

International Theodore Dreiser Society

Minutes of Annual General Meeting, May 24, 2019

Present: Heather Yuping Wang, Miriam Gogol (President), John Dudley, Adam Wood, Keith Newlin (editor, *Studies in American Naturalism*), Cara Erdheim Kilgallen (Vice President), Anita Duneer, Renate von Bardeleben, J. Bret Maney, Jude Davies.

Apologies: Roark Mulligan (Treasurer)

1. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer's report had been circulated to officers by Roark Mulligan via email. It was read to the meeting by Keith Newlin. In addition to matters discussed elsewhere, the meeting:

- 1.1 Noted that finances remained in good shape, and thanked Roark Mulligan for his work this year.
- 1.2 Noted with satisfaction the opening of an art work memorialising Dreiser in his birthplace. Three years ago, the ITDS contributed \$500 to the sculpture project that Wabash Valley Art Spaces has now completed—it stands in front of the Vigo County Public Library in Terre Haute, Dreiser's birthplace. The ITDS is very pleased with the design of the memorial, which foregrounds the inspirational nature of Dreiser's work. The meeting thanked Roark Mulligan for his work in liaising between the ITDS and the sculpture campaign.

2. *Studies in American Naturalism*

Keith Newlin reported on trends in submission to *SAN*, and encouraged members to encourage submissions from promising scholars.

Noted that the 2018 Robert H Elias Prize (\$250) had been awarded to J. Bret Maney for his essay "'A Bit of Ashes in Their Hands': The Dysphoria of Success in *Sister Carrie*," which appeared in *Studies in American Naturalism* 13.1 (2018). The prize will be advertised again in *SAN* 13, 2.

4. Panels at ALA 2019

The meeting noted the high quality and increased attendance at the panels this year, possibly in part as a result of the wider and more inclusive themes.

5. Panels at ALA 2020

Decided on two themes: Dreiser and other writers; and an open topic, which could include themes such as the work of women writers intersecting with Dreiser's output, translations and publications of Dreiser's work outside the USA, the critical reception of Dreiser outside the USA.

It was also agreed to investigate whether abstracts of successful paper proposals could be posted on the Dreiser Society webpage, and/or added to the pre-Conference email.