

International Courtly Literature Society-NAB, Annual Business Meeting,
Kalamazoo MI, 8 May, 2008
Meeting Minutes

1. President Maureen Boulton called the meeting to order at 9:02 PM.
2. Meeting minutes from the ICLS-NAB meeting at Kalamazoo 2007 were approved by unanimous vote of the membership.
3. President Boulton announced vacancies on the Advisory Board by noting that, in principle, there are three vacancies. When Joe Sullivan took over as Secretary/Treasurer in May 2007, no one was elected to replace him on the board. Additionally, the terms of two members, Paul Rockwell and Kristen Burr, end this year, but they are graciously willing to serve another term if that is agreeable to the membership. If not, they will step down. The membership then unanimously approved extending Paul Rockwell and Kristin Burr as Advisory Board members for 2008-2011. Christopher Callahan of Illinois Wesleyan University was nominated and elected to fill the remaining board position for 2008-2011.
4. President Boulton reported on MLA 2007 and Kalamazoo 2008 sessions and noted:
 - A. One of our two 2007 MLA sessions was cancelled at the last minute in November 2007 because of ICLS-NAB participation in the cash bar cosponsored by the International Arthurian Society and the Société Rencesvals. MLA had counted the cash bar as our second session.
 - B. For MLA 2008, President Boulton asked Dan O'Sullivan to reorganize his session on "Romance and Hypertext." With the agreement of the organizers, she conflated the other two sessions approved at our Kalamazoo 2007 meeting, "Courtly Paradise" and "Courtly Hells," into a single session, "Courtly Heavens & Courtly Hells." She has also done her best to ensure that we are not listed for the cash bar.
 - C. Just before the 2007 MLA meeting, ICLS-NAB became aware that the MLA is proposing to limit Allied Organizations, like ICLS, to one session and to allow them compete for a second session. With the approval of the Advisory Board, ICLS-NAB joined in a response formulated by the Spenser Society to oppose such a move. To date, President Boulton has heard nothing back from the MLA. Therefore, tonight she invites proposals for two MLA 2009 sessions.
 - D. ICLS-NAB sponsored three sessions at Kalamazoo this year, "Courtly Paradigms," "Parodies of Courtliness," and "Troubadours in the 21st Century." President Boulton noted that there was some difficulty filling these sessions and encouraged the membership to participate more enthusiastically.
5. Two sessions resolved unanimously for MLA 2009:

Courtly Display, organized by Maureen Boulton.
Transgression at Court, organized by Albrecht Classen
6. Kalamazoo Sessions for 2009 (3 sessions):

Courtly Encyclopedias, organized by Michelle Bolduc (9 votes)
Chivalry & Courtliness, organized by Carol Dover (9 votes)
Translation & Adaptation of Courtly Literature, organized by Chris Callahan (10 votes)

Other topic: Friendship at Court proposed by Albrecht Classen (3 votes)

7. Secretary-Treasurer's Report: Secretary Sullivan reported that ICLS-NAB finances are healthy.

A. ICLS-NAB began May 2007 with \$18,916.17 in its US account and 956.50 Canadian dollars in its Canadian account. Since our last meeting, we have closed the Canadian account and consolidated our branch's funds in a single U.S. account that accepts both U.S. and Canadian currencies. As of this meeting, ICLS-NAB has a balance of \$19,810.19.

B. Income from membership dues since our last meeting was \$4,994.03. This is approximately 20% more than the previous year and reflects the 20% increase instituted for 2008 dues. As part of that change to the dues schedule, Canadian members now pay the same numerical amount in Canadian dollars as U.S. members pay in U.S. dollars. This standardization in dues amounts reflects the near parity between the U.S. and Canadian dollars.

C. Expenses included: postage and supplies \$192.00; MLA 2007 cash bar \$59.00; Encomia \$4,700.00; banking wire-transfer fees \$58.57.

D. To date, 152 members have paid 2008 dues. This compares favorably to 2007, in which 153 members paid dues. However, there is a downward trend in membership. For instance, 180 members paid dues in 2006, 176 in 2005, and 190 in 2004. Sullivan will likely send out a late dues notice by e-mail this summer in an effort to increase the number of members paying 2008 dues.

8. Encomia Report: Sam Rosenberg

The effort to annualize the publication of Encomia continues. Thus the double-volume, 29/30, should appear in December 2008 or January 2009. At that point the bibliographical information should be, as planned, only two years behind the cover date.

The expansion of the reviews section, which has been well received, continues. Rosenberg encouraged members to recommend books for review and to let him know if they themselves would like to review.

While no concrete steps have been undertaken to offer Encomia as a searchable database, the Executive Committee has begun to talk about it. Some European branches have also expressed interest in such a resource. At some point it might be possible to offer print and searchable-database versions of Encomia. It might also be possible to offer a CD version of Encomia after about five years have elapsed since our last version of Encomia on CD.

Walter Blue asked what he could do with the 19 boxes of Encomia back-issues he is holding at his university. Rosenberg will consult the Executive Committee and propose a solution.

9. Other Business: The membership decided to defer until next year's meeting a decision on whether to keep our Kalamazoo cash bar.

10. President Boulton adjourned the meeting at 9:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Joseph M. Sullivan
Secretary/Treasurer ICLS-NAB