

International Berkeley Society
Annual Meeting
Saturday, 20 January 2007
Whitehall, Middletown, Rhode Island

Officers present: Dr. Stephen Daniel [president], Dr. Timo Airaksinen [vice president], Dr. Louis Alfonso [past president], Dr. Nancy Kendrick [secretary-treasurer], Ms. Amy Garrison [recording secretary], Ms. Maureen Lapan [archivist].

Members present: Mr. Vince Arnold, Mrs. William (Nancy) Bredbeck, Mrs. Stephen (Breaux) Daniel, Mr. Richard Dunlap, Mrs. Richard (Joanne) Dunlap, Mr. Richard Grosvenor, Mrs. Richard (Margot) Grosvenor, Ms. Marvis Humphries, Mrs. Theodore (Fun) Jenkins.

Welcome and Call to Order. The Society was welcomed to Whitehall by Mrs. Grosvenor, president of the National Society of The Colonial Dames of America in the State of Rhode Island. Dr. Daniel then called the meeting to order.

Minutes. It was noted that the date “2996” should be corrected to 2006 in the previous year’s minutes. A motion to dispense with the reading of the minutes and to pass them was passed unanimously.

Officers. To regularize the term of the president with that of the other officers, Dr. Daniel resigned as president. The following persons were then unanimously elected as the new officers of the Society:

- Dr. Stephen Daniel [president]
- Dr. Timo Airaksinen [vice president]
- Dr. Nancy Kendrick [secretary-treasurer]
- Dr. Genevieve Migely [membership secretary]
- Ms. Amy Garrison [recording secretary]
- Dr. Maureen Lapan [archivist]
- Dr. Margaret Atherton [philosophy associations coordinator].

The president noted that the Society is indeed an international organization with members from around the globe. He also noted that members had traveled from afar to be present: Boston, Texas, and Finland.

Thanks. The Society has a long list of contributors and activists to thank for their work on the Society’s behalf:

- Mrs. Nancy Bredbeck, who is also chairwoman of the Colonial Dames’ Whitehall committee, for her hard work on behalf of the Society
- Dr. Genevieve Migley (Cornell College, Iowa) for her work for the membership
- Dr. Margaret Atherton (University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee) for her coordination of the philosophy associations program
- Dr. Maureen Lapan for her efforts as the IBS secretary-treasurer

- Mrs. Curtis (Dana) Magee for her years of labor as the IBS recording secretary, with the Society's best wishes for a speedy recovery
- Mrs. Jonanne Dunlap for her exceptionally devoted and long service as the membership secretary
- The Colonial Dames of America for opening Whitehall to the Society for its annual meeting
- Cornell College (Iowa) and Texas A&M University for absorbing the mailing costs and thereby saving the Society hundreds of dollars. The Recording Secretary will write the colleges to thank them for this support
- Dr. Jeff McConnell of Tufts University thanked the Society for making Whitehall's papers available for the Harvard Extension course he teaches

A resolution to express the Society's appreciation for the long service of Mrs. Dunlap, Mrs. McGee, and Dr. Lapan was passed unanimously.

In Memoriam. The death of former Society president Ian C. Tipton in February 2006 was noted with sadness. The President reported that Professor Tipton received a plaque from the Society the day before he died. Another loss to the Society was Colin M. Turbayne, an early supporter of the Society who died only a few months (May 2006) after Professor Tipton.

Reports

- Treasurer - Dr. Kendrick provided the Society's financial report. She also discussed the Study Center Books. An inventory will be conducted to determine which books belong to the Society and which to Whitehall
- Membership - Through the efforts of the Secretary, the membership has been culled and approximately 15 names have been dropped. At the same time, about 15 new people have joined. The members present suggested that college departments of literature, philosophy, and history be approached to increase interest and membership. Faculty members were urged to encourage their students to visit Whitehall and become Society members.

Old Business

- The Society sponsored a session at the American Philosophical Association Eastern Division meeting in December in Washington, D.C. Two papers were presented. There were 40 attendees.
- The Society will sponsor conferences at the following venues in the upcoming years:
 - 2007 - August - Helsinki, Finland
 - 2007 - September - Gaeta, Italy
 - 2008 - 3rd or 4th week of October - Newport, Rhode Island, USA
 - 2009 - Neuchâtel, France
 - 2010 - Karlsruhe, Germany

New Business

- Dr. Kendrick asked for the IBS to help with her Modern Philosophers course
- Mrs. Dunlap is seeking Philosophers in Residence for 2008
- Resident scholars need internet connectivity. Because cable service to the area has not been established, Verizon DSL access was investigated. DSL requires no intrusion into the house, only a box for wireless connection. The costs are \$30 to set up the service and either \$60 monthly to pay for both a domain name and security or \$40 monthly to pay for access without a name and security. Non-invasive DSL access would cost the society approximately \$300 each summer. Dr. Kendrick moved that the Society provide \$300 monthly for non-invasive DSL connectivity during the summer. Her motion was passed unanimously.
- Mrs. Bredbeck reported that the Colonial Dames had received grants from the Rhode Island Historical Preservation and Heritage Commission and from the Champlin Foundation for roof work and for interior painting at Whitehall. The work should be completed in February. She also noted that the Colonial Dames has applied for a climate-control grant, and she asked that the Society to consider helping with the Whitehall electric bill if costs increase. The members voted unanimously to assist, if needed.
- The 2008 Conference in Newport was discussed extensively. Recommendations included:
 - seeking participation from Yale Divinity School and Naval War College Historian Dr. John Hattendorf
 - expanding interest beyond philosophy and using Berkeley's influence on economics, architecture and house design, art history, metaphysics, botany and gardening, and history as a draw
 - modeling the conference along the lines used by Salem State College's annual Darwin Festival; and ensuring that the burdens of programming and funding not be placed solely on the Rhode Island members

By summer 2007, the Society should have a better idea of the time and venue for the Conference.

- The upcoming conferences in Helsinki and Gaeta were discussed. It was reported that at earlier such conferences, the Society had donated \$400 for a reception. Dr. Lapan moved that the Society provide \$400 each for a reception at these conferences; the motion passed unanimously.
- Mrs. Dunlap moved that the Study Center allot Berkeley Scholarship money be used for publishing. Her motion was passed unanimously.
- Copies of the study guide booklet for the Rhode Island PBS production "Dean of Thin Air" were available.

- Subvention fees for two volumes of essays were discussed. The collections (edited by Stephen Daniel) grew out of presentations made at the Society-sponsored conference at Texas A&M University in 2003. Humanity/Prometheus Books is requiring a \$4,000 subvention fee to publish *New Interpretations of Berkeley's Thought* as part of its *Journal of the History of Philosophy* Books series. Fortunately, funds have been found to pay the fee. Similarly, the University of Toronto Press is requiring a \$5,000 Canadian (\$4,250 US) to publish *Reexamining Berkeley's Philosophy*. The UT Press often covers such costs for Canadian authors, but none of the essayists in the collection are Canadian. Dr. Alfonso moved that \$500 be provided from the General Fund for the UT Press subvention. His motion was passed unanimously.

In closing, Mrs. Bredbeck toasted the Berkeleys, welcoming them to New England.

The meeting was adjourned following unanimous agreement.

Respectfully submitted,

(Ms.) A. L. Garrison
Recording Secretary