

**INTERNATIONAL THEODORE DREISER SOCIETY BUSINESS
MEETING 5/27/16**

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PRESENT: Linda Kornasky, President; Jude Davies; Miriam S. Gogol; Eric Carl Link; Keith Newlin; Gary Totten; Anita Duneer; Heather Yuping Wang; and Katerina Kozhevnikova.

The meeting was called to order by Linda, who pointed out that *The Titan*, newly edited by Roark Mulligan, was on sale at the Dreiser Session at the price of \$15.00. Our members quickly purchased all six copies.

Jude suggested Miriam as the next Deputy President; the response was unanimous affirmation, after which she was reminded of her duties: to attend to Alfred Bendixen's call for papers due in early September, and the checking of the ALA website at that time.

Jude proposed the following agenda points:

1. A discussion of social media and Dreiser. How can we enhance the Dreiser Facebook page so that it gets more hits? Cara Erdheim (who notified us that she would be unable to attend this year) created this Facebook page;
2. Donations for a Dreiser sculpture in Terre Haute;
3. Call for more submissions for *Studies in American Naturalism (SAN)*.

Before these agenda items were addressed, we discussed topics for our next two Dreiser sessions at the ALA in Boston in May 2017. We agreed that one "Open Topic" session should be continued and that a second session should be determined. Linda suggested a subject related to the present presidential election: What would Dreiser have to say, for example, about Trump as a candidate? Does he follow in the steps of Cowperwood? Miriam and Heather recommended that we include the gender dynamic in the election. The title finally became "Gender, Political Ideology, and Dreiser."

The first agenda item, enhancing the exposure of Dreiser on social media, was discussed. Cara, the page developer, and all would like to see the page enhanced and get more hits. Several recommendations were made:

1. to look at what some of the other Societies are doing, especially those that have particularly successful pages.
2. to include favorite quotations from Dreiser, post selfies with a Dreiser book or icon, etc.
3. to find a graduate student or a volunteer to be the point person for the Facebook page, so that information is regularly submitted, the page updated, and the material monitored on a regular basis.

The second agenda item was the contribution of \$500.00 by our Society to support the creation of a sculpture in honor of Dreiser at Art Spaces in Terre Haute, Indiana, the birthplace of Dreiser. In absentia, Roark proposed this donation for two reasons: first, that it would be an excellent symbolic gesture of our admiration for Dreiser, and second, that our Society's name would appear on a plaque at the site of the sculpture. After Miriam checked the Treasury Report Roark had submitted, the group agreed that we could afford the donation, and that Roark should move forward with the dispensation of it.

Keith encouraged more submissions to *SAN*, including for the Summer 2015 issue, which will be the next one out. Although there are some essays either under review or awaiting the second reviewer's report, more submissions are needed. He emphasized that the journal has a rigorous review process and that no essays get through without revision. A special summer issue on Hemingway will be coming out and another special issue in summer on big data in naturalism will also be appearing. Graduate students, as well as scholars and professors, should be encouraged to submit. Graduate students are also encouraged to apply for the Robert H. Elias Prize, which offers \$250.00 as well as publication in the journal.

Discussion continued about possible ways to expand the journal and ways in which to enhance the International Dreiser website. One recommendation made by Miriam and by Jude for the website was to include write-ups on the presentations on Dreiser at the ALA, particularly the two annual sessions (typically six talks in total) on various aspects of Dreiser scholarship, including this year's presentations on "Global Dreiser" (by Katerina Kozhevnikova, Gary Totten, and Jude Davies); the open topic session on crime in Dreiser's fiction (John Dudley); "Dreiser Weaving and Female Labor" (Craig Carey); and "Cityscape as Literary Landscape" (Heather Yuping Wang). A number of members agreed that these would be of substantial interest to Dreiser readers.

Jude offered to take the minutes at the next annual Dreiser Society meeting in Boston in May 2017 and to serve as the Recording Secretary. Members were reminded that Cara and Eric are Directors-at-Large and that the new VP, Miriam, would be giving up her position as a Director-at-Large to serve a four-year stint (two years as VP and two years as President). Two of our speakers at the Global Dreiser Session, Katerina Kozhevnikova and Heather Yuping Wang, would be considered as Directors-at-Large.

Anita Duneer was introduced as the next book reviewer for *SAN*, beginning in a few months after Carol Loranger, who has been the book reviewer for many years, steps down.

Sincerely,

Miriam S. Gogol