

General Assembly of the Bibliotheca Baltica Working Group
2nd December 2020, 16.00 to 17.30 hrs (CET)
Virtual meeting by Zoom because of the Corona Pandemic

Agenda:

1. Opening by President Robert Zepf
2. Establishment of the number of delegates authorized to vote on behalf of their libraries (and number of guests)
3. Acceptance of the Agenda
4. Confirmation of the Minutes of the General Assembly in Rostock, 4th October, 2018
5. Report by the President and Board members on activities and plans
6. Report by the Treasurer on the financial situation of Bibliotheca Baltica
7. Report by the Auditors
8. Move to discharge the Board members from all financial responsibilities for 2018 and 2019
9. Elections (Secretary, Board members and Treasurer)
10. Plans for the Bibliotheca Baltica Symposium 2021
11. Further activities of the Bibliotheca Baltica Working group
12. AOB

Minutes:

1. Opening by President Robert Zepf

Since the BB President Robert Zepf is unfortunately unable to attend the General Assembly BB Secretary Jürgen Warmbrunn opens the meeting and thanks all participants for their attendance at this General Assembly which is compulsory under the Finnish regulations that rule the activities of BB.

2. Establishment of the number of delegates authorized to vote on behalf of their libraries (and number of guests)

The BB statutes do not provide for a minimum number of participants at the General Assembly so that the present virtual meeting has a quorum.

3. Acceptance of the Agenda

Since the present term of office of the BB Secretary and the Auditors will end with the 2020 General Assembly there will have to be a (re-)election and thus a change to TOP 9: it now reads "Elections (Secretary, Board members and Auditors)". The changed agenda is accepted unanimously.

4. Confirmation of the Minutes of the General Assembly in Rostock, 4th October, 2018

The BB Secretary reports that the minutes contain a mistake under TOP 8: Jussi-Pekka Hakkarainen was elected as *Treasurer* (not Secretary) for the term 2018-2022.

The minutes will have to be changed accordingly. The changed minutes are accepted unanimously.

5. Report by the President and Board members on activities and plans

The BB Secretary presents the report on behalf of the BB President:

“Since the last General Assembly in Rostock in 2018 the main activity of Bibliotheca Baltica has been its involvement in the international cooperation project “Digital approaches in cultural heritage: towards a pan-Baltic cooperation network” and the conference held in this context in May 2019 in the National Library of Latvia in Riga.

In October 2019 the President and Secretary of Bibliotheca Baltica visited the Pomeranian Library in Szczecin (Poland) to discuss the further planning for the International Bibliotheca Baltica Symposium scheduled to take place in the autumn of 2020. Because of the Covid-19 Pandemic the Symposium had to be postponed and will probably take place in the autumn of 2021 or in 2022.

Since the last General Assembly the Bibliotheca Board has met in Riga in May 2019 and virtually on 16 October 2020.”

Additional information on the planned Szczecin Symposium will be provided under TOP 10, ideas on further activities of BB will be provided under TOP 11.

6. Report by the Treasurer on the financial situation of Bibliotheca Baltica

The BB Treasurer prepared a detailed report showing the sound financial situation of BB and distributed it with the invitation to the General Assembly. He explains that the present balance of funds will provide a good financial basis for the next Symposium.

7. Report by the Auditors

The reports by the Auditors – Charlotte Hillergård of Södertörn University Library and Ave Sepik of the National Library of Estonia – were distributed with the invitation to the General Assembly.

8. Move to discharge the Board members from all financial responsibilities for 2018 and 2019

On the basis of the favourable reports by both auditors on the years 2018 and 2019 Gudrun Wirtz (Bavarian State Library) makes the proposal to discharge the Board members from all financial responsibilities for 2018 and 2019. This is accepted unanimously.

9. Elections (Secretary, Board members and Auditors)

In open votes the following candidates are elected as Secretary and Board members for the period 2020-2024:

- *Jürgen Warmbrunn* as Secretary: all yes-votes
- *Christophe Didier* as Board member: all yes-votes
- *Tomasz Gruszkowski* as Board member: all yes-votes
- *Andris Vilks* as Board member: all yes-votes

The auditors (*Charlotte Hillergård* and *Ave Sepik*) are unfortunately not able to attend the General Assembly but have expressed their willingness to continue their function for the years 2020 and 2021. They are also elected unanimously.

All candidates have already accepted their election in advance or do so at this point. Those present also thank the assembled members for the trust expressed in them.

Following a question from the plenary the BB Secretary explains that there was also a female candidate for the Board but that her election had to be postponed because the candidate's library terminated its membership in BB a few years ago. He ensures the plenary that the BB Board will endeavour to co-opt at least one female member for the term 2020-2024.

10. Plans for the Bibliotheca Baltica Symposium 2021

The BB Secretary explains that the last communication with the Pomeranian Library in Szczecin was conducted by Robert Zepf and that he therefore cannot report in detail on the content of this talk.

He points out, however, that the definitive date for the Symposium will have to be fixed once the further development of the Corona Pandemic can be judged more clearly. Like many Board members Jürgen Warmbrunn would prefer a Symposium with physical attendance or a hybrid one to a "virtual only" Symposium. Since the cost of hiring the necessary equipment for a hybrid or virtual one is not excessive this might be an alternative if international travel is still a major problem in 2021 or 2022.

Possible topics for the next Symposium have already been identified by the Board:

- the role of deposit libraries in the future
- future strategies / visions for libraries
- the library of the future / futuristic library projects
- how to redesign libraries in order to adapt them to modern needs

The General Assembly encourages the Board to pursue these ideas.

Andris Vilks adds that it would be most desirable to intensify Bibliotheca Baltica's support for young professionals in the vein of its Boris Volodin travel grants and thus to win these future library leaders for activities within the framework of Bibliotheca Baltica.

11. Further activities of the Bibliotheca Baltica Working group

The BB Secretary reports that the Board discussed the possibility of re-establishing a mailing list as means of communications between the Board and the members and

between members. The State and University Library Hamburg will provide the necessary support by the end of the year.

Antje Theise (Rostock University Library) asks about Bibliotheca Baltica's activities in the social media. She offers to provide a social media strategy for Bibliotheca Baltica until 2021 and accepts the invitation to the next Board meeting to discuss this question further.

Christophe Didider points out that it would be very good to re-establish the traditional good relations between BB and Russian libraries. This will be discussed further with the BB President present.

12.AOB

None.

Attachments:

- Financial report by the BB Treasurer
- Reports of the auditors for the years 2018 and 2019.

Jussi-Pekka Hakkarainen
BB Treasurer

Jürgen Warmbrunn
BB Secretary (for the Minutes)

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(Should we put the short report here or better at the end?)

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