*Liebe Kollegen, Kollegin, mes chers amis, dear SNTS colleagues*

1 August 2020

Since the SNTS could not meet in person in Rome in 2020, the Committee had arranged to broadcast a live session for the SNTS membership 1600 CET (1400 GMT, 0900 CDT, 1000 EDT), and the Secretary sent out links for that meeting in mid-July via our very large email list. At that time, the Secretary had received a few emails from members, confirming receipt of the meeting announcement.

It was not until the Committee meeting yesterday (July 31), that we realized that some of the Committee members had not received the meeting announcement and, we had to assume, that many of the members had also not received that announcement. At very short notice (1500 CET), the Secretary sent a second notice of the general meeting, hoping that those who had not received the first notice would be able to attend, but surmising that many would not be able to attend the meeting owing to the late arrival of the second notice.

We had therefore arranged to record the committee’s report to the membership, which you can view at  <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Aih4EMM6khw>

Some members will have felt dismayed, frustrated, or angered at what has happened. Apparently, some received the link but could not activate it and participate in the meeting. I do not understand the natures of the technical problem, but I do understand the frustration that many members have experienced.

I want to apologize deeply for what has happened, and assure that membership that we had assumed that the first notice had reached every member in good time to participate.

In this message, I will relate the contents of that meeting (you can view it in the link above).

1.  ***SNTS 2020 and 2021*.** As was announced several months ago, the meeting in Rome had to be cancelled, owing to the COVID-19 pandemic and the travel restrictions that this created. Later, the committee was informed that the organizing committee for SNTS 2021 in Melbourne had to withdraw their invitation. Until a vaccine is developed, it would be precarious to plan a meeting for July 2021 when the government of Australia might reimpose travel restrictions and quarantine measures. The Committee agreed with the Melbourne organizers that rescinding the invitation was prudent. At the same time, the Committee wishes to extend its thanks to Bernardo Estrada and Francesco Bianchini and their colleagues, who had already done much work in planning the Rome meeting, and to our colleagues in Melbourne for their invitation.

2.  ***Ongoing work of the Society.* D**uring this past year, leadership of the Society has met frequently, live or over email. We have thought it essential to maintain the momentum of the Society and its activities, and so have been actively engaged in seeking alternatives for 2021 and beyond.

3**.** The cancellation of Rome 2020, at which Margaret Mitchell would have assumed the presidency, raised a question of presidential rotation and succession. It was decided that the best solution was to ask John Kloppenborg to continue in the role of the president for 2020-21, and thus to postpone Margaret Mitchell’s presidency until 2021-2022, and John Barclay’s presidency until 2022-2023. Jean Zumstein (past president) had also agreed to remain on the committee for 2020-2021.

4.  ***Officers.*** It was also decided that officers of the society and the committee members should continue in their normal rotation. Hence, Andrew Clarke completes his term as Secretary as of 1 January 2021. Todd Still, currently Assistant Secretary, has generously agreed to commence a five-year term as Secretary as of January 1, and Christina Kreinecker has kindly agreed to assume the role of Assistant Secretary.

5.  Daniel Gerber and Korinna Zamfir have completed their three-year terms as Committee members. Régis Burnet (Belgium) and François Tolmie (South Africa) will join the Committee straightway.

6.  ***Meeting venues*.** With the withdrawal of Melbourne’s invitation for 2021, the SNTS was left without a venue for 2021. Over the last few months, many efforts have been made to obtain a venue for July 2021, preferably in Europe, and one to which many members could travel by automobile if public transportation was still precarious. The Committee is delighted to announce that KULeuven has offered its facilities as a venue. Negotiations with Melbourne and Rome have also been successful for the following years. Hence, the meeting venues for 2021-2023 will be as follows:

* **SNTS** **2021** will occur **27-30 July 2021** at KULeuven. At this point, we are planning an in-person meeting, but with an option for video conferencing if that is still necessary. In the event that some members will have to participate remotely, some of the normal scheduling of the presidential address and main papers may have to be adjusted so as to accommodate time zone issues. The Committee is deeply appreciative to Joseph Verheyden for his initiative in arranging an invitation for 2021 and for a great deal of work in arranging appropriate meeting rooms, hotels, and venues for dinners and outings.
* **SNTS 2022** will be hosted in Melbourne. The Melbourne committee had already done much planning for 2021 before having to cancel that meeting. Our Australian colleagues have been able to move that planning to the next year.
* **SNTS 2023** will be hosted by Rome. The local organizers at Rome have been able to use the plans that they had made for 2020 for a 2023 meeting

The Committee is grateful to Leuven, Melbourne and Rome in their offers of meeting venues, and in their flexibility in accommodating the Society under the current difficult circumstances.

7. ***Leuven Programme*.** The presidential address will be given by Margaret Mitchell. There will be 6 Main Papers, 18 seminars and 18 Offered Short Papers. A call for offered papers will come out shortly. Members are encouraged to identify scholars who might be invited to Leuven as guests of the Society. Requests for guest invitations should be directed to the Assistant Secretary.

8.  ***Election of New members*.** Twenty-seven nominations were approved by the Committee. The following are now deemed elected to the SNTS:

1. Prof. Michael A. DAISE (USA)

2. Dr. Daniel K. DARKO (USA)

3. Dr. Peter DOBLE (UK)

4. Dr. John Christopher EDWARDS (USA)

5. Dr. Denis FRICKER (France)

6. Dr. Edmon L. GALLAGHER (USA)

7. Dr. Angela Kim HARKINS (USA)

8. Prof. Dr. Thomas HATINA (Canada)

9. Prof. Dr. Hisauyasu ITO (Japan)

10. Prof. Dr. Esther KOBEL (Germany)

11. Prof. Dr. Roig Lanzillotta LAUTARO (Netherlands)

12. Prof. Grant MACASKILL (UK)

13. Dr. Heidrun E. MADER (Germany)

14. Prof. Dr. Maksimillijan MATJAZ (Slovenia)

15. Dr. Andrew M. MBUVI (USA)

16. Dr. Robert MYLES (Australia)

17. Prof. Thomas O’LOUGHLIN (UK)

18. Prof. Eyal REGEV (Israel)

19. Rev. Dr. E. Randolph RICHARDS (USA)

20. Dr. Sarah ROLLENS (USA)

21. Dr. Elizabeth E. SHIVELY (UK)

22. Prof. Anna Rebecca SOLEVÅG (Norway)

23. Dr. David STARLING (Australia)

24. Prof. Jennifer STRAWBRIDGE (UK)

25. Dr. Lourdes GARCIA URENA (Spain)

26. Dr. Meredith J.C. WARREN (UK)

27. Dr. Robyn J. WHITAKER (Australia)

The Assistant Secretary, Todd Still, noted with satisfaction that of the 27 newly elected members, 10 are women colleagues. Members are encouraged to continue nominating new members, and to take into account the Society’s request that members pay special attention to the need to diversify our membership. Christina Keinecker will be pleased to receive new nominations. These nominations are the lifeblood of our Society.

9.     ***Deceased members***

The following deaths of members (or former members) of the Society, not previously announced, are to be noted:

Franz Annen (Switzerland)

Heinrich Baarlink (Netherlands)

Norbert Baumert (Austria)

Otto Böcher (Germany)

Sándor Csérhati (Hungary)

James Dunn (UK**; President 2002**)

Rinaldo Fabris (Italy)

Antonio García-Moreno (Spain)

Paul Hammer (USA)

Lars Hartman (Sweden)

Anthony Harvey (UK)

Larry Hurtado (UK)

Rollin Kearns (Germany)

Ulrich Luz (Switzerland; **President 1997**)

John Mbiti (Switzerland)

Felice Montagnini (Italy)

Maria Neubrand (Paderborn)

Petr Pokorný (Czech Republic; **President 1994**)

Errol Rhodes (USA)

Bernd Schaller (Germany)

Lionel Swain (UK)

John Turner (USA)

Ugo Vanni (Italy)

Antonio Vargas-Machuca (Spain)

Arthur Wainwright (USA)

Stephen Wilson (Canada)

Christian Wolff (Germany)

Let us observe a moment of silence for our colleagues.

***Closing words***

A summary of the livestream will go out to all members. We are aware that some did not receive the link for the livestream meeting.

Thanks to the retiring members of the Committee — Daniel Gerber and Korinna Zamfir – for their contributions over the past 3 years to the work of the Committee.

A special thanks are due to Andrew Clarke for his service to the society as Secretary.

Thanks to Jean Zumstein for agreeing to remain on the committee for another year.

Thanks to Margaret Mitchell and John Barclay for agreeing to defer their presidencies by one year.

Thanks to Joseph Verheyden who stepped into the breach and who has done a great deal of planning for Leuven 2021 and to our colleagues in Melbourne and Rome for their willingness to defer their meetings to 2022, and 2023.

See you in Leuven in 2021, 27-30 July 2020.

Stay well.

John S. Kloppenborg, President SNTS

On behalf of the Committee