

ECONOMIC HISTORY SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND

Minutes of Annual General Meeting, Thursday 14 February 2008.

The AGM was held during the Asia-Pacific Economic and Business History Conference, Trinity College, University of Melbourne.

Chair: Professor Simon Ville

The meeting commenced at 5:10pm.

1. Present

Simon Ville, Martin Shanahan, Stephen Morgan, Gordon Boyce, Paul Robertson, Chris Lloyd, A. Rasyiel Asba, David Merrett, Neil Barnwell, Nigel Stapleton, Maxine Darnell, Grietjie Verhoef, Lionel Frost, John Singleton, Jim McAloon, Tim Hatton, Pierre van der Eng, Takeshi Yuzawa, Bruce McComish (observer) and Larry Lepper (observer).

The President began by welcoming members and visitors to the meeting.

2. Apologies

John Wilson, James Reveley

3. Minutes of OGM 13 February 2007

Paul Robertson noted that he had been present, and corrections to the spelling of the following names were made: Joerg Baten, Catherine Schenk, Gregory Clark. With these corrections it was resolved that the minutes were a correct record of the proceedings of that meeting.

4. Business Arising

None

5. President's Report

The President began by thanking all involved in organising the 2008 conference. In addition to executive members John Singleton, Chris Lloyd, James Reveley, Pierre van der Eng and Martin Shanahan, particular reference was made to Trinity College and Mark Gordon, the college's conference manager, and the Economics Department, University of Melbourne for organisational support. Also thanked were Wiley Blackwell, Palgrave, and Swiss Re for sponsorship, and Lesley Simes, administrative assistant at the University of Wollongong. This conference is similar to the previous two in terms of attendance, which is pleasing, and a surplus will be recorded.

As resolved at the last meeting, the Society incorporated in Australia during 2007.

Contract negotiations with Wiley Blackwell for the publication of the *Australian Economic History Review* are ongoing but proceeding very constructively with more generous royalty terms being implemented and some major differences regarding ownership and copyright being resolved.

The Executive had agreed in a teleconference in October 2007, after extensive discussion, to support a bid for the 2012 International Economic History Congress. Chris Lloyd noted that

the decision will be announced in November, with two other bids in contention. If our bid was accepted the congress would take place in the second week of August 2012, being most convenient for Northern Hemisphere scholars.

The location of the next APEBH conference was then discussed. Professor Yuzawa spoke to the meeting, extending an invitation to hold the February 2009 conference at Gakushuin University in Tokyo in conjunction with the Japanese Economic History Society. Various issues were discussed including accommodation and costs. Stephen Morgan noted that this would be an excellent way of improving connections with scholars in Taiwan, China, Korea, and Hong Kong. Bruce McComish suggested that the McComish Fund would be willing to provide financial assistance if requested. Chris Lloyd noted that the IEHA would possibly contribute to the costs of younger scholars or those from developing countries. It was resolved that Professor Yuzawa's invitation be accepted in principle and that he, Simon Ville, and Pierre van der Eng would develop the proposal.

6. Australian Economic History Review Editors' Report

Martin Shanahan introduced this report, noting that Stephen Morgan's move to Nottingham had presented few problems and raised the journal's profile. Developments in citations and downloads of articles are most encouraging. The matter of digitising older issues of the journal is proceeding, with Wiley Blackwell having agreed to a satisfactory arrangement regarding ownership of this digital content and many past issues having been located. Simon Ville's earlier comments about the positive relationship with the publisher were endorsed.

The biggest issue for the journal is the ongoing search for quality manuscripts and Stephen Morgan noted that some very rough material is received, requiring considerable feedback for which authors do not always express their gratitude. In terms of ensuring that there was a sufficient number of quality manuscripts in hand, Martin suggested that an additional 20 submissions a year would be desirable which might give 10 publishable pieces. The Editors thanked all who had assisted with refereeing and in other ways.

Tim Hatton noted the decline and then recovery in individual subscriptions; it now appears that the number of these has declined again, largely due to the ease of online access. Paul Robertson noted experiencing some problems with subscription processing.

Simon Ville extended the meeting's thanks to the editors: Martin Shanahan, Stephen Morgan, and John Singleton.

7. Treasurer's Report

Pierre van der Eng presented the report. There is a significant surplus due to last year's successful conference and increased royalties; higher interest rates have also added to income. Diane Hutchinson was particularly thanked for her efforts with last year's conference.

The accounts have been audited by Mac Boot, who is happy to continue in this role. It was resolved that Mac Boot be reappointed honorary auditor, and that as an expression of the Society's gratitude to him for undertaking this work over many years he be given a life membership of the Society, which will include a subscription to the Journal.

It was resolved to accept the report and accounts, and Simon Ville thanked Pierre for his efforts.

8. Electronic Newsletter

Pierre van der Eng raised this suggestion as a way of making individual memberships more attractive. This would draw attention to the latest work in the field, conference news, archive information, and book notes. There was a general discussion, with members noting that there could be advantages in keeping the profile up, but an editor would be required. Whether the newsletter would be available to all who wished to subscribe or to financial members only was another question, as was whether there were additional means of making individual membership attractive, such as a discount on conference registrations, and whether membership of the society could be separated or partly separated from subscription to the AEHR.

The meeting generally supported the idea and referred it to the Executive for further discussion and development.

9. Other Business

Paul Robertson noted the major work done on the Research Quality Framework issue by Simon Ville and others particularly the development of a journal list for the discipline. He also noted the work of Simon Ville, Martin Shanahan and Tim Hatton in responding to the proposed changes to the RFCD codes, which would have shifted economic history from economics to history. Such a proposal may have presented career difficulties for the many economic historians located in economics and business faculties in Australia. As a result of the concerns expressed by the economic history profession, a decision has been made to retain economic history within the broad economics classification. The meeting thanked those who had dealt with these issues.

The meeting closed at 6.20 pm.