

# ROUSSEAU ASSOCIATION BULLETIN 2015

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### **ELECTION OF THE NEW EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (2015-2017)**

A new slate of officers was elected at the business meeting held during the 19<sup>th</sup> Biennial Colloquium of our Association in Glasgow, Scotland. The new officers are:

#### **President / Présidente**

Ourida Mostefai, Department of French Studies & Department of Comparative Literature, Brown University, USA

#### **Vice-President**

John T. Scott, Department of Political Science, University of California, Davis, USA

#### **Secretary-Treasurer / Secrétaire et Trésorier**

Jason Neidleman, Department of History and Political Science, University of La Verne, USA

#### **Webmaster / Webmestre**

Michael O'Dea, UMR LIRE, Institut des Sciences Humaines, France

#### **Colloquium Director / Directrice du colloque**

Brigitte Weltman-Aron, Department of Languages, Literatures and Cultures, University of Florida, USA

#### **Board Members / Membres du Bureau**

Robin Douglass, Department of Political Economy, King's College London, UK  
Dennis Rasmussen, Department of Political Science, Tufts University, USA

We welcome the new members on our board, and thank Zev Trachtenberg for his dedicated service as President for the past four years (2011-2015).

## REPORT ON THE XIXTH BIENNIAL COLLOQUIUM OF THE ROUSSEAU ASSOCIATION

Themes from Smith and Rousseau / Rousseau et Adam Smith  
Joint conference of the International Adam Smith Society and the Rousseau Association  
Glasgow University  
July 20-22, 2015

A report by Chris Bertram, University of Bristol

In recent years there has been a flurry of new scholarship on the intellectual relationship between Jean-Jacques Rousseau and Adam Smith, with works by scholars such as Ryan Hanley, Charles Griswold, Dennis Rasmussen and Istvan Hont appearing. That there was some connection has long been known, as Smith famously reviewed the *Discourse on Inequality* for the *Edinburgh Review* and incorporates some of that work in *The Theory of Moral Sentiments*, but it has only recently that an intellectual industry has sprung up. The conference was an opportunity to explore that alleged link and, as such, it was a welcome one.

The conference marked an unprecedented departure for the Rousseau Association also, as it was the first time we have co-sponsored a conference in place of our biennial colloquium and the event departed from our usual practice in a number of ways, with the topic being less focused than usual and with the conference running concurrent sessions, as opposed to having everything in plenary format.

The conference began with a wine reception in the rather magnificent Hunterian Museum, with brief addresses by the curator of the Hunterian and by our host and conference organizer, Dr Craig Smith. This was followed by two days of non-stop panels on a vast range of topics including “Rousseau and Smith on Music and the Imitative Arts”, “Smith and Rousseau on Justice”, “Smith and Rousseau: Education and Virtue”, “Smith and Rousseau on Spectatorship”, “Commercial Society”, “The Moral Sentiments”, “Smith and Rousseau on Government”, “Smith and Rousseau on Autonomy”, and “Sympathy/Pitié”. (There were also a number of Smith-only panels.) It would be impossible here to summarize the range of individual contributions, made both by stalwart members of the Association and by others. Three have stuck particularly in my mind, though: Byron Davies on “The Insult of Not Being Believed” was a very engaging attempt to link Rousseau’s concerns with truth-telling and communication to modern discussions of epistemic injustice and social and racial inequality; Jinx and Frank Roosevelt’s double-act (their first in 52 years of marriage!) on Smith and Rousseau on education; and Mark Hulliung’s determined effort at pouring cold water on the very idea that Rousseau was a big influence on Smith. Finally, I should mention the closing address by Charles Griswold (who, contra Hulliung, thinks such a connection established) which was a brilliant and subtle exploration of the different attitudes of Smith and Rousseau to the way in which commercial society shapes the self and whether we should see this shaping as a good thing or as a catastrophic loss of freedom and authenticity.

At the end of the first full day of the conference, we were able to examine a number of texts by Smith, Rousseau and others in the special collections of the University of

Glasgow (as well as to enjoy the magnificent view from the library tower). The conference concluded with a fabulous dinner in the neo-Gothic Randolph Hall.

The conference also provided an opportunity for Rousseauistes to meet both informally and in our business meeting to explore the situation of the Association and how we might develop it in future. The business meeting elected new officers and reduced the annual subscription (to \$20 full/ \$10 students and retired). We also discussed making more of the Association's online presence, particularly the Facebook page and the main website (with its extensive Rousseau resources). The business meeting approved Florida as the venue for the 2017 Colloquium on the topic "Silence" in the work of Jean-Jacques Rousseau, with Brigitte Weltman-Aron elected as Program Director. Ourida Mostefai was elected President, John Scott as Vice-President, Jason Neidleman as Treasurer and Michael O'Dea as webmaster.

All in all the conference was a very positive experience. Smithians and Rousseauistes mixed amicably enough, though the two groups displayed (as a rough approximation) contrasting styles and modes of being, perhaps reflecting the different groups of people that each thinker exercised a fascination for. It is a matter of some regret for a supposedly bilingual Association that only two papers — "Imagination, mémoire et appropriation chez Rousseau et Smith", by Iago Ramos (Salamanca), and the paper by Mauro Dela Bandera Arco Junior (University of Sao Paolo) listed in English in the program— were delivered in French, and there was a paucity of Francophone scholars present. We shall undoubtedly want to remedy this at our next Colloque as well as returning to our preferred plenary format. I shall be thinking about the various idea on Smith and Rousseau discussed at the conference for a long time to come, and I'm grateful both for this and for the impetus the conference gave me to better acquaint myself with Adam Smith's writings and to reflect on the similarities and differences with Jean-Jacques.

The full program of the colloquium can be found here:

<http://www.gla.ac.uk/schools/socialpolitical/research/politics/eventsseminars/smithrouseau2015/academicprogramme/>

### **ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE 2017 COLLOQUIUM IN GAINESVILLE, FLORIDA**

We are pleased to announce that the 20<sup>th</sup> Biennial Colloquium of the Rousseau Association will be held in Gainesville at the University of Florida. The topic will be: "Silences, implicites et non-dits chez Rousseau / Silence, the Implicit and the Unspoken in Rousseau." Brigitte Weltman-Aron, Program Chair, will be confirming the dates shortly and circulating a call for papers. We thank Brigitte and greatly look forward to the colloquium!

### **ROUSSEAU ASSOCIATION PANELS AT THE 2016 ASECS CONFERENCE**

The Association will be hosting a double panel at this year's meeting of the American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies (ASECS) to be held in Pittsburgh, PA (March 31-April 3, 2016):

## Rousseau and Diderot: Collaboration and Conflict in the Enlightenment I

Chair: Carole Martin, Texas State University, San Marcos

1. "Rousseau and Diderot: Pillars of the Paradox of the Passions." Chloe Edmondson, Stanford University
2. "Becoming 'passionate in cold blood' ": Rousseau and Diderot on acting." Laurence Marie-Sacks, French Embassy in the US / CRLC Paris-Sorbonne
3. "Passion and Theater in Rousseau and Diderot." Brigitte Weltman-Aron, The University of Florida

## Rousseau and Diderot: Collaboration and Conflict in the Enlightenment II

Chair: Ourida Mostefai, Brown University

1. "Spectators in Dialogue: Rousseau, Diderot and the Theatre." Maria Gullstam, Stockholm University
2. "Critique du portrait pictural et auto-portrait dans les "promenades" de Diderot et de Rousseau." Carole Martin, Texas State University, San Marcos
3. "Cantate du Méchant." Pierre Saint-Amand, Brown University

## **PLANS FOR VOLUME OF ESSAYS ON ROUSSEAU AND ADAM SMITH**

As a follow-up to the 2015 colloquium, the Rousseau Association and the International Adam Smith Society are planning to collaborate on a joint publication. A volume of essays will be edited by Dennis Rasmussen (Rousseau Association) and Maria Pia Paganelli (Adam Smith Society). More information to come later.

## **CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS TO THE WEBSITE**

Michael O'Dea, our webmaster, welcomes contributions from members: please send your news to [michael.odea@univ-lyon2.fr](mailto:michael.odea@univ-lyon2.fr) for posting on the page devoted to members' publications (books and articles on Rousseau). In addition to news of interest to Rousseauists the site includes all the *Pensée libre* volumes (the proceedings of RA colloquia up to 2001).

Visit the website at: <http://rousseauassociation.ish-lyon.cnrs.fr/>

Michael O'Dea has also created a Facebook page for our Association: our warmest thanks to Michael for his wonderful work!

## **MINUTES OF RECENT BUSINESS MEETINGS**

### **Business Meeting of the Rousseau Association, Wake Forest University, 28 June 2013**

Zev Trachtenberg, President of the Association, called the meeting to order.

Zev thanked Byron Wells for coordinating and hosting the colloquium.

Jason Neidleman, Secretary-Treasurer of the Association reported on finances and membership.

- The RA's account balance sits at \$8264.96.
- There was one expenditure of \$1000.00 in September 2010 to Colorado College for a colloquium co-sponsored by the Rousseau Association.
- The Association's membership sits at 136.
- Byron Wells noted that Wake Forest would be returning part of the expense of the colloquium to the Rousseau Association.
- Jason reported two \$500.00 expenditures in the form of stipends for participation in the Wake Forest colloquium. These awards were given to Chantelle Messier and Patrick Cox.

Zev led a discussion on publications. The Association has three volumes at various stages of production:

- There is a volume in progress from the 2009 conference in UCLA on Rousseau's legacies. Byron Wells and Patrick Coleman are editing this volume. It is ready for review and will be delivered in the near future to Rodopi.
- Chris Bertram is editing a volume based on the 2011 conference on Rousseau's republics. He is in the process of evaluating submissions. Ourida Mostefai has agreed to assist Chris in the production of the volume.
- Byron Wells will edit a volume based on the 2013 colloquium on *Emile*. He will ask for drafts of papers by December 15. A later deadline will be set for submitting for editorial review. He will aim to have the papers selected by fall of 2014. Authors will then be asked to revise their papers for purposes of integrating them with the other essays selected for the volume.

Zev led a discussion of future meetings of the Association.

- The Adam Smith Society has offered to co-sponsor a 2015 meeting in Glasgow. Zev will confirm as soon as possible so that alternative arrangements can be made should Glasgow fall through.
- Brigitte Weltman-Aron, Vice President of the Rousseau Association, has offered to host the 2017 colloquium at the University of Florida with a topic to be announced.
  - John Scott suggested that the Association approach Brigitte about hosting in 2015 should the Glasgow opportunity fall through. Alternately, John (in conjunction with Ourida) volunteered host the Association at UC Davis should the other options fall through.
- Jason offered to serve as the RA's point person on organizing the conference in Glasgow.

Zev read Michael O’Dea’s report (webmaster).

- Michael used March of 2013 as an example of the monthly visits to the website. In that month there were just over 5000 visitors. Michael continues to update the website with members’ publications.
- The Rousseau Association now has a webpage. The administrators are Chris, Jason, and Michael. All RA members are encouraged to join the group
- Michael encourages the organization to think about how the website could be redesigned to reach a broader audience. At the moment, it is primarily an academic site.

Zev reported that all currently serving Board members have expressed a willingness to continue serving. All members of the board were unanimously re-elected.

- President: Zev Trachtenberg
- Vice President: Brigitte Weltman-Aron
- Secretary/Treasurer: Jason Neidleman
- Webmaster: Michael O’Dea

The slate was approved unanimously.

Zev adjourned the meeting.

### **Business Meeting of the Rousseau Association, University of Glasgow , 22 July 2015**

Zev Trachtenberg, President of the Association, called the meeting to order.

Attendees introduced themselves. Those in attendance included: Brigitte Weltman-Aron; Grace “Jinx” Roosevelt; Sølve Sandaker; Thiago Vargas; Mauro Dela Bandera; Adam Schoene; Wei Wang; Fabien Delmotte; Byron Davies; Mark Hill; Robin Douglass; Maria Gullstam; Christopher Kelly; Jason Neidleman; Ourida Mostefai; Zev Trachtenberg; John Scott; Michael O’Dea; Chris Bertram.

Zev thanked Craig Smith for coordinating and hosting the colloquium.

The minutes of the 2011 meeting were accepted by acclamation. Jason, Secretary-Treasurer of the Association will send the 2013 and 2015 minutes to the membership by email.

The board of the Rousseau Association met the previous day for a visioning session. John Scott summarized the issues faced by the Association. John explained that the RA used to self-publish the proceedings of its colloquia. This became expensive. Around this time, international participation in the RA began to decline as well. The Association moved to academic presses to publish volumes based on the themes of colloquia. But the venues for this kind of publishing have diminished, particularly for bilingual publications.

Consequently, the Association has not produced publications in recent years, while continuing to charge the same dues.

Zev added that the visioning session included discussion of a more substantial online presence and the creation of a directory of members within which members could note their research interests and publications. Zev also noted that the visioning session included discussion of lowering the fees charged for membership.

Jason summarized the visioning session as addressing three main issues:

1. the cost and value of RA membership
2. the publication model
3. fidelity to the Association's traditions

Ourida proposed that membership be reduced to \$20 per year for regular members and \$10 per year for a student/retired membership. Members will receive a discount on publications. This proposal was approved.

Jason will send an email to members announcing the new fee structure and attaching the minutes of the business meeting.

Michael emphasized the importance to attending to the older self-published volumes produced by the Association.

Jason reported on finances and membership:

- The RA's account balance sits at \$11,171. The balance is relatively high because there has not been a publication in recent years. Renewals have slowed as well, however.
- The Association's membership sits at 141.

Brigitte proposed hosting the 2017 RA colloquium at the University of Florida. She proposed the following theme: "Silence: The Implied and the Unspoken in Rousseau/Silence et Non-Dits chez Rousseau." The colloquium will likely be held in June of 2017. Brigitte was unanimously approved as program chair, as was her proposal for a conference theme.

Zev noted that there would likely be a publication from the 2015 colloquium organized by Craig Smith.

Ourida emphasized the importance of supporting the Rousseau Association panel at the ASECS conference.

Ourida requested a write-up of the 2015 colloquium and Chris Bertram volunteered.

Elections were held.

The new board members are:

President: Ourida Mostefai  
Vice President: John Scott  
Secretary/Treasurer: Jason Neidleman  
Webmaster: Michael O'Dea  
Program Chair: Brigitte Weltman-Aron

The slate was approved unanimously.

The Association also unanimously elected two new board members: Dennis Rasmussen and Robin Douglass.

Zev adjourned the meeting.

### **OUR NEW MEMBERSHIP POLICY**

The RA has a new membership policy to encourage all those with interests in Rousseau studies to join. From 2015, annual dues are \$20, or \$10 for students and retired persons. Join now! If you've already paid for 2015 at the old rate, your membership will be renewed automatically for 2016.

Complete information on membership can be found on our website:

<http://rousseauassociation.ish-lyon.cnrs.fr/aboutTheRousseauAssociation/howToJoin.htm>



## **DUES NOTICE**

### ROUSSEAU ASSOCIATION DUES

Regular dues / Cotisation annuelle normale: US \$20.00.

Dues for students and retired members / Cotisation étudiants et retraités: US \$10.00.

We now have two payment options: by mail or electronically.

#### **Payment by mail:**

Send a check or money order (made out to the Rousseau Association) to:

Jason Neidleman, Rousseau Association Treasurer

114 Founders Hall

University of La Verne

1950 3rd St.

La Verne, CA 91750

USA

[jneidleman@laverne.edu](mailto:jneidleman@laverne.edu)

#### **Electronic payment:**

Go to [www.paypal.com](http://www.paypal.com), click on “Send Money,” and follow instructions (you will be required to open an account); payment should be directed to the following email address: [jneidleman@laverne.edu](mailto:jneidleman@laverne.edu).

Paiement en Euros et autres devises:

L'utilisation de Paypal est conseillée. Il suffit d'aller sur le site [www.paypal.fr](http://www.paypal.fr) ou un autre site national de Paypal et de cliquer sur “Envoyez de l'argent” en indiquant comme bénéficiaire l'adresse électronique ci-dessus. La somme doit être indiquée en dollars US; le site vous précisera le montant en Euros ou toute autre devise.