

**Global Anabaptist Mennonite Encyclopedia Online  
Management Group  
Centre for Mennonite Brethren Studies  
310 Taylor Ave.  
Winnipeg, MB  
1 December 2005 – 9:00 a.m.**

Present: Bert Friesen (Mennonite Historical Society of Canada (MHSC)), Sam Steiner (GAMEO Managing Editor), Abe Dueck (Mennonite Brethren Church Historical Commission (MBHC)), John Sharp (Mennonite Church USA Historical Committee (MCUSAHC))

**1. Opening**

Bert Friesen led a brief opening.

**2. Minutes of 14 June 2005 and 29 September 2005**

**CONSENSUS 1: To approve the minutes of 14 June 2005 and 29 September 2005.**

**3. Review Agenda of meeting**

We will include discussion of John Sharp's role on committee. [I didn't find this later, but assume John continues until the MC USA Historical Committee has a new Director.]

**4. Name of GAMEO pronunciation**

Our discussion favored Gameo (rhymes with Cameo)

**5. Status of Partnership**

GAMEO's activity will be reported to each partner, along with our recommendations.

**a. Mennonite Brethren Historical Commission**

Abe Dueck said the Commission has not met recently. There may be a new representative from the Commission to this body when a new Commission Executive Director is named, but this was still unclear. Abe's role as Executive Director of the Commission ends in 2006.

**b. Mennonite Church USA Historical Committee**

John Sharp said the Committee was enthusiastic about the project, but cautious about financial commitments. He thought the Historical Committee would be supportive of handling U.S.-based donations to GAMEO.

**c. Mennonite World Conference**

Sam Steiner reported he had talked to Ray Brubacher (Associate Executive Secretary of MWC). Our request will be on MWC's agenda in March 2006.

**d. Mennonite Central Committee**

Ken Reddig has made initial contact with Robb Davis, the new Executive Directory of MCC in Akron. We will need to do followup on this one.

**6. Other Contacts**

**a. Paraguayan Mennonite Encyclopedia**

Abe Dueck has some contact with an encyclopedia project in Paraguay. They are meeting on December 13 and our project will be mentioned. This could raise the question of English-only; they are talking about a German/Spanish product.

**CONSENSUS 2 – We asked Abe Dueck to remain in contact with this project, and to indicate openness to conversation. We will maintain our present emphasis, however.**

Sam Steiner noted a suggestion that we include the *Mennonitisches Lexikon* would also raise the language issue.

**b. Hutterite Brethren**

Bert Friesen has made contact with Hutterites; they potentially could be a partner in the future. Such groups could also be active participants, but below the “partner” level.

**7. Business arising**

**a. Vision/Mission Statement**

**CONSENSUS 3 – To approve the Vision Statement, with substituting “prominent individuals” for “leaders.”**

**[In subsequent discussion at the Editorial Committee and MHSC annual meeting, the statement was changed to a Mission statement with slightly altered language as now posted on the GAMEO website:]**

**The Global Anabaptist Mennonite Encyclopedia Online provides reliable, freely-available English-language information on Anabaptist-related congregations, denominations, conferences, institutions and significant individuals, as well as historical and theological topics. Secular subject articles from an Anabaptist perspective and full-text source documents are also included.**

**8. Editorial group(s) and Functions**

Sam Steiner reviewed comments about the role of the editorial committees at end of his report

Our discussion suggested the U.S. and Canadian committees would not meet together frequently (every five years?). The U.S. group will likely meet primarily via email, but parts of the U.S. group could meet in conjunction with other meetings, e.g. Mennonite Church USA Historical Committee meetings. A member of the Management Group should be part of all editorial committee meetings.

**CONSENSUS 4: The Management Committee should try to alternate its meetings to coincide with meetings of the U.S. and Canadian editorial groups, e.g. one year in the U.S. and one year in Canada. The partners will cover the cost of their Management Board representative; the cost of travel for the Managing Editor should be shared by the partners.**

We discussed, but did not resolve, how to facilitate joint editorial and content decisions between the two national committees. Liaising with regional historical groups in Canada is easier because of the MHSC structure; it is more difficult in the U.S. There are 50-60 regional societies there. We should try to have David Rempel Smucker be a contact with the Eastern Mennonite Librarians and Archivists group that meets annually.

We also discussed, but did not decide on, additional templates that would be required. [The editorial committees accepted the Periodicals template, and underscored the need for an Institutions template. There was also some discussion of a “Regional Conference” template.]

#### **9. Next steps in Publicity**

John Sharp said he did not feel a CD was required at this point. Bert Friesen suggested we need to establish a publicity committee, and that releases should go to the press monthly.

**CONSENSUS 5: Abe Dueck and Bert Friesen will prepare a publicity releases, perhaps consulting with John Longhurst. [In the event, Abe and Bert worked with Rich Preheim of the U.S. Committee who has worked with publicity releases in the US Mennonite media.]**

Releases could appear when GAMEO is launched, when new partners are added, when new U.S. content begins, when the conversion of the print encyclopedia is completed, and when there are milestones in hits/articles/etc.

**[The draft publicity brochure was reviewed at the Editorial Committee meeting, and a number of content and editorial suggestions were made. John Sharp will follow up with the designer. The Editorial Committee suggested 5000 copies be printed.]**

We recessed until Saturday morning.

#### **3 December 2005 at Canadian Mennonite University**

#### **10. Finances**

**CONSENSUS 6: We will try to meet with the Mennonite Church USA Historical Committee in October 2006 in North Newton, KS (to be confirmed). The estimated cost for travel would be \$2000, which we will ask the partners to share.**

The notion of “sponsors” was referred to the Editorial Committee for discussion. [I didn’t find reference to this in the minutes of that meeting; we seem to be proceeding with sponsors on an ad hoc basis.]

[The finances for GAMEO will be handled by the MHSC Treasurer for the time being, as Richard Thiessen expressed willingness to do this.]

#### **11. Front Matter**

We wondered about the future of the “Who are the Mennonites” material now residing on the Mennonite Historical Society of Canada website. Should it be incorporated in the “front matter” being reviewed by Victor Wiebe and John D. Thiesen?

#### **12. Anabaptist Ethereal Library**

We briefly discussed the need to develop a policy on the content of the Library, and also to provide better access to the content – perhaps putting an author / title list in a sortable table.

#### **13. Adjournment**

**Minutes by Sam Steiner**