

Plainsong and Medieval Music Society

Report for the period 1 November 2006 to 31 December 2007

Following Council's decision to adjust the financial year to the calendar year, this report covers a 14-month period.

Conference

A third successful day conference was held in the Faculty of Music at Oxford, organized by Helen Deeming on the theme of Medieval Song. Speakers included Emma Hornby, Sam Barrett, Andreas Bucker, Manuel Pedro Ferreira, Elizabeth Eva Leach, Mary O'Neill, and Mark Everist.

Lisa Colton assumed responsibility for the organization of the 2009 conference, to be held at Huddersfield, and the co-organization (with Emma Hornby) of the 2008 Conference at Bristol.

Website

The Plainsong and Medieval Music Society website (launched in Autumn 2005) continues to grow in terms of the amount of information it carries. Members of Council have kept an eye on content and submitted updates to Alistair Warwick, who maintains the site. Ordinary members are invited to email any member of Council with updates and corrections.

The site address is www.plainsong.org.uk.

Publications

Plainsong and Medieval Music is circulated to all subscribing members of the Society, and is the principal benefit of membership. Circulation figures for the journal have remained buoyant and on-line consultation and downloading of articles continues to increase. The very substantial growth in the number of consortia subscriptions seems set to continue. Members of the IMS group Cantus planus are to be offered a discount on subscription to the Journal. All members of the Society are invited to submit ideas for publicizing the journal, for example, at conferences. Our thanks are due to the current editors, Joseph Dyer and Helen Deeming, as well as to Nicolas Bell, who is the reviews editor.

K. D. Hartzell's *Catalogue* appeared in January 2007. The high standard of the volume's production, modelled to an extent on the Society's early publications, owes much to the author's expectation and persistence. The contents represent the product of a lifetime's scholarship, and offer an important addition to knowledge.

The reprint of the new edition of *Compline* (originally published at the end of 2005) has been carried out and continues to net the Society significant royalties.

The RSCM publications department has continued to act as distributor for the Society.

David Wulstan's classic edition of *The Play of Daniel*, prepared by Sally Dunkley and Alistair Warwick in the version performed by the Clerkes of Oxenford was published by the RSCM for the Society in 2007.

Membership

The Society currently has 79 members (including 3 honorary members and 6 life members), which appears to represent a fall in membership compared to the 112 members noted last year. However, in part this is a result of more careful in checking subscriptions to ensure we are not bearing the cost of PMM in cases where membership has lapsed. Members who had not paid were sent reminders in the autumn: some replied to say they no longer wished to be members, some did not reply at all (and so have now been crossed-off the list), and sadly three members have died. Five new members joined the Society during the year (four via the new Paypal facility on the website).

Council

The following have served as members of Council and executive trustees: Nicolas Bell, Lisa Colton, Helen Deeming, Jane Flynn, William Flynn, John Harper, Elizabeth Eva Leach, David Mateer, Mary O'Neill, and Owen Rees. In April 2007 John Harper became Treasurer, Owen Rees Secretary, and Elizabeth Eva Leach Chairman of the Society. Helen Deeming has replaced Elizabeth Eva Leach as co-editor of PMMS.

Council met in person in October 2007 and are in regular contact by email.

No member of the Council received payment during the period. Gratitude should be expressed to the Council, whose officers and members have often met their own expenses, and who have also borne other costs personally or made available their time to undertake routine administrative tasks. Particular thanks should be extended to both John Harper for all his work as Chairman over the past decade and David Mateer for his work as Secretary.

The administration of the Society

Anna Burson has acted as administrator, and received an honorarium for this work. Operations have now been moved geographically to Bangor, where she and a number of other member of Council and ordinary members of the Society are currently based.

Finance

A separate financial report has been prepared by the treasurer.

Elizabeth Eva Leach
Chairman
22 April 2008