerning the philosophy and *raison d'etre* of SCA membership requirements. It was generally agreed that membership requirements need to be tightened. The Society is becoming too large to function as an informal "backyard" organization, and national and international liability insurance will require a stricter control over membership regulations.

An informal poll taken by Larry at the June Crown Tournament of the West (of unfamiliar faces) showed 58% were members by their own statement.

Eventually the following changes were made to the BY-LAWS:

M/s/c Henrik-Mike (unanimous) that the following change be made to the BY-LAWS:

II.1.e. Associate Membership. Conveys the right to *participate in Society activities*.

M/s/c Tracie-Mike (unanimous) that the following change be made to the BY-LAWS:

II.3. While all *attendees at the Society's activities* are encouraged to become members, dues-paying membership is a requirement for office-holders, and for *entrance in Crown or Coronet Lists*. *Attendance at tourneys, revels, re-creations, or other Society events* does not require membership.

Membership requirements and membership fees will be placed on the 29 August agenda. The Secretary will contact the Steward, Chancellor of the Exchequer, Registrar, and National Chroniclers and request them to prepare background reports for the Board discussions.

C. Copier Purchase for Corporate Office: Cliveden presented the results of her investigation into the feasibility of purchasing a copier for the Corporate Office. We are currently running around 1000 copies per month at 5-7¢ apiece. Leasing a copier at that volume is quite expensive. She recommended the purchase of an Olivetti 1450 which will easily handle 5000 copies per month. A Good Deal had been worked out with Intercept Copiers and Supplies.

M/s/c Carol-Mike (unanimous) To allot \$2654.17 for the purchase of an Olivetti 1450 copier.

The Board decided by consensus to hold the Executive Session at this time. Carol then left the meeting.

D. Steward's Office Contract Proposal: The Steward has proposed that due to the heavy workload of her office she devote full time to the duties of the Steward's Office for a contract of \$1000.00 per month. There was general agreement that the Steward needs to be compensated for the time and responsibilities of the Office, as it has grown too large for a purely volunteer staff. Although agreeing in principle, the Board felt that the proposal as presented was rather informal and spread out and needed crystallizing. They were interested in a better understanding of the amount of time to be paid for and how it will be spent, what the various tasks entail, etc.

M/s/c Mike-Tracie (unanimous) to compensate the Steward on a contractual basis on the basis of the proposal submitted at \$750.00 per month for a period of 3 months.

A revised proposal may be submitted anytime.

E. Newsletter Announcement: Cliveden presented an announcement to be sent to the newsletters regarding the action taken by the Board on the various proposals presented by the Laurel King of Arms for public comment. After some discussion, an amended version was agreed upon. Cliveden will confer with Sandra to get her approval, and the announcement will be sent to the newsletters.

VII. Communications

A. Catherine Rogers-Cook: She wrote recommending that membership be a requirement for participation in the activities of the SCA. "It seems to me that . . . no one should be able to . . . influence the SCA who is not a dues-paying member. It is well and good for people who wish only to attend events and be passive

spectators of them to be allowed to attend so long as they pay their site fees, behave themselves properly and wear a costume. However, when a person takes an active role in his or her branch, that person owes it to all of the other members to commit to the group at least to the extent of an associate membership. If the person takes an or any official position, however small, sustaining membership is an obligation."

She recommended that membership be required to register as the head of a household, to hold any office whatsoever, to receive any award whatsoever, to attend or give counsel at any Peers' circle, any award advisory circle, or any ruler's council, and that no should should be given the precedence, rank or status of any awards they have been given in the past or which they have won who is not a member.

The Secretary will write expressing the Board's thanks for her letter and that events are moving in this direction.

B. Les Berkley (William Widefarer: He wrote inquiring whether the Board has an official position on the end date of the Society period. He noted that the Laurel King of Arms has stated that "the cutoff of the SCA is January 1, 1601" yet the same T.I. which carried this statement had news of a forthcoming Cavalier pamphlet. Talking with people who either were "there in the beginning" or claim certain knowledge of those days brings forth as many different storied about the choice of the "traditional" date of 1650 and the "official" Pre-17th C. wording as there are informants.

The Board referred him to the Articles of Incorporation (re-published in T.I. t63):

- II. The purposes for which this corporation is formed are:
 - a} Specifically and primarily, research, education and advancement in the field of pre-17th century Western Culture. . . .

and to Corpora:

II. MEETINGS OF THE MEMBERSHIP

E. Anyone may attend events of the Society for Creative Anachronism, Incorporated, provided he or she is willing to wear pre-17th century dress of any period or culture . . . and behave as a lady or gentleman. No one shall be admitted to Society events who is not in pre-17th century dress, or who has not made some attempt at pre-17th century dress, the acceptability of such attempt to be judged ultimately by the Crown.

Page 9
27 June 1982

VIII. Executive Session

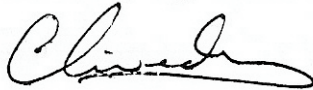
The Board announced it has granted to Carol Bowman-Porter a leave of absence at her request until November 1982.

IX. Summary and dissemination

Cliveden will send Sandra a copy of her notes.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 pm.

Written by my hand for the Board of Directors,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Cliveden", written in a cursive style.

Cliveden Chew Haas/Lady Cliveden de Cheux
Corporate Secretary

Letters on Change to Rules of the List Received by June 18, 1982:

Gerald and Carol O'Leary
Charles Henry Osborn
William and Nadine Colbert