



**Society for the Study of Early Modern Women**

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting**

Sixteenth Century Society and Conference

Fort Worth, Texas

Saturday, October 29, 2011

Following the Plenary Address

**“Towards a Visual History of Early Modern Workers:  
Images of Female Servants”**

by Diane Wolfthal,

David and Caroline Minter Professor of Art History, Rice University

1. President Pamela Benson welcomed those present and introduced the EMW officers.
2. **The minutes** of the meeting of Thursday, October 14, 2010 at the Sixteenth Century Society and Conference, Montreal, were approved.

The memorial red book was circulated. 35 members were present.

**3. President’s Report**

- President Benson announced that the Executive Committee had discussed the implications of the new scheduling of the Attending to Women conference in June for EMW programs and meetings, and that the committee had decided to meet at Sixteenth Century Society and Conference in the future. The next General Meeting therefore will be at SCSC in Cincinnati in October 2012.
- Although EMW will not hold annual meetings at ATW, they will establish an informal presence at ATW in June 2012, and will seek ways to be formally represented at subsequent ATW conferences.

***EMWJ* Report**

President Benson invited Mihoko Suzuki, Anne J. Cruz, and Mary Lindemann, editors of *Early Modern Women: An Interdisciplinary Journal*, to report.

- The editors reported that the Center for Humanities at the University of Miami assumed editorship of the journal in June 2011.
- The former editors, Adele Seeff, Jane Donawerth, and Diane Wolfthal, have instituted a prize of \$1,000 for the best article published in each volume of *EMWJ*.
- The last volume edited by the former editors, Volume 6, should have appeared by now and will do so soon.
- The current editors are at work on Volume 7, which has a forum topic on transculturalism.
- Volume 8 will revisit Joan Kelly’s article, “Did Women Have a Renaissance” on the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its publication.

- The Medieval, Renaissance, and Baroque Symposium at the University of Miami will celebrate the appearance of Volume 7 with a meeting in February 2013.

#### **4. Vice-President's Report**

- Allyson Poska reported on EMW-sponsored sessions in 2011: one at AHA; 5 at RSA; 6 at SCSC; one at the Canadian Society for Renaissance Studies; and one at CAA.
- She encouraged those members who are also members of other organizations to present any opportunities for sponsored sessions to President Benson her Vice-President Poska.
- With President Benson, Vice-President Poska presented four Graduate Student Travel Assistant Awards to Amy Rogers Hays, Silvia Mitchell, Colleen Kennedy, and Michelle Beer.

#### **5. Web-mistress' Report**

In the absence of Karen Nelson, web-mistress, President Benson presented her report.

- President Benson noted that the listserv is undersubscribed and she encouraged members to self-subscribe using the link on the SSEMW website ([www.ssemw.org](http://www.ssemw.org)).
- She confirmed that one does not have to be a member of EMW to be on the listserv.
- She reported that students at UMD are working on updating the SSEMW website, and that Karen will monitor the results.

#### **6. Treasurer's report**

In the absence of Nancy Gutierrez, Treasurer, President Benson presented her report.

- Membership in EMW is down from a high of 346 in 2009 to 278 in 2010, and down again to 222 current members in 2011.
- President Benson reported that the Executive Committee had discussed the need to make membership forms and promotional flyers available at all EMW sponsored sessions, particularly those at affiliated organizations.
- In response to a question from the floor, President Benson stated that no membership forms were available at the General Meeting, but that new members may join or existing members may renew their membership through the SSEMW website at [www.ssems.org](http://www.ssems.org).

#### **7. Nominating Committee Report**

In the absence of the Committee Chair, Amy Froide, Secretary Patricia Phillippy presented her report.

- The slate has been filled and was approved by the Executive Committee.
- Ballots will go forward before November 15, and that they should be returned by December 15, so that newly elected members can assume their roles by or shortly after January 1, 2012.
- Secretary Phillippy read the slate and asked for nominations from the floor. There were none. She encouraged members who might wish to put a name into nomination to speak to her or to President Benson at the reception following the General Meeting.

#### **8. Awards Committee Report**

In the absence of the Committee Chair, Andrea Tarnowski, Secretary Phillippy presented her report.

- With President Benson, Secretary Phillippy read the names of award winners and presented awards to those present (Margaret Hannay, Paula McQuade, Allyson Poska, and Catherine Richardson and Nancy Warren for Caroline Bicks and Jennifer Summit).

## 9. Old business

There was no old business.

## 10. New business

- Merry Wiesner-Hanks encouraged members to give her their email addresses if they wish to receive information on the Attending to Women conference scheduled for June 2012.
- Jane Donawerth proposed that there should be a membership vote on the EC decision to hold EMW meetings at SCSC only. She stressed that there is always a membership boost when the EMW General Meeting is held at ATW. General discussion ensued, during which it was noted that both the Awards deadlines and budget were affected by the change of schedule of ATW. The suggestion was made that the presentation of awards could be separated from the General Meeting. Vice-President Poska ensured members that there was an intent to find other ways besides the General Meeting to represent EMW at ATW. Jane Donawerth stressed that there had been an ongoing effort over the years to strengthen the links between ATW, EMW, and *EMWJ* and she expressed her concern that this decision would adversely affect this effort.
- Through a vote of members present, it was decided that a ballot will be sent via the listserv to poll the membership on whether or not EMW should move all meetings to SCSC or should continue to meet at ATW. President Benson will work with members to decide what explanatory materials, if any, should be included with the ballot.

## 11. Adjournment at 6:30 p.m. and move to a well-attended reception.