

**Proceedings of the Milton Society of America  
Radisson Plaza-Warwick Hotel, Philadelphia  
December 28, 2004**

**Secretary: A. C. Labriola [Labriola@duq.edu](mailto:Labriola@duq.edu)**

The officers and Executive Committee met in a preliminary session at 4:00 PM at the Radisson Plaza-Warwick Hotel. Present were Charles W. Durham (President), Edward Jones (Vice President), Labriola (Secretary), Diana Treviño Benet (Treasurer) and the following members of the Executive Committee: Stephen B. Dobranski, Angelica Duran, Elizabeth Skerpan-Wheeler, and Paul Stevens. Excused were Gardner Campbell and Jeffrey Shoulson.

**OFFICERS AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.** The following members of the society were nominated for offices: Edward Jones for President; Laura L. Knoppers for Vice President; and Margaret Arnold and Thomas Luxon for three-year membership (2005-2007) on the Executive Committee, replacing Elizabeth Skerpan-Wheeler and Paul Stevens.

**TREASURER'S REPORT.** Benet indicated that the assets and net worth of the society as of July 1, 2004, were \$9,800.00. Benet and Labriola stressed the importance of donations and space advertisements as sources of revenue in order to stabilize the cost of the annual dinner at \$55.00. Benet will monitor the added revenues and report whether they are adequate to cover the mounting costs of the dinner and the increased expenses of printing the booklet, postage, and the like.

**COMMITTEE ON SCHOLARLY AWARDS.** Benet indicated that Joseph Wittreich will serve as chair. She has a list of other distinguished Miltonists (chiefly past recipients of the awards) as eventual replacements for the present committee members. To ease the burden of the committee, entrants will be encouraged, but not required, to submit multiple copies of their works, one for each member of the committee.

SECRETARY'S REPORT. Labriola indicated that his announcements were printed on pages 4-5 of the annual booklet. He announced the names of the members of the society who are recently deceased: David Dickson, Edward Le Comte, Earl Miner, Elizabeth Sims, John Wooten.

OPEN MEETINGS AT MLA 2005 in Washington, D. C. The following open meetings, each 75 minutes long, were approved: "John Milton: A General Session," with Edward Jones presiding and "Milton's America, America's Milton," with Paul Stevens presiding.

NOTE THE FOLLOWING RULES FOR MEETINGS:

The chairs should have one-page proposals/abstracts submitted electronically by March 20<sup>th</sup>. Usually three papers are chosen, and the chair may appoint a respondent; or two longer papers may be selected, with or without a respondent; or a panel discussion might be organized. The chair must submit the names of participants, academic affiliations, and titles of presentations to Labriola (**Labriola@duq.edu**) no later than April 1st. Labriola will place an announcement concerning the open meetings in the upcoming *MLA Newsletter*; Benet will also include notice in her upcoming letter to all members; and the chairs of the open meetings are urged to publicize in other ways. All presenters must be members of MLA. If not, they must join by April 1st unless their specialty is something other than language and literature, in which cases they must seek, through Labriola, special permission for their participation from the MLA Executive Director. Chairs are encouraged to be in contact with each other to be sure that they are not considering duplicate papers and to call attention to papers that may seem more suitable for the other's open meeting.

At the executive session after the general business meeting, the following were present: Jones (President), Knoppers (Vice President), Labriola (Secretary), Benet (Treasurer), Dobranski, Duran, Luxon. Excused were Arnold, Campbell, and Shoulson of the Executive Committee. Labriola and Benet

Approximately 70 members and guests attended the dinner and meeting at which Durham presided. The James Holly Hanford Award for a distinguished essay recognized the excellence of the following: David Norbrook, "John Milton, Lucy Hutchinson and the Republican Biblical Epic," in *Milton and the Grounds of Contention*, ed. Mark R. Kelley, Michael Lieb, and John T. Shawcross (Pittsburgh: Duquesne UP, 2003), pp. 37-63, 292-293. The James Holly Hanford Award for a distinguished book recognized the excellence of Neil Forsyth, *The Satanic Epic* (Princeton, NJ: Princeton UP, 2003). The Irene Samuel Memorial Award recognized the excellence of the following multi-author collection: *Paradise Regained in Context: Genre, Politics, Religion, Milton Studies* 42, ed. Albert C. Labriola and David Loewenstein (Pittsburgh: U of Pittsburgh P, 2003). The featured address, "Studied Argument," was given by J. Martin Evans. Dennis Danielson, Professor of English, University of British Columbia, cited J. Martin Evans, William R. Kenan Jr. Professor of English, Stanford University, as Honored Scholar of 2004.

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