



Friday 16<sup>th</sup> June 2006

# The Krakow Trumpeter

Issue 2

## Fifth Annual General Meeting

Convened under the broad slash of the new EASE logo, the AGM saw a healthy turnout of about 50 members, despite the glorious sunshine outside. Our finances are not so healthy, with falling income owing to a decrease in the number of paying members and increased spending on EASE promotion, as well as ongoing expenditure on various standing committees. The membership issue is being addressed by a team led by Alison Clayson.

### What's new from Publications

Hervé Maisonneuve, in his final duty as Chief Editor, highlighted the activities of the Publications Committee. The Journal needs more quality papers. The Book Shelf will return at the end of this year.

Responsibility for the research papers moves from John Glenn to Igor Vlahovic, Margaret Cooter takes over production and Moira Johnson-Vekony becomes Chief Editor. Observant readers will realise that this means that Maeve O'Connor is retiring from the journal – end of an era?

### If we don't change direction soon, we're likely to get where we're headed

Words of warning from our outgoing President, Elisabeth Kessler. She said that she had not achieved as much as she'd have liked during her tenure as President, a common problem when trying to combine a full-time job with Council activities. That may ease as many senior EASE members are becoming senior citizens but we need more young blood.

### Tricky question of the day

How many members does EASE have? The embarrassing answer is that we're not sure. If you know of any past members who have stopped communicating or participating in EASE activities, whom you think would still wish to be active, please ask them to contact our new secretary or pass their details to Sheila Evered.



### The new regime

The election of the new Council had shades of Communist procedures about it. The ballots were nearly unanimous and candidates were waved in without even a showing of hands. Our roving photographer, Dario, will try to capture your new representatives in unguarded moments over the next few days.



## Our host: the Jagiellonian University

With alumni from Mikolaj Kopernik to John Paul II, the University could be forgiven for resting on its laurels. Anything but, as reported by new Council member Witold Zuchiewicz. It is going from strength to strength: the number of students has more than trebled in the past 15 years, reaching nearly 42 000 students, of whom about 5500 graduate each year while 350 receive doctorates.

The University has moved its laboratories and lecture theatres to a new campus outside town with ambitious plans for further expansion.

### Mirror, mirror on the wall, who is the oldest of them all?

Never trust a guidebook: the Jagiellonian is second only to Prague in terms of age, in Central Europe. Candidates for the oldest suggested by readers: Coimbra, Toulouse, Montpellier, Oxford and Cambridge.

### Ancient ties

Wearing his Rosetta stone tie, Cliff Morgan, opening speaker in the first plenary session, told us about a 'dark archive' of digitized material that would be a final point of reference if all other archived digital material were somehow lost.

The Babylonians had something similar, within the constraints of their own time and technology. They wrote their laws on clay tablets, then sealed them in a further layer of inscribed clay. In the event of a dispute, the outer layer could be broken open and the veracity of the wording of the law would be confirmed.



### Would they?

It is rumoured that long-time EASE stalwarts MO'C and JG have been out at dawn, jogging around the Planty, sweating pure vodka. Mind you, that is just a rumour...

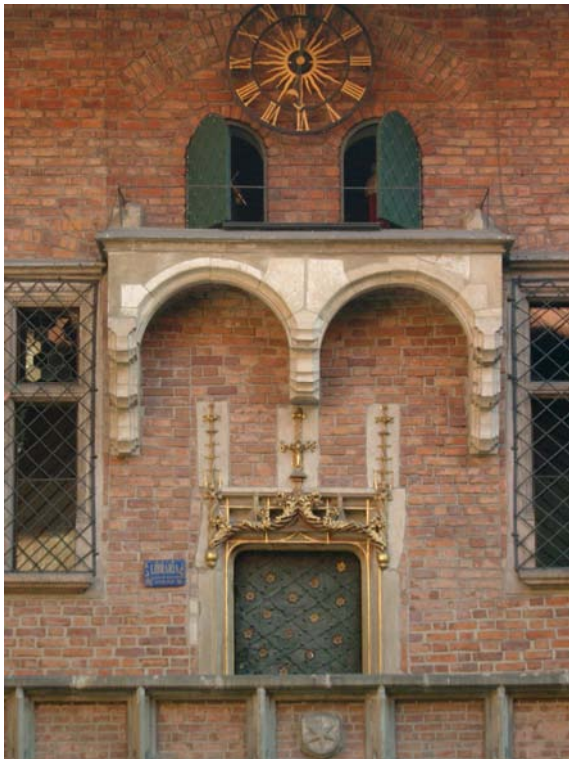


### Participant list correction

The email address for A. Golebiowska has been misprinted in the contact list: it should be [algot@ciop.pl](mailto:algot@ciop.pl)

## Collegium Maius reception

An elegant courtyard, a harpist, a balmy evening – how better to renew acquaintances from previous EASE meetings. Clock – who can name the figures?



### Plenary One: Culture clashes in time and space

In introducing the first plenary of the conference, Chairman Rod Hunt explained that although we were here to examine cultural differences, the next conference in 2009 was hoped to be a much larger affair, using these differences as the starting point for a look at editorial harmonization and standardization.

The first speaker, Cliff Morgan, then gave a very lively presentation covering the past, present and future of electronic archiving. Packed as it is with schemes large and small, with both runners and limpers and secrets open and closed, the field of e-archiving is awash with well-intentioned hopes and heartfelt fears. We heard about JSTOR and NESTOR, and LOCKSS and CLOKSS (or should that be KLÓKSS for one week only). In all, it seemed to be

easier to identify problems than solutions, despite the many initiatives currently trying to figure all this out. Solutions that involved publishers (and national libraries) seemed to stand the best chances of success.

The resulting discussion of Cliff's paper threw up many alternative points, such as why is it the publishers who should have to assume e-archival responsibility and how could e-archiving ever hope to be more secure in absolute terms than paper archiving, with the latter's multiplicity of repositories? Also in the air were the role of the legal deposit libraries, and the possibility that convergence of e-archiving protocols was always likely to be endangered by a continuous commercial evolution of archiving technology.

The second presentation, from Volodymyr Lysenko, looked at spatio-cultural differences in e-publishing in the context of the east-west contrasts now seen in Europe. Unable to attend the conference for family reasons, Volodymyr had sent the Chairman his presentation on the day before the latter had left for Kraków. Following some frantic transatlantic editorial amendments, Rod Hunt then delivered the presentation on the author's behalf.

We heard about the ease of getting information from west to east in Europe, but that in the other direction things were not so straightforward. In the east, a much smaller proportion of journals had e-editions and there was a burgeoning trend towards auto-archiving. Getting into the SCI was also a big problem in the east and the solution appeared, to Volodymyr, to be a do-it-yourself one: create comprehensive 'national registers of scientific activity' and make them accessible to the west.

Many sparks flew in the following discussion—maybe more of our presenters should deliver *in absentia*! We heard trenchant critiques of impact factors, alarm at the prospect of a two-speed Europe, challenges to the notions that 'English is best' and 'west is best', calls for more emphasis on public understanding of science in EASE's future activities, news of a Croatian initiative that goes part-way

towards delivering what the author was asking for, not-for-profit approaches to appraising journals' standing, and countering the endemic managerial misuse of indices of quality.

The company were then glad to adjourn to the mellow ambience of the Collegium Maius reception and hopefully were able to quench some of the sparks with the help of the splendid buffet and wine.



## This week in Krakow

Friday sees the opening of the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Recycling Festival on Blonia (pronounced Bwonia) Krakowskie – you may have seen a ship there on your way in from the airport – during which Kraków landmarks are recreated using rubbish.

And no link between junk and these two!



## Natural history challenge 2: how to kill the dragon

Legend has it that the caves under Wawel hill were once occupied by a dragon that terrorised the local population, stealing their sheep and feasting on virgins. The dragon was eventually killed by either Krak, the founder of the city, or one of his sons. How was this achieved?

Nothing personal putting this picture under the dragon story!



## And finally ...

This is a truly international meeting. How many countries do you think are represented here? No prizes for guessing!

## P.S. or Psst!

No-one takes any responsibility for anything published in the Kraków Trumpeter (any volunteers?) but all scurrilous remarks, gossip and rumour, please hand in to the Newsletter Office (next to the Auditorium) by coffee time tomorrow for the next issue.