

Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting of the South-Central
Renaissance Conference

Norman, Oklahoma, March 18, 1976

1. Call to order: President Marcus Orr called the Executive Committee of the SCRC into session promptly at 4:00 p.m. in Seminar Room B6 of the Forum at the Oklahoma Center for Continuing Education. In attendance were President Orr, Vice-President Maurine McElroy, Secretary-Treasurer Cary Stringer, and the following members of the Executive Committee: David Ray, Louis Scouster, Willard Cooper, Maurice Shapiro (Past-President), and Patrick G. Hogan, Jr. (for David Judkins). Not represented were Richard Klockhefer and Clyde Williams. David Hart sat in to give a report on plans for the 1977 meeting at the University of Arkansas.

2. Agenda: President Orr presented an agenda for the meeting, which was adopted on motion from Maurine McElroy and second of Robert Ray. The following items of business were then taken up.

a. A brief discussion (again) of raising the membership dues was held, but no action was deemed advisable at this time.

b. Minutes of the previous meeting were read, discussed, and approved. The Secretary was instructed to mail out minutes of the Executive Committee meeting in future, which he agreed to do.

c. On the matter of investing Conference funds, the Secretary admitted not having discovered what the possibilities of such a move might be, but claimed to be involved in an investigation. President Orr offered to look into the question also, as he had similar experience in connection with other interests in Memphis, and he indicated that he had filed a financial statement with the IRS for the Conference journal.

d. The question of expanding/developing the Conference's membership was next raised, and a mannerist discussion followed. President Orr said that the 1976 Program Committee (Richard Klockhefer, David Hart, Robert Bauer, and Sabetai Unguru) had begun to develop lists of potential members, especially of historians in the region. Richard Klockhefer is said to be developing an art-history list. Then the possibility of establishing a Membership Committee was brought up, along with the possibility of broadening the Conference's appeal by expanding our scope to include medievalists, as has been done by our colleagues in the Southeastern region. This possible enlargement was discussed, but the matter was left unresolved. Then a preview of the Nominating Committee's report was asked for in order to inform the Executive Committee of who might be able (and otherwise unemployed) to serve on a possible Membership Development Committee. Patrick Hogan then brought up the possibility of laying more emphasis stress on the executive function of the Secretary-Treasurer as a way of providing additional continuity in the Conference's leadership. Such an enlarged function was thought to be a possible way of coordinating such efforts as the Conference might wish to make to expand its membership and operate more efficiently. After this general discussion it was taken as the sense of the meeting that the next President (McElroy) would appoint a Membership Development Committee to consider both the possibility of enlarging the Conference's scope to include medievalists and of extending the executive capacities of the Secretary-Treasurer. President Orr declared his intention to take this recommendation to the general business meeting the next day and ask that the incoming

President be empowered to appoint such a committee, a move approved by the Executive Committee.

e. The President then reported his thinking about the possibility of amending the Conference's structure of officers to add a Second Vice-President, whose function would be to serve as Program Chairman for the year of his office, and to make succession to the next higher office automatic for each officer in the chain: Second Vice-President to First Vice-President to President. Mr. Orr had worked out the changes in the Conference By-Laws necessary to facilitate such a change. Maurice Shapiro suggested that these proposals be added to the general charge to be given the Development Committee mentioned in the previous item, and the group concurred.

f. David Hart gave a preliminary report on arrangements for the 1977 meeting at Fayetteville, Arkansas, which was well received by the Committee.

g. President Orr next read an invitation from Centenary College for the 1978 meeting; this invitation indicated that Professor Richard Sylvester had already been preliminarily engaged as the primary speaker for that meeting, and the Committee received these news happily.

h. Maurine McElroy then invited the Conference to Austin, Texas, for its 1979 meeting. Both this and the previous invitation were to be presented to the general business meeting on the next day for official Conference action.

i. Marcus Orr gave his editor's report on Explorations in Renaissance Culture (see attachment). Some discussion followed on the need to increase library subscriptions, and various proposals for so doing were mentioned. It was agreed that all Conference members would be urged to prompt their home libraries once again to subscribe.

j. Adjournment.

Respectfully submitted,

Gary Stringer

Gary Stringer,
Secretary-Treasurer