

Vienna AGM Minutes

10-3-2018

17.30-18.30

1. Welcome by Oliver Harris

2. Introduction to Vienna by Polina Mackay and Thomas Antonic

Hello and Welcome from Fitz Ostermayer, the director of the Vienna Poetry School. Fitz expressed how happy the school is to be the natural partners for this event, with a long history of connections to beat poets in Vienna.

3. Report on the 2017 AGM

After the Paris event, the largest conference gathering for the EBSN to date, organizers Peggy Pacini and Véronique Lane encouraged the EBSN Board to work with local organizers to create a document to offer more clear guidelines and expectations for conference planning. The guidelines are now on the EBSN website (<https://ebsneu.files.wordpress.com/2018/03/ebsn-annual-conference-guidelines.pdf>)

We also discussed the Global Beat Studies special issue which was eventually published in December of 2017 and is now available through CLC Web (<https://docs.lib.purdue.edu/clcweb/vol18/iss5/>)

4. Report on Paris Conference

Oliver reported that there was a small surplus remaining after the Paris event for EBSN operating costs. There was a total income of approx. 20,500 Euro and an expenditure total of approx. 19,700 Euro.

Kurt shared that at the end of the EBSN event in Paris, his wife Erin Hemmer suffered from an accident and was hospitalized in Paris for some time. Kurt and Erin are happy to report that she is doing well and is happy to be with us this year in Vienna!

5 . Report on 2019 Nicosia Conference

Polina shared that we are planning for the event to take place this time next year but specific dates are not yet set. There will be a theme surrounding the concept of migrant voices and identity politics but the CFP will be open to a variety of proposals and panel ideas. More information and the CFP will be provided on the EBSN website soon.

Polina is planning on organizing a poetry reading, inviting poets from the poetic scene in the North of Cyprus and the South of Cyprus to do readings and to discuss the contemporary status of art in Cyprus. Polina is also planning to organize literary walks/talks around Nicosia.

Ian shared that he has some materials related to modern Greek poetry he would like to share.

6. 2020 London/Paris Special Conference

This event will be a special conference (<https://ebsn.eu/2020-special-conference/>). It will specifically focus on cut-ups and invite colleagues working beyond our organization. The focus is not on just the cut-up's relationship to the beat generation but on the artform itself . Events will take place in both London and Paris during the same week in September 2020.

7. EBSN Sponsorship

EBSN is beginning an initiative to think about sponsorship. Oliver and Raven See have worked with the board to draw up a document on ideas about what kind of sponsorship we would like to see and what it should look like for the EBSN. (<https://ebsn.eu/ebsn-info/ebsn-sponsorship/>). Oliver then invited members to comment and share their thoughts on this idea.

Ben Heal shared that this conversation is related to the EBSN's move to become an association. As an association with our own bank account and legal status, the EBSN has the ability to raise funds. Ben noted that this is an invitation for members to be more involved in helping us grow. The board's thinking is that sponsorship is a natural next step in becoming a sustainable organization and can help the Network move toward projects we have been discussing over the years like scholarships for students or archiving materials.

Ian expressed concern that sponsorship can be risky because of the implications of certain connections or possible demands from sponsors. Ian suggested the idea of creative projects made from within the organization that pull in income for the EBSN rather than outside sponsorship.

Oliver noted that the ethos of the organization is something that we take very seriously and wish to maintain. The sponsors we are looking at would need to be appropriate, and we can have a conversation with member input on how we maintain that ethos.

Joe Provenzano suggested the idea of initiating a modest one time fee for membership in the network. Alex and Oliver noted that this is still something that we hope to avoid as we want membership to be easy and accessible. Creating even a small fee may deter members and may be more work on our end in creating a process to manage and collect it.

Kurt suggested something along the lines of a crowd funding campaign or an invitation to donate at tiered levels. Kurt noted this could be one way to invite members to contribute without a regular fee or around a specific event. This would be a separate idea from sponsorship and more like a yearly fundraiser where members can contribute any amount they like and anyone can donate anonymously.

Ian brought up again the idea of an archive and a place where members can donate materials as a means of adding value to the organization. Oliver noted that this is something we are happy to continue to talk about but it will be a lot of work and we invite someone to help take this on as a future project.

8. Website Report

Ben shared that he likes the idea of Kurt's fundraiser and this would be something we could help manage. The board has set up a committee for the website with Stefan Benz and Lucie Malagnat joining to help assist with web and social media management. Lucie has done great work creating French translations for the page and helping with updates. Currently the EBSN has 244 active emails on our mailchimp and 287 members listed on our website. The discrepancy is due to members who may not be active and no longer have active emails with the EBSN.

Raven asked that members take a look at their profile on the website and if it is out of date, to please email her an updated bio.

9. Formation of the EBSN as an Association

Paul shared that during the Paris conference our filing was accepted and the EBSN now functions as a legal entity. We were able to open a bank account and we can now use a credit card processing company to collect fees. The Network will no longer rely on individuals to handle EBSN funds. Paul sent the information about the Association to the tax offices in Hamburg and the Association has been granted charitable status.

Currently the official Association is made up of the 7 founding members, which are the same as the Executive Board.

10. AOB

Alexander Adams introduced the idea of having a book stall at conference events that would have someone there to collect money and sell the items for members with new materials to sell.

Raven responded that while this is a great idea for members and attendees, it would be very difficult to organize in a way that is successful and fair to all who are interested.

Arthur Nusbaum added that he supports this idea and would love to see it, and Franca Bellarsi shared that this was an option at the Brussels conference because of partnership with a local book seller. In that case it was the book-seller who was responsible for collecting all funds not the Network. Ben agreed that for future conferences it is a good idea to seek partnership with local book sellers. Ian also supported connections to independent bookshops because it puts the material outside of the event rather than turning the event itself into a bookshop.

No further new business was brought forward. The AGM ended at 18.35

Present:

Polina Mackay, Oliver Harris, Ben Heal, Chad Weidner, Raven See, Paul Aliferis, Thomas Antonic, Eva Alvarez, Bent Sorensen, Erik Mortenson, Jaap van der Bent, Antonio Bonome, Anna Visser, Stefanie Pointl, Thomasz Sawczuk, Janne Ratia, Alexander Adams, Jim Pennington, Estibaliz Encarnacion-Pinedo, Tony Hoffman, Erin Hemmer, Kurt Hemmer, Franca Bellarsi, Elif San, Regina Weinrich, Arthur Nusbaum, Joe Provenzano, Ian Macfadyen, Matt Theado, Nina Zivancevic, Peter Androsch, Harriet Nachtmann, Fitz Ostemayer, Paul Pechmann