

Minutes of the Annual Business Meeting of the Dreiser Society

American Literature Association, Boston, MA
Friday, May 22, 2009, at 9:30 AM

1. The meeting began with discussion of the status of *Studies in American Naturalism*. All in attendance agreed that the journal's association with U of Nebraska Press would continue to benefit the Society and to increase an interest in Dreiser. Content is currently licensed to EBSCO and, beginning with the next issue, with Project Muse. Journal submissions have declined across the board because more senior professors have been working on chapter collections and books, which is also reflected in a recent article in the *Chronicle of Higher Education* about how senior professor submissions have declined in journals.
2. Tom Riggio asked how involved the Norris and Crane people had been with SAN. Keith Newlin responded that the Society had offered an arrangement in which SAN would become a member benefit for allied societies but no one expressed interest. SAN does, however, receive submissions from members of other societies.
3. Roark Mulligan introduced the idea of a Lifetime Society membership, which was tabled for future discussion.
4. Cara Erdheim asked how the U.S. and global market crisis has affected journal membership; both Gary Totten and Roark noted that membership over the past year has actually increased.
5. Gary noted that the Society's current balance, a very healthy one, is \$2,741.58.
6. Tom Riggio mentioned that Morgan Harris, the grandson of Marguerite Harris, editor of Dreiser's *Notes on Life*, expressed an interest in selling a bronze cast of Dreiser's death mask.
7. Donna Campbell proceeded to inquire about future panel topics for next year's ALA; we proposed the following: Dreiser's career as a magazine editor, Dreiser the poet, an open panel on Dreiser. Tom Riggio came up with the idea that panels could focus on comparing and contrasting Dreiser's early and late writings, both poetry and other genres.

--Minutes by Cara Erdheim