**ASEC Annual Business Meeting, 21 November 2014, San Antonio, Texas.**

**Welcome and introduction of board members: Valeria Nollan, Rhodes College**

President Valeria Nollan, Professor of Russian at Rhodes College, opened the meeting at 3:52 PM. and introduced herself and the other officers. Scott Kenworthy, Associate Professor of Religious Studies, University of Miami is vice-president and president-elect, but was unable to attend. He is currently out of the country for research, and he will resume responsibilities in August 2015 after he has returned to the U.S. In the meantime, Randall Poole, Professor of History, College of St. Scholastica, is serving as acting vice-president. Roland Clark, Assistant Professor of History, Eastern Connecticut State University, is treasurer; he, too, was unable to attend the meeting. Eugene Clay, Associate Professor of Religious Studies at Arizona State University, is secretary. Chuck Arndt, Visiting Assistant Professor of Russian at Vassar, edits our newsletter. Joshua Powell, a Ph.D. graduate student, has volunteered to serve as the webmaster for the new ASEC web site that he has designed for our organization.

The minutes of the 2013 business meeting were approved unanimously.

**Report of Acting Vice-President: Randall Poole, College of St. Scholastica**

As chair of the prize committee, Randall reported that the Distinguished Scholar Prize would be announced in December. Twenty-three articles have been nominated for the prize—a substantial increase in nominations over past years. The other members of the committee are Erich Lippman and Theo Stavrou. The prize winner will receive $300; if there is an honorable mention, the author of that article will be awarded $250.

Randall also reported that the 6th Biennial ASEC Conference would be held at Rhodes College and the Westin Beale Street Hotel in Memphis from the 17th to the 19th of September 2015. Besides Randall, the program committee consists of Valeria, Roland, Eve Levin, and Monica Cognolato (University of Padova).

Randall Poole. The original deadline for paper proposals was 1 December 2014, but this will be extended to 20 December. Both the hotel and the college provide excellent venues for the conference. There will be a keynote address on campus, and the other sessions will be held in the hotel. Randall encouraged everyone to submit proposals.

**Secretary’s Report: J. Eugene Clay, Arizona State University**

In December 2013, the executive committee initiated an informal conversation about the name of our organization on the ASEC list. We posed the question, should the Association for the Study of Eastern Christian History and Culture (ASEC) change its name? If so, what should the new name be?

Many members (a plurality) were in favor of simplifying our name to the Association for the Study of Eastern Christianity. The name would match our current acronym, ASEC, and would be shorter and easier. Some members expressed concern that the current name favors certain disciplines, such as history, over others, such as literature. These members also argued that the new name Association for the Study of Eastern Christianity would not imply “an exclusive, or even predominant, focus on theology or religious studies,” but rather “the academic study of Eastern Christianity in its various historical, cultural, geographic, theological, and religious manifestations.” Curiously, some members mistakenly believed that “Association for the Study of Eastern Christianity” was the original name of the organization.

The second largest group argued against any change at all. They pointed out that the current name had been adopted after a great deal of discussion at the organization’s founding. Dropping the words “history and culture” could be perceived as focusing on contemporary religion and theology of Eastern Christianity. This group contended that the words “history and culture" did not exclude discipline, but represented a commitment to understand both the past and the cultural context of Eastern Christianity.

In addition, several people suggested other names:

Association for Eastern Christian Studies

Association for the Study of Eastern Christian History, Society, and Culture

Association for the Advancement [or Promotion?] of Eastern Christian Studies

Association for the Study of Christianity in Eurasia

The discussion about the name was very valuable and the executive committee will take it under advisement. Because ASEC will soon be changing the state in which it is incorporated, the executive committee will consider this matter in conjunction with the reincorporation of the organization.

**Treasurer’s Report: Roland Clark, Eastern Connecticut University**

Prepared November 19, 2014

Submitted by Roland Clark

Presented at the annual meeting of the corporation on 22 November 2014, San Antonio, TX

***November 22, 2013 to October 31, 2014***

Opening balance $7,115.28

Deposits $920

Withdrawals $250

Closing balance $7,785.28

***Major expenses***

Article prize for 2013

***Future expenses***

* ASEC conference in 2015
* ASEC website
* ASEEES travel ($500)

***Website costs***

A domain name through Namecheap.com will cost ~$10.69 per month (easternchristiancultures.com) and hosting will cost $9.88 per year.

***Non-profit status***

The ASEC is not currently registered as a 501(c)(3) non-profit with the IRS, but we are seeking to rectify that. We will file for non-profit status again after moving the organization from New Hampshire to another location that is yet to be agreed upon.

**Newsletter Updates: Charles Arndt, Vassar College**

Chuck reported on the newsletter, last issued in September. If you have not received it, please let Chuck or Eugene know. Chuck is soliciting members’ photographs to serve as the masthead of the newsletter. Heather Coleman provided a wonderful picture for the last newsletter. Please send pictures, announcements, and news about recent publications for the newsletter.

Valeria noted that we will be putting all of the available newsletters on line as soon as practicable. Lucien Frary congratulated Chuck for his excellent work on the newsletter, and all concurred.

**Updates on ASEC Publications: Jennifer Spock, Eastern Kentucky University**

Jenn Spock reported that ASEC has two ongoing publication projects: *Tapestry of Russian Christianity* and *Authority and Reform in Eastern Christianity*. Don Ostrowski and Nick Lupinin are the editors of *Tapestry,* which will be published as part of the Eastern Christian Studies subseries of Ohio Slavic Papers. The cost of printing 200 copies will be about $2500, and we will receive subvention support from the Medieval Center and from the Slavic Department at Ohio State University. The *Tapestry* manuscript is in good shape with 14 articles, a preface, and an introduction.

The much more recent *Authority and Reform in Eastern Christianity* consists of selected articles from the 2013 ASEC conference. All but two of the chapters have been received. The editors are Valeria, David Goldfrank and Fr. Patrick Viscuso. Jenn is coordinating the process. We plan to send the manuscript to Eerdmans.

Lucien Frary noted that ASEC has enough money in its budget to provide financial support for the publication of *Tapestry,* if a subvention would help speed the publication of this important collection.

**Report on New ASEC Website: Joshua Powell, Eastern Kentucky University**

Josh reported that he will develop and design the website through namecheap, which he has used to host course sites when he teaches. Namecheap is relatively inexpensive, stable, and reliable. It supports the most commonly used databases, and it has the necessary technology and software. The site will use DRUPAL, an open-source program that is difficult to set up, but easy to maintain.

Valeria noted that the executive committee had decided to create a site independent of any university so that ASEC would not be bound by the vagaries of university policies on information technology. In this way, ASEC can control its own website. In the future, we hope to include announcements, registration for conferences, calls for papers, an archive of newsletters, and a section on members’ accomplishments and current research. The website will be an excellent place to share syllabi and other teaching resources. In addition, we hope to provide a way for members to pay dues on line. We hope to have the web site up by the end of winter break. Once Josh has finished the work, he will report to the executive committee.

At the moment, ASEC has no official logo, and it may be helpful to devise one as we develop our site. The diversity of our organization makes it difficult to settle on a single unifying symbol.

**Old Business: Valeria Nollan, Rhodes College**

Jenn pointed out that three years ago, ASEC resolved to create a graduate student prize, but nothing has been done. The executive committee will examine this issue.

There was no new business.

**Announcements:**

Chris Stroop announced that he is on editorial staff of *State, Religion and Church* (<http://www.srch.ranepa.ru/>) , an open-access electronic journal of religious studies published twice yearly in English by the International Institute of Public Administration and Management at the Russian Presidential Academy of National Economy and Public Administration in Moscow. Its mission is to bring Russian contributions to religious studies into conversation with global developments in the field. To this end, the journal publishes both original material and translations of articles and book reviews that originally appeared in our parent journal, *Gosudarstvo, religiia, tserkov' v Rossii i za rubezhom*. The journal welcomes the submission of original manuscripts covering the broad thematic range of religious studies (our interests are by no means limited to Russia) and from a variety of disciplinary perspectives. If selected for further consideration after an initial screening, a manuscript will go through double-blind peer review, after which the editors will decide whether to pursue it further. Prospective authors should adhere to our modified APA style. Inquiries and submissions may be sent to [religion@rane.ru](mailto:religion@rane.ru) or [cstroop@gmail.com](mailto:cstroop@gmail.com).

**Adjournment**

Chuck motioned to adjourn, and Erich Lippman seconded. The meeting adjourned at 5:03 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

J. Eugene Clay, Secretary