

*45th Annual Meeting of the Council of the
Renaissance Society of America*

THURSDAY, 26 MARCH 1999
KERCKHOFF GRAND SALON, UCLA

ATTENDEES

Members of the Executive Board:

Michael J. B. Allen	Bridget Gellert Lyons
William R. Bowen	John Monfasani
Partricia Fortini Brown	John O'Malley
Konrad Eisenbichler	Anne Lake Prescott
Rona Goffen	Erika Rummel
Edward Gosselin	Nancy G. Siraisi
Paul F. Grendler	Ronald G. Witt
Daniel Javitch	

Discipline Representatives,
Representatives of Constituent Societies, and Invited Guests:

Albert Russell Ascoli	Elizabeth Hill
Robert Bjork	Maryanne Horowitz
Jean Ceard	Arthur Kinney
Liana Cheney	Eva Kushner
Mary Collier	Dennis Looney
Susanne Collier	Kathleen Lynch
Harold De Lisle	Robert Lyons
Luci Fortunato De Lisle	James Murphy
Arthur Field	Jessie Ann Owens
Marie Madeleine Fragonard	Benjamin Ravid
Kenneth Gouwens	Laura Stern
Thomas Greene	Germaine Warkentin
Barbara Hallman	

Staff:

Laura Schwartz, Office Manager

Maria Galetta

John O'Malley called the meeting to order and welcomed all the participants, in particular Edward Muir and Albert Ascoli who organized the special session in memory of Charles Davis. He also acknowledged the presence of Profs. Marie-Madeleine Fragonard and Prof. Jean Céard, president and honorary president, respectively, of the Société Française d'Études du XVI^e Siècle. John O'Malley called for a moment of silence in memory of all departed members.

REPORT OF THE TREASURER

George Labalme, Jr.

George Labalme, Jr. was not in attendance and President John O'Malley summarized his report. (All members of the council had in hand a copy of the report.) The Society is in very good financial condition.

After a brief description of the Dues Committee and of its work, John O'Malley passed the floor to John Monfasani, Executive Director of the Society.

REPORT OF THE DUES COMMITTEE

John Monfasani

Prof. Monfasani proposed the following changes to the dues to go into effect in 2000:

1. Institutional subscriptions be raised from \$75 to \$80
2. Apart from Dual, Patron, and Life, the RSA will have only 3 categories of ordinary individual membership: Regular, Retiree, and Student, with the dues for Regular becoming the benchmark for the other two; Retirees would pay at a rate of 75% of regular and Students 50% of Regular.
3. All individual members of the RSA will henceforth receive a subscription to ITER as one of the benefits of membership.
4. Regular dues will be raised from \$50 to \$60. For those already subscribing to ITER — i.e., for close to 30% of the membership — this amounts to no increase at all. Retirees, therefore, will pay \$45, up from \$25. (This is the category that will see the largest change; but it was a mistake to have them pay the same as students in the first place.) Student rates will be raised from \$25 to \$30. Whereas perhaps 50% of the retirees might use ITER, probably close to 100% of the students will use it).
5. Speakers at Florence 2000 joining the RSA for the first time in 2000 will pay 1999 rates for the year 2000.
6. The RSA will cease contributing its \$8,000 subsidy to ITER after 1999 (scheduled to have continued until 2002). Instead, it will start to pay ITER a flat rate of \$27,000 for the subscriptions of its members. This comes to approximately \$10 per member, which is the rate agreed to at the inception of ITER. The flat rate of \$27,000 will rise or fall in increments of \$1,000 annually to reflect to the nearest hundred the number of individual members belonging to the RSA. At some time in the future, when the value of ITER has increased sufficiently, the RSA will negotiate a new per-member rate with ITER. Since the RSA is a

partner in ITER, the success of ITER will eventually return income to the RSA. That day may come sooner than anticipated. There is now a possibility that ITER may enter into an agreement with the commercial publisher, Brepols, to put on line the medieval bibliography (IBM) produced by the Leeds group. Medievalists may soon start contributing indirectly to the prosperity of the RSA.

Since the last item was connected to the use of ITER, John O'Malley turned the floor over to William Bowen, thereby changing the order of the agenda.

REPORT ON ELECTRONIC MEDIA

William R. Bowen

ITER is currently a bibliography of more than 225,000 articles and reviews drawn from over 300 Renaissance journal titles. Web address: <http://iter.library.utoronto.ca/iter>.

ITER features searching by keyword, title, author, and Library of Congress subject headings. Users may employ Boolean operators and complex phrases to combine terms in advanced search mode. ITER's future plans include providing access to conference proceedings, dissertations, and works of art and music, and publishing directories of Renaissance and medieval scholars, research projects, and organizations. A monographs bibliography is currently under construction, and free access to an updated edition of *Iter Italicum* is also planned for 1999. There is no doubt that institutional subscriptions are the key to the success of ITER as a self-sustaining enterprise. Nevertheless, it is important to recognize that there are significant advantages to individual membership which range from simple matters of necessity and convenience to the real potential for developing valuable services targeted at individuals in a virtual community of scholars. Managing individual subscriptions and offering special services will have to be funded by individual subscriptions. The matters of necessity and convenience are easily outlined. There are many scholars who do not have access to ITER through their local institution and so rely on individual subscriptions. Also, some institutions limit use of their networks and services to on-campus terminals, so that scholars may have to get an individual subscription to ITER and use a commercial provider for off-campus access. Furthermore, even for those who have institutional access, there is the issue of the quality of service. It is not uncommon to find that the service given by educational institutions is slow and unsophisticated. Thus some scholars go to commercial providers who have superior services and who can offer addi-

tional features such as access points around the world so that travellers are not cut-off from the internet.

For individual members, ITER is already committed to providing special services. I have announced the forthcoming ability to mount individual research profiles in our scholars database. And individual members will eventually be able to contribute to the revision and growth of the databases. But what I have not explained before is the possibility of ITER negotiating with other internet services on behalf of the virtual community of its individual members. For example, I am negotiating with UMI to permit our individual subscribers to have access to its Digital Vault Initiative, specifically to its Early English Books collection. This collection includes digital files for more than 96,000 early printed books, that is, the titles listed in Pollard & Redgrave (1475-1640), Wing (1641-1700), and the Thomason Tracts (1640-1661). In my proposal, ITER would pay a one-time fee (riding on the coattails of the University of Toronto's contract with UMI). Since libraries have to invest in UMI's microfilms and then pay an additional fee for a total cost of about \$100,000, many smaller institutions will not be able to subscribe. Accordingly, it is my hope that I can negotiate something which is affordable, therefore providing a valuable service to our membership. Even if this particular deal does not work, the potential is tremendous for such arrangements because large operations such as UMI see the RSA/ITER scholars as their entry point for getting institutional subscriptions. From another perspective, it is worth noting that the presence of a substantial body of individual members was one of the selling points for Brill in our negotiations about the *ITER Italicum* (although in that case we agreed that individuals would receive the online *ITER Italicum* free). A preliminary conversation with Brepols/International Medieval Bibliography suggests that a similar agreement may be possible.

The proposal for the dues as a whole was approved and the report on electronic media was accepted.

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

Anne Lake Prescott

Prof. Prescott, chair of the Trustees, reported that the financial condition of the Society as excellent. She, along with Executive Director John Monfasani, Treasurer George Labalme, and fellow trustees Patricia Labalme, Eugene Rice, and David Rosand, met on March 5 with Jennifer Coury, the Bank of New York manager of our account. Our investments were approaching \$2 million, but Anne Lake Prescott once again

reminded the Board that what goes up, goes down. This year we did not do very well with the 5% we had agreed could be risked in the hope of high profits, but we see no reason to change the policy, and we could not be more pleased with the portfolio as a whole.

REPORT ON CONSTITUTION/BY-LAWS

Nancy G. Siraisi

Prof. Siraisi referred to the discussion held the previous day and to the proposals John Monfasani made, and asked John O'Malley to summarize the proposals for the Council's approval.

The proposals were:

1. That the terminology for the Constituent Societies be changed to Affiliate Societies; and
2. That the Nominating Committee be eliminated and that the Executive Board chose the vice-president every second year. Both proposals were carried.

After much discussion, the following changes to the Discipline Representatives were also accepted:

“Visual Arts” was modified to “Art History” with 2 representatives.

“Women and Gender Studies” was added.

“Byzantine” was eliminated.

“History” should keep three representatives, but they should be diversified thematically as well as geographically.

“History of Classical Scholarship” was changed to “History of Classical Tradition”

“History of Law and Political Thought” was left unchanged.

REPORT ON CONSTITUENT SOCIETIES

(TO BE REFERRED TO AS AFFILIATE SOCIETIES IN THE FUTURE)

Edward Gosselin

One international society and two foreign associations are being proposed for Affiliate status: the Society for Confraternity Studies (Toronto), the Medieval and Renaissance Association of Israel (Haifa), and the Southern African Society for Medieval and Renaissance Studies (Johannesburg). Confraternity Studies was to be proposed last year, but a technical glitch on our part delayed the formal motion till this year. The later two associations expressed their interest in late 1997 and 1998, respectively, and are therefore coming up for formal acceptance at this

meeting. The Society for Confraternity Studies has been formally present at RSA meetings for several years both as session organizer and through its individual members. We expect its active presence to continue and to generate a few panels each year. The Israeli and South African associations will, for reasons of distance, find it more difficult to participate actively. However, we hope that they will be able to arrange sessions from a distance, as does FISIER, and thereby be present at meetings of the RSA.

Questions from the floor were answered by Konard Eisenbichler, who is familiar with these societies. After some discussion the three societies were accepted as Affiliate Societies.

REPORT ON INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

Konrad Eisenbichler

In October 1998, at the annual meeting of the Sixteenth Century Studies Conference, your International Co-operation representative and the Director of ITER met with Dr. Max Engammare to continue our discussions of possible collaboration between ITER and BIHR (*Bibliographie Internationale d'Humanisme et Renaissance*, published by Droz in Geneva). The Director of ITER will have further to report on those talks which appeared fruitful at the time but, in the long run, seem not to have had much effect. In fact, in early 1999 Dr. Engammare announced that BIHR would not only be made available on CD-ROM (something which we had been told a long time ago), but also that it would be made available on the net (which we were never informed about). BIHR on the net would be in direct competition with ITER, and therefore we need to re-examine our current approach to, and relations with BIHR.

On a happier note, the October discussions with Dr. Engammare did have a more positive result when Dr. Engammare took the bull by the horns and eventually organized, himself, a FISIER session for the 1999 Los Angeles meeting of the RSA (previous attempts by other persons had proved unsuccessful). Subsequently, Dr. Engammare asked dr. Saverio Ricci to do the same for the 2000 meeting in Florence. We are pleased with the presence of the Fédération Internationale de Sociétés et Instituts d'Etudes sur la Renaissance at our meeting and hope that such a presence will help to improve communications between our two organizations.

REPORT ON FLORENCE 2000, MARCH 21-24

Konrad Eisenbichler

We received an enormous amount of proposals. The 7 members of the committee had a conference call 2 weeks ago and we decided to accept 93 sessions and 187 papers, which will form about 155 panels. We expect an attendance of 450-500 people, making this the largest RSA meeting ever. All the accepted speakers must send in their registration fee by May 17. John Monfasani and I are then meeting to arrange the panels in a future 3 day meeting. We are still trying to find conveniently located rooms for the sessions and for the receptions and plenary sessions, but we are confident that we will succeed. On Tuesday we are planning to have the Bennett Lecture and the opening reception hosted (and paid for, we hope) by the city government.

In 1998, I was three times in Florence (February, June, and December) and met with some of the local groups collaborating with us in the organizing and hosting of the meetings, in particular with Prof. Michele Ciliberto (President, Istituto Nazionale di Studi sul Rinascimento), Prof. Lucia Martinelli (President, Facoltà di Lettere e Filosofia, Università di Firenze), Dr. Michael Rocke (Librarian, Villa I Tatti), and our local travel agent, Antonella Ucci. Attempts to meet with the director of the Kunsthistorisches Institute in Florenz were not successful because of timetable problems, however, we are still optimistic that the German Art History Institute will eventually join the roster of Florentine co-sponsors and co-participants. E-mail discussions with the University of Syracuse campus in Florence have recently brought that organization on board and will provide us with one, possibly two, meeting rooms. However they are a bit far and available only on Friday. This past January 1999 Prof. Ciliberto appointed Dr. Saverio Ricci, one of his associates, who works in Rome and Tours (France), to act as liaison between the Florentine co-sponsors and the RSA. We are now in contact with Dr. Ricci and are paying him an honorarium of \$1000 for his work.

There are also going to be a number of peripheral events in the same period, which might be of interest to our members.

John Monfasani intervened to explain that the ticket price from NY to Rome was going to be \$440 or less, and he reiterated that it was very important to make reservations as soon as possible.

Konrad Eisenbichler concluded by profusely thanking the reading committee for their work.

REPORT ON CAPITAL CAMPAIGN AND DEVELOPMENT

Ronald G. Witt

As of March 1, 1999 the figures of contribution to the Capital Campaign are as follows:

DONATIONS RECEIVED

Phyllis Goodhart Gordan Bequest	\$ 25,000	
Gladys Kriebel Delmas Foundation (1st grant)	\$ 40,000	
Gladys Kriebel Delmas Foundation (2nd grant)	\$ 10,000	
444 Individual Contributions	\$112,216	
Charles Scribner's Sons Reference Works	\$ 10,000	
Total contributions		<u>\$197,216</u>

FUTURE DONATIONS

Members Pledges	\$ 19,999	
Charles Scribner's Sons Reference Works	\$ 10,000	
Expenses		\$ 4,599

THE FUTURE

THE RSA GRANT APPLICATION

On October 15, 1998, the Capital Campaign of the Renaissance Society of America submitted an application to NEH's Education Development and Demonstration Program for \$181,242, to create the Renaissance Educational Network, a website which will allow the Society to shape the teaching of the Renaissance in middle and high schools throughout the United States and Canada. Written primarily by Professor Luci Fortunato-Delisle, the proposal would be of utmost significance for the Capital Campaign in that it would identify the Society as an important contributor to education in American schools and bring visibility to our activities in the service of scholarship. We will be notified of the decision on our application in the first week of April.

APPLICATIONS TO PRIVATE FOUNDATIONS

THE ROBERT LEHMAN FOUNDATION

The RSA has made an application for the annual funding of three fellowships in art history to be known as the Robert Lehman Foundation Research Grants in Art History. Each grant would be for \$3000. The application is now under consideration by the foundation's board of directors.

THE SAMUEL H. KRESS FOUNDATION

The RSA has made an application for endowment to support our program of research grants in art history. The application is now under consideration by the foundation's board of directors. It should be for \$5,000 each year for three consecutive years, and it should be used for young scholars who need to complete a manuscript for publication.

Two additional applications have recently been made to the William Randolph Hearst Foundation and the Henry Luce Foundation for endowment money to support RSA research grants. We have yet to hear from these foundations.

REPORT ON RESEARCH GRANT AWARDS

Paul F. Grendler

The Society awarded 9 grants, 3 in each category, for a total of \$18,000. Applications were down from the first year, and Paul F. Grendler requested that the Society and the Board members promote the grants, and it was agreed that the society would send out a mass emailing to the membership, updating the information on the website, including the application criteria in the August issue of Renaissance News and Notes, and in the Summer issue of Renaissance Quarterly. Daniel Javitch suggested giving the information to other associations which publish lists of grants, such as the MLA.

WINNERS:

Non-Doctoral

Mari-Tere Alvarez, J. Paul Getty Museum

“Artistic Enterprise and Spanish Patronage: The Art Market During the Reign of of Isabel of Castile (1474-1504)”

Mark Jurdjevic, Northwestern University

“Florentine Territorialism and Medici Power in Fifteenth-Century Tuscany”

Hilare Kallendorf, Princeton University

“Exorcism and Its Texts: Demonic Possession in Renaissance Literature of England and Spain”

Younger Scholars

Margaret A. Gallucci, University of Michigan

“Benvenuto Cellini at the Court of Francis I”

Michael M. Holmes, Brock University

“Bridewell Baggage: Prostitution, Reformation, and Sexual Autonomy in Renaissance England”

Catherine Turrill, California State University

“*Orate pro pictora*: The Artistic Activities of Tuscan Nuns”

Senior Scholars

Clifford M. Brown, Carleton University

“The Art and Antiquities of Isabella d’Este Gonzaga (1474-1539)”

Thomas Kuehn, Clemson University

“Inheritance and Legal Change in Renaissance Florence”

Margaret F. Rosenthal, University of Southern California

“The Dissemination of Italian Fashion in Illustrated Autograph Albums of the Late Sixteenth-Century”

PUBLICATIONS REPORT

Erika Rummel

1. SUBSIDY REQUESTS AND REPORTS ON MANUSCRIPTS:

a) Report on H. Vredeveld’s edition of the poetic works of Eobanus Hessus (Latin text and English translation) to be published jointly by RSA and MRTS.

I highly recommend joint publication of this volume. It will appeal to scholars of Neo-Latin, but also offers a great deal of material of interest to the historian. Eobanus Hessus was an important humanist, whose works should be made accessible to a larger readership. The quality of Vredeveld’s editorial work is superb and may serve as an illustration of the proverbial “Herculean Labours.” His commentary provides a wealth of biographical data on minor historical figures.

b) Report of Erika Rummel and John Monfasani on David Rutherford's edition and translation of two latin texts of Antonio da Rho.

John Monfasani

Erika and I split up the manuscript, with her having the chief responsibility up to p. 121 and me the rest. But in point of fact I too had to work through the first half of the manuscript to get a grip on the second half. Erika sent me her report before I finished mine. Our joint conclusion is that the work should be subsidized and published once it has been revised.

Erika Rummel

This is certainly a worthwhile project, and the author should be encouraged to continue working on it. The texts are of considerable interest to scholars of Renaissance literature and the history of education. At present, however, the manuscript resembles a rough draft. It needs considerable revision, in style as well as substance, before it can be published.

c) University of Massachusetts Press has submitted a subsidy request for M. Hille Cole, *The Portable Queen: Politics and Ceremony in the Progresses of Elizabeth I*. The manuscript has been submitted this month and will be dealt with at the next meeting in October.

2. RSART

The Vives edition (Alice Tobriner) is now in production and will be out in July or August.

No further progress on negotiations for rights to: *Memoirs of a Renaissance Pope*, *Art of the Renaissance* (Benesch), *Trial of Luther* (Olivier), *Jews in the Canary Islands* (Records of Inquisition).

I am looking into a new title: M. Roskill's *Dolce's Aretino...*

REPORT ON RENAISSANCE QUARTERLY

Michael J. B. Allen, Articles Editor

64 articles were submitted in 1998: 25 in English, 13 in Visual Arts, and 11 in History. The remaining 15 were spread among the other disciplines. Of the 64 articles submitted, 29 were rejected, 10 were accepted, 20 remain in various states of evaluation. 1 article was published in 51.2 and another in 51.4. 1 article is scheduled for publication in 52.3 and another is scheduled for 52.4. 26 articles were published in 1998: 9 in English, 9 in History, 7 in Visual Arts, and 1 in Spanish Literature.

The editorial staff (David McKay, managing editor, Brian Bonhomme, Maria Galetta, Patricia Lennox, and Wladyslaw Roczniak) has worked hard to make the journal an outstanding publication.

REPORT OF THE DELEGATE TO ACLS,
79th Annual Meeting, May 1-2, 1998 Philadelphia
Paul F. Grendler

John Monfasani, our director, was elected to the executive committee of the Council of Administrative Officers (CAO). These are the administrative leaders of the constituent organizations who meet separately to discuss “nuts and bolts” issues and problems involving scholarly organizations. These are probably far more useful than the delegates’ meetings.

The most important news is that the ACLS plans to increase both the number and financial awards of the central fellowship program of ACLS. (These are the fellowships of greatest interest to RSA’s members). The plan is to raise the endowment for them from the current \$25 millions to \$50 million. It appears that ACLS is also gearing up to ask former fellows and possibly constituent organizations for contributions to the fellowship fund. For 1999, the ACLS Fellowship stipends for junior scholars will be raised to \$25,000 and for senior scholars to \$35,000. The eventual plan is to raise the number of fellowships from the current 55 to 60 and to increase the amounts up to \$50,000.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

William Bowen was re-elected Chair of the Electronic media Committee.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF PRIZE AND AWARD WINNERS

The winners of the prizes were announced.

Michael Allen gave the testimonial for the William Nelson Best Article Prize, won by Arthur Field; Kenneth Gouwens gave the testimonial for the Phyllis Gordan Book Award, won by John Headley; and Daniel Javitch gave the testimonial for the Paul Oskar Kristeller Lifetime Achievement Award, given to Thomas Greene.

CLOSING REMARKS

John O’Malley concluded by thanking John Monfasani, for all the time he devotes to the Society, and the staff of the New York office for their work.

Prepared by MARIA GALETTA *and* LAURA SCHWARTZ.