



# The Plainsong and Medieval Music Society

**Council of the PMMS  
London, British Library  
Friday, 23 October 2009, 3:00 pm**

## **Minutes**

Present: Elizabeth Eva Leach (Chair), Thomas Schmidt-Beste (Secretary), Christian Leitmeir (Treasurer), Nicolas Bell, Margaret Bent, John Caldwell, Helen Deeming (for the PMM editorial board), Barbara Eichner, John Harper, Owen Rees, Matthew Salisbury, Bruno Turner

### **1. Apologies for absence**

Lisa Colton, David Hiley, Anna Burson

### **2. Minutes of the meeting of 24 October 2009**

Approved as an accurate record.

### **3. Unapproved minutes of the Annual General Meeting of 24 April 2009**

Approved as an accurate record with minor changes in wording.

### **4. Matters arising**

EEL enquired about the physical storage of minutes from previous meetings – TSB agreed to check with AB about the completeness of the archive held by AB and to add previous minutes as necessary. **(Action: TSB)**

Council, Minute 1: It was decided that it was unnecessary to change the customary in order to invite the President and Vice-presidents to the Council meetings.

AGM, Minute 6, Status of the legal adviser. JH reported that Barry Williams had advised on various things in the past on an honorary basis. It was decided not to pursue a replacement, but to approach suitable candidates should the need for legal advice arise in the future.

AGM, Minute 8: EEL's report of the Huddersfield conference had appeared in the autumn 2009 edition of the newsletter.

AGM, minute 8, Membership feedback. BE agreed to contact AB about updating the membership and address list so delays experienced in the past would not reoccur. It was further agreed to merge the member address list and the membership data held by the treasurer into a single database, also to circulate that consolidated membership data to all council members for recruitment purposes. **(action, AB, BE)**

AGM, minute 9. JH reported on plans for a database-register of minor clergy in Britain up to 1649 in which PMMS could become involved; Roger Bowers had offered for his data to be used as a starting point, but a research grant and/or a PhD student would be needed to pursue the project. MB reported that Bowers' dissertation was about to become available on DIAMM in a searchable form.

AGM, minute 9: A possible successor to the successful Compline edition was discussed. JH pointed out that the Compline edition was so successful because it was so firmly embedded in the Anglican liturgy; it would be hard to duplicate this with any other edition. The same would apply to an edition with alternative Compline melodies which would lack the same popularity. One possibility might be an alternative edition of the existing Compline with 'modern' round notation. It was decided not to take any action on this for the time being.

## 5. Chair's report

EEL reported on the annual conference that had taken place in Huddersfield, thanking Lisa Colton *in absentia* for her efforts.

Two issues of PMM have appeared on schedule; all previous issues of PMMS and JPMMS are now available online for members on the CUP website. The possibility of an online version of the chant bibliography is being explored by NB.

Publications are still sold through RSCM; it was agreed to remind members of their availability in the next newsletter. **(action: BE)**

Membership remains at slightly under 80.

## 6. Treasurer's report

JH reported on the final handover of the accounts CL – the old current account will be dissolved with effect of 30 November.

The war bond has been released and will be redeemed for cash by the treasurer **(action: CL)**

CL tabled his report. The finances of the society are sound.

## 7. Report from PMM

HD reported on PMM and their editorial board meeting on that day.

The two 2009 volumes have appeared on schedule, with a better mix of chant and polyphony topic than in previous years. Article submissions from abroad had been increasing – probably as a result of the partnership with the *Cantus Planus* group.

James Borders had taken over as co-editor from Joseph Dyer; the transition had been very smooth.

All previous issues of PMMS and JPMMS are now available online for members on the CUP website.

Recent PMMS volumes are now available in HTML as well as PDF format, opening up possibilities for integrating multimedia elements in future articles.

JH argued that there should be more collaboration and information-sharing with the *Cantus Planus* group (announcement of conferences etc.). It was agreed that the appropriate place for

this was the PMMS website and not the CUP site although better use ought to be made of the CUP site as well (to announce own events etc.). It was agreed to give more room to the *Cantus Planus* partnership on the website and the newsletter. **(action: HD, BE)**

## **8. Conferences**

It was announced that the next conference would take place on 13 March 200 in Pembroke College, Cambridge (organiser: Sam Barrett). Sam Barrett, Susan Rankin, Nicolas Bell and EEL had agreed that there ought to be a focus on doctoral students working on medieval topics, to engender mutual support and exchange of information especially for students who might feel isolated in their institution and in a field that has become increasingly indifferent to pre-modern topics of research. The proposed format was to be short project presentations by a number of doctoral students, in addition to more formal papers by advanced or recently finished candidates. A round table discussing how medieval musicologists could position themselves in a challenging market would round off the day, possibly in addition to a keynote paper from a senior scholar.

CL suggested PMMS small bursaries for the students to help with travel costs, possibly in place of paying a keynote speaker.

EEL to consult with Sam Barrett about advertising the conference and recruiting speakers. **(action: EEL)**

There had not yet been confirmation from Birmingham as a possible venue for 2011 – EEL to enquire further. Oxford was discussed as an alternative for 2011 or else 2012, to be organised by OR and/or EEL. **(action: EEL)**

## **9. Website/newsletter**

TSB had acted as liaison with Alistair Warwick regarding the website.

The cost-efficiency of the website was queried, and it was decided to look into alternatives. EEL suggested for the council to run the website itself, to allow for more immediate access and to save money. MS agreed to look into the technicalities of purchasing webspace and migrating the existing information to a new site. **(action: MS)**

The e-newsletter has appeared on schedule twice now (in April and October) and is considered an excellent tool to keep members informed. EEL thanked its editor, BE, on behalf of of PMMS.

BT raised the issue of the mini-editions. The two editions which had been ready to appear in 2009 had not been put online – this was to be remedied immediately, with an e-mailed addendum to the newsletter. Further mini-editions were deemed desirable, but it was not clear how many potential contributors would have the time and energy to put them together. **(action: TSB, BE)**

In order to increase the attractiveness of the website, CL suggested introducing a link collection for medieval music resources. It was agreed that while there was no point in creating yet another portal, it would be helpful to create links to existing portals and in particular to pages containing digitised medieval music sources – some of them well-known such as DIAMM or the Swiss manuscripts initiative, some rather more obscure. It was decided to approach this after the launch of the new website.

## 10. AOB

JH reported on the foundation of an international medieval liturgy network funded within the UK by the AHRC. It would hold a workshop at St Fagans National History Museum in Cardiff in 2010 with a re-enactment of the Maundy Thursday liturgy which would be filmed and disseminated online.

JH further reported on his successful AHRC/ESRC application for the project 'Experience of Worship in late medieval cathedral and parish church', to run from 2009 to 2012. He suggested to involve PMMS in that project through a day conference or other activities. He agreed to keep BE informed of developments to be disseminated in the newsletter (**action: JH, BE**)

The possibility of PMMS involvement in the 2010 Med-Ren conference at Royal Holloway, University of London, was discussed. One option was a PMMS themed panel session. It was also agreed to look into the possibility of offering PMMS bursaries.. Highest priority was given to a prominent book/journal display and a reception (possibly with financial support by CUP) to increase the profile and recruit new members. HD agreed to contact CUP about this and (as conference organiser) to liaise with PMMS about necessary steps. (**action: HD**)

EEL tabled a paper by Sally Harper, asking for support for the 'Bangor Pontifical' project which proposes to restore, digitise, and present online this manuscript. It was agreed to support the project with £ 1,000, to be used for phases 2 and 3 (digitisation and dissemination) of the project, contingent on PMMS receiving due credit on the website and elsewhere, and contingent on the project acquiring enough further funding to ensure its implementation. EEL to inform Sally Harper of that decision. (**action: EEL**)

CL proposed to support the AHRC postgraduate conference 'Off the Staves', to take place in Bangor in 2010. It was agreed to support the conference with £ 200, contingent on that support being acknowledged on the website and the programmes of both the conference and the accompanying concert. CL to inform the conference organiser, Elina Hamilton (**action: CL**)

## 11. Dates of next meetings

AGM: 13 March 2009, Pembroke College, Cambridge, to coincide with annual conference

Council: As the PMM board meeting will have to be moved to late May/early June due to the availability of the overseas board member, it was discussed whether or not to move the Council meeting to the same date. Against the convenience of having the two meetings on the same day, potential objections raised were unavailability of members for a meeting in the middle of the exam period and the close proximity of AGM and Council with no meeting in the remaining ten months of the year. EEL agreed to take the matter under advisement. Should the meeting be held in the traditional timeslot, it would be on Friday, 22 October 2010, in the BL.

The meeting ended at 4:45.

Thomas Schmidt-Beste, 24/10/09