

**GAMEO Management Group**  
**17 January 2008**  
**Mennonite Heritage Centre, Winnipeg MB**

**Present:** Bert Friesen (MHSC, chair), John Lapp (MWC in place of Pakisa Tshimika), Ken Reddig (MBHC), Ken Sensenig (MCC), Sam Steiner (managing editor), Richard Thiessen (assistant managing editor, treasurer).

**Regrets:** Rich Preheim (MCUSA, who was to attend in place of Dale Schrag), Pakisa Tshimika (MWC), Dale Schrag (MCUSA).

**1. Opening and Introductions: Bert Friesen**

a. Ken Sensenig was introduced as representing MCC International, John Lapp is substituting for Pakisa Tshimika for Mennonite World Conference, Ken Reddig represents the Mennonite Brethren Historical Commission, and Bert Friesen represents MHSC. Rich Preheim was supposed to be here to represent Mennonite Church USA Historical Committee, but as he was preparing to leave for the airport, he realized that his passport has expired, so he sends his regrets.

**2. Review of Agenda**

a. Richard Thiessen was appointed to be secretary for today's meetings.

**3. Review of minutes of 18 January 2007 - Sam Steiner**

a. Minutes were approved with a correction to the heading of the minutes.

**4. Orientation of new members**

a. Bert reviewed the history of the encyclopedia project for the sake of Ken Sensenig.

**5. Managing Editor's Report - Sam Steiner**

a. A report was distributed. 9,261 articles are now on GAMEO.

**6. GAMEO structure review**

a. The document entitled GAMEO Policy Statements was distributed by Sam Steiner and reviewed. **Sam, Richard and Bert will draft a proposal to outline how the editorial committees will be structured after 2008, as well as a definition of what it means to be a partner and a sponsor.** Once we have a proposal in place, we will send it to a small number of key regional historical societies in the USA, and invite them to meet with us to consider various levels of involvement. These would include the following: Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society, Mennonite Historians of Eastern Pennsylvania, Illinois Mennonite Historical Society, Oregon Mennonite Historical Society, Western District Conference Historical Committee, and

California Mennonite Historical Society, and the Mennonite Historical Society based at Goshen/Elkhart.

b.

i. The management committee will appoint the managing and assistant managing editors. Sam is beginning the third year of his three year appointment as managing editor, concluding December 2008, and Richard is beginning the second year of his three year appointment as assistant managing editor, concluding in December 2009. **Sam will draft a job description for the managing and assistant managing editorial positions, and a flow chart illustrating how material moves through the various stages of the GAMEO editorial structure.**

ii. Reviewers are the people who review the list of articles submitted by editors. They can accept and publish an article, or send it back to the editor for further review. Reviewers will be appointed by the managing editors. Members of editorial committee will not automatically become reviewers.

iii. Editors, who are able to post content, will be appointed by the managing editors.

iv. Writers are appointed by provincial sub-groups in Canada.

v. Owners are people who upload articles on Plone, and we can change ownership of an existing article from one person to another.

c. Staffing post-2008: a goal of the committee is to try to appoint a second assistant managing editor, preferably from the USA. Other than that, we will continue as we are presently, and recognize that our staffing structure and GAMEO in general will continue to evolve.

d. Partners (current and potential): an idea is to have a meeting with the Global Mennonite History Project people when they meet in Asuncion, Paraguay in August 2009, and see if they would be interested in seeing GAMEO become an arm of the Mennonite World Conference. This would allow the work of the global history project to continue in an encyclopedia format.

Bert Friesen has had continuing contact with some Hutterite groups in Manitoba, and is encouraging these people to communicate with groups outside of Manitoba.

Sam has had contact with the Brethren in Christ through Morris Sider, and he has stated that they are preoccupied at this point in time with their own encyclopedia project. However, there is still hope that they would be interested in joining GAMEO at a later stage.

## 7. GAMEO Promotion

a. Ken Reddig put an article together and sent it on to Rich Preheim, who sent it to a number of Mennonite periodicals through the Mennonite Meetinghouse network. **Ken will put some material together again and send it on to Rich.** One idea is to celebrate the 10,000<sup>th</sup> article, which should happen several months from now. A second article would be the completion of the placement of Mennonite Encyclopedia content on GAMEO.

b. We should be deliberate about keeping lines of communication open with our Canadian provincial societies.

c. An idea is to produce a 7-8 minute DVD of the GAMEO project, encouraging historical societies to get involved in GAMEO. **Ken and Bert will put a proposal together and distribute it to us in March.** Once we have sent this out, we would then follow up with our letter of invitation and possibly a meeting.

d. **Sam will prepare a one sheet handout and distribute it to church groups that have**

annual meetings.

## 8. Involvement of non-North American and non-English groups in project

a. Contact will be made with the Global History Project group meeting in Paraguay next year, the Paraguay encyclopedia group, both in August 2009. **Ken will continue his contacts with Gerhard Ratzlaff regarding the Paraguay project.** There is a group in Germany planning a supplemental volume of the *Mennonitsiches Lexikon*, and **Sam will contact Gary Waltner to follow up.** Contact could be made with them as well. Abe Dueck is editing the Mennonite Brethren global history book, and there might be material from that project that could be incorporated into GAMEO.

b. **John Lapp will write a letter to Ray Brubacher and Larry Miller concerning the involvement of MWC's connection to GAMEO and the work of the global history project people.**

## 9. Technical Issues

a. Sam has recommended that GAMEO be moved from the Conrad Grebel server to a web server arranged through PeaceWorks. The costs would be approximately \$50 per month. Approved.

b. Ken presented information on the possibility of having virtual meetings. We should each explore whether or not we have this option available in our areas.

## 10. Finances

a. Richard Thiessen presented a GAMEO statement of operations and statement of financial position. It was reported that GAMEO had an income of \$14,464.12 plus the MHSC patron contribution of \$250 for a total of \$14,714.12 in income, and expenses of \$10,579.38 (only \$10,170 of these expenses were transferred out of the GAMEO account B the PeaceWorks invoices and the Plett project expenses). The statements presented to the committee were reviewed but not audited.

b ii. **Sam will communicate with Rich Preheim** that he should talk to the Showalter Foundation about funding GAMEO, with an emphasis on Kansas content in the encyclopedia. Ressler Mill Foundation would be contacted by Ken Sensenig regarding Lancaster County content, and **Rich Preheim will contact Mennonite Foundation USA regarding Illinois, Indiana, Virginia, Ohio and Pennsylvania content.**

b i.. We should invite all of the Canadian and US historical societies to sponsor GAMEO, and not limit sponsorship to educational institutions.

c. For the 2007-08 year, we already know that we have a \$2,700 donation from a private individual and a \$2,000 donation from the Kroeker Foundation, both solicited by Conrad Grebel staff, and a \$4,000 donation from the Mennonite Foundation, for a total of \$8,700. Assuming that we raise the same funds that we did in 2006-07 from our sponsors and the Plett Foundation, we will have a total revenue of approximately \$23,000. Our projected expenses are:

Plett project = \$5,550.  
Conrad Grebel server = \$1,800.  
PeaceWorks = \$4,1000.  
Fall meeting: \$1,500.  
ISP = \$600.  
DVD = \$1,000.  
Travel to regional meetings: \$2,000.

Total expenses is \$16,650.

Budget approved.

## **11. Content**

- a. **Helmut Huebert's Russian biographical material will be reviewed by Ken and Bert and submitted to GAMEO.**
- b. **John Thiesen will be asked to finish up the bibliography section.**
- c. editorial priority is completing volumes 1-4.
- d. one project that we could do is to scan in pdf format the *Martyr's Mirror*; other books could be possibilities, such as *The Complete Writings of Menno Simons* and the *Ausbund*.
- e. **Richard will ask the Canadian MB Conference about the possibility of including material from their pamphlet series.**

## **12. Recommendations to partners**

- a. Richard distributed the revised Criteria for Biographies, and it was approved.

## **13. GAMEO Report for committees**

Bert and Richard will meet to decide on what will be reported to editorial committees.

## **14. Election of Chair**

- a. Bert Friesen was re-elected as chair.

## **15. Other Business**

- a. John Lapp raised the issue of having an institutional base for GAMEO.
- b. Access to the photo collections of various archives would be very helpful.

## **16. Date of Next Meeting**

- a. We would like to meet in conjunction with the US editorial committee, which will most likely be in October 2008. **Sam will contact Rich Preheim about the details.**