

Minutes of the International Dreiser Society Business Meeting

11:30 am, May 25, 2001

Cambridge, Massachusetts

Present: S. Brennan, B. Buchenau, J. Clendenning, C. Eby, P. Gerber, K. Newlin, P. Orlov, D. Pizer, T. Riggio, S. St. Jean, R. von Bardeleben

Election of Officers: Riggio assumed the office of society president and nominated Eby for vice-president; the members voted to accept the nomination.

Secretary-Treasurer's report: Orlov related that the Society's treasury has rebounded from expenses incurred by our partial sponsorship of November's Dreiser Centennial at the University of Pennsylvania, and at present contains a. \$1600, up from a low of \$800. The new money came from membership dues renewals and new members: the Society's rolls now contain about 80 names, up from 50. Orlov also gave one-year's notice that he will step down as the Society's Secretary-Treasurer and asked members to consider a proper candidate for replacement.

Dreiser Bibliography: Pizer reported that the University of Pennsylvania's [DreiserWebSource](#) will now feature a Dreiser bibliography and described its features, the most notable being its accessibility for periodic scholarly updates. Members discussed a small committee responsible for the maintenance of the bibliography, which will be comprised of Pizer, Brennan, and various society members familiar with scholarship originating in foreign countries. Bardeleben and Buchenau agreed to join the committee and seek out scholarship from European sources. Riggio agreed to search out individuals to supply data from China, Japan, and India.

Future Panels: Eby proposed two topics for next year's ALA Dreiser panels: "International Dreiser" and "Dreiser and Social Activism" (title supplied by Riggio). After discussion, members voted to defer the "International Dreiser" panel for two years, when ALA again meets in Cambridge, so that foreign members will incur fewer expenses. Brennan suggested we leave one topic open.

Dreiser Studies: Newlin, co-editor of *Dreiser Studies*, presented preliminary copies of the journal in its new format. He reminded us that the annual essay contest closes in August. *Dreiser Studies* currently has a backlog of essays and the material for the next issue is nearly ready. Library subscriptions of *Dreiser Studies* have remain unchanged since 1997; we have entered a licensing agreement with EBSCO for an initial three years where *Dreiser Studies* will simultaneously appear in EBSCO's Academic Search Premiere database. Pizer asked Orlov to amend next year's dues renewal form to ask members to encourage their institutional libraries to subscribe to *DS*.

The disposal of back issues of the journal was also discussed. Storage of the paper copies has become cumbersome and various means of distributing these were proposed. Newlin cautioned that making available of back issues online could lead to potential piracy. Members eventually reached a consensus that back issues on the Penn website, with a five-year blackout forward, would be desirable (This would mean that only issues of *The Dreiser Newsletter* and *Dreiser Studies* up to 1996 would be available online in 2001; in 2002, 1997 would become accessible, and so on.)

The essay prize committee needs a third member to read entries; Brennan will approach various people for this, possibly outside the Society.

Meeting adjourned approximately 12:45 pm., —Minutes by Shawn St. Jean