The annual meeting of the Minnesota Independent Scholars’ Forum took place December 4, 1993. Following the social hour (potluck lunch) at Merriam Park Library in St. Paul, Treasurer David Megarry reported a 1993 balance of $2783.77, including the National Book Foundation program grant and MN Humanities Commission program grant, new memberships, a $500 gift from Susan Smith and beginning interest on our new bank account. Pres. Thimmesh reported activities including efforts to establish a coffeehouse discussion facility to interest the public in special programs and successful negotiations with a local bank who have agreed to provide pro bono fiscal agency.

A white ballot was voted to install the 1994 Board of Directors: Bob Thimmesh, Tom Abeles, Lucy Brusic, Ginny Hansen, Alex Johnston, David Juncker, Donna McGarry, David Megarry, Gloria Morris-Grothe, Jack Parker, and Lucy Smith. June Dale has retired from the Board, with thanks for her services to MISF.

Nominations begin

The 12:30 program began with a flurry of nominations for the most influential Person of the Millennium. Rhoda Lewin began by nominating Adolf Hitler for impact, not benefit. The first nomination sent in, Admiral William James Crowe (Chief of Staff who was pivotal in persuading Reagan et al that Russia was no longer a threat), did not have his nominator around to argue for him, but copies of the submission were passed out.

The originator of the theme, Roger Jones, presented a spirited nomination of Sir Isaac Newton. Like author Betty Jo Dobbs, he nominated Newton as the “The Janus Face of Genius”—turning both toward ancient wisdoms and futurist theorems.

Jack Parker and Lucy Smith noted that their nominations of Copernicus and Einstein would have been along similar lines. The names Charlemagne and Gandhi were

New publication policies

An MISF journal is projected for the fall of 1994. This journal, tentatively entitled Concept, will feature well-researched, timely articles dealing with issues of interest to independent scholars. Articles may be submitted by anyone who is willing to have work refereed and edited. Themes under consideration for the first issue are “political correctness” and “How much do we need to know?” It is not intended to confine an issue to a single theme. David Juncker and Lucy Brusic are the editors of this journal. The deadline for the first issue is September 15.

The Minnesota Independent Scholars’ Forum newsletter begins, with this issue, a new phase in its literary existence. Henceforth the newsletter will be a four-page quarterly, coming out on February 15, May 15, September 15, and November 15. The deadline for this newsletter will be the first of the month of publication. The newsletter will feature information about upcoming MISF meetings and events. Tom Abeles is the editor.

Program and event notices will be continue to be designed and mailed independently, as needed by the program and publicity committees. Also mentioned. Terri Hawthorne spoke against choosing one individual, and against voting along hierarchical lines, since even the scientific nominees little affect the two-thirds of the globe still living pre-scientifically.

Further nominations were entertained for St. Francis of Assisi (his ideas, not their promulgation) and Catherine de Medici (for popularizing the use of the fork). Pres. Thimmesh expanded on his nomination of Gutenberg, noting that ideas of scientists, poets, and philosophers were not just disseminated but also validated through Gutenberg’s invention; it is something of a yardstick of an (concluded on page 3)
President’s Column

by Robert F. Thimmesh

For 1994 I have set the following Forum goals:

• Complete the negotiations and arrangements with National City Bank of Minneapolis whereby the bank will act as the fiscal depository (through their trust department) and joint fiscal agent with the Forum for Independent Scholars seeking and receiving grant money.

• Recomorganize and revitalize the membership committee thereby increasing the Forum’s membership.

• Complete the arrangements for starting Forum programs at one or more coffeehouses, modeled after European coffeehouses.

• Engage the Forum in cooperating with a “virtual university” on-line, an asynchronous computer network, using Internet and other appropriate linkage systems.

• Develop an electronic coffeehouse (perhaps in connection with one of our traditional coffeehouses) whereby Independent Scholars can develop topics of interest and exchange ideas or work on a national and international basis.

• Begin publication of a semi-annual journal.

• Regularize the publication of our quarterly newsletter to a “date certain” four times annually.

• Improve and expand communication between the President, the Board, and the membership.

• Develop and involve non-Board members of the Forum in the various activities of the Forum.

I believe all of these goals can be achieved by the end of the year, at least in part. We have already started working on a number of them and discussing others. I think the Forum which results from the achievement of these goals will be stronger, more vibrant, more interesting and yes, more enjoyable. ■

Editor’s Column: On the Net

In the post modern era, effective communication becomes critical. As the electronic web spreads, the amount of information multiplies. The cost per bit of information becomes less while the cost per useful bit rises both in absolute monies and in retrieval time.

While the value of information in the past has been based on its timelessness, today, value has been placed on timeliness, taking on the existence like that of the mayfly. The MN Independent Scholar’s Forum is approaching the issue from both ends of the spectrum; a scholarly journal is being initiated simultaneously with formal participation in the virtual world of Internet, the electronic nerves or the emerging global “brain”.

Today many scholarly journals are being “published” in virtual space. The works of artists and writers are reduced to 1s and 0s in some computer and then subject to instantaneous deconstruction and reconstruction.

The participation of the MN Independent Scholar’s Forum in the emerging evolutionary paradigm provides an opportunity to explore these issues. During the course of the next few years, MISF will be looking at ways to use and understand new and evolving ways of networking from real to virtual coffee houses, forums, seminars and publications. Join MISF members in local spaces and in the independent scholar’s global world—in virtual space—

See you on the Net!

Tom Abeles, editor

The Forum is a quarterly publication of the Minnesota Independent Scholars’ Forum

The Minnesota Independent Scholars’ Forum is a non-profit organization formed to encourage and promote inquiry, research, discussion, writing, and publication by independent scholars.

Editor:
Tom Abeles, 3704 11th Avenue South, Minneapolis MN 55407 (612) 825-6865 (h) 823-3154 (w)

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John Parker
Tom Abeles
Alex Johnston
Ginny Hansen
Bob Thimmesh

David Juncker
Gloria Morris-Grothe
Lucy Brusic
Donna McGarry
Lucy Smith

Archivist: Brian Mulhern
idea that it has been printed for publication rather than passed on by oral tradition. Argument was also raised for the nomination of Gutenberg on opposite grounds, noting that print fanned distribution of such mis-information as the Malleus Malefactorum, which precipitated witchhunts. There was much enthusiasm for the nomination of Gutenberg as the most influential person of this millennium.

A background sheet on Eleanor of Aquitaine from Ginny Hansen argued that this sometime Queen of France and England was an individual whose lasting influence enabled her group (females) to be included among those whose ideas are heard in politics, military power, religion, patronage/commissioning of literary works and other arts, and even architecture and daily life. (She improved lighting, heating, and table manners.) Without a role model and a door-opener like Queen Eleanor, women might still be unrepresented today.

Rhoda Gilman said her nominee, Mme Helena Petrovna Blavatsky, might actually represent a trend for the twenty-first century, even though she lived in the nineteenth. Blavatsky was nominated from the floor, along with Emerson and Thoreau, to represent the idea of theosophy and the blending of Eastern and Western thought.

A vote was taken on whether or not to elect a single individual as our nominee for Person of the Millennium. Seven to six, we voted not to choose one individual. More than half the people attending the meeting abstained from voting. ■

Ginny Hansen

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John (Jack) Parker is the curator emeritus of the John Ford Bell Library at the University of Minnesota. His special interests are literature of travel and exploration. He is currently researching the publication history of Sir Walter Raleigh’s last public speech (from the scaffold) in 1618. The first publication of the speech was in Dutch, so reconstruction of Raleigh’s actual words is a challenge! Parker has spoken twice to MISF forums. We are pleased to welcome him to the board.

Tom Abeles describes himself as a futurist, which he further defines as an “evolutionary systems thinker.” He holds a Ph. D. in chemistry and physics, but resigned from a tenured position in 1976. He has written for several scholarly journals addressing issues of environmental responsibility. He is currently “founder and janitor” of the “virtual university” on Metanet. Abeles will be the new editor of the quarterly newsletter.

Alex Johnston consults and advises educational organizations on the creative use of computers in learning. He conducts workshops and demonstrations in interactive education and specializes in a “hands-on” approach to electronic learning. As a Board member he is interested in launching an “electronic cafe” where intellectual minds can meet and exchange ideas through the Internet.

MISF Treasurer, Dave Megarry and his wife, Rose, are pleased to announce the birth of a son, Henry Thomas, on January 28, 1994. H.T. weighed 8 lbs., 7 oz.

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Yes, I would like to join the Minnesota Independent Scholars’ Forum.

Name______________________________

Address_____________________________________

City/State/ZIP_________________________________

Telephone (home)_________________________(work)_________________________

I enclose my check in the following amount_______.

Regular Membership

___$40 (regularly employed)___$16-$39 (not regularly employed)___$15 (under employed)___$10 (unemployed)

Household

___$50 (regularly employed)___$21-$49 (not regularly employed)___$20 (under employed)___$15 (unemployed)

Mail to: Curt Hillstrom 715 E. 57th Street Minneapolis MN 55417

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MISF membership benefits include:
•Borrowing privileges at University of Minnesota libraries
•Fiscal agency
•Notice of events and meetings
•Newsletters
•Journal
Coffee House Conversation

Presenters and discussion in honor of Women’s Day on the topic “From Eve to Gloria” at the Tall Tales Cafe, 5032 34th Avenue South, 12 NOON -2 PM, Sunday March 6, 1994. (Brunch $3.50)

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### MISF Calendar 1994

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>February 24</td>
<td>Forum meeting: Patricia Bell</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 6</td>
<td>Coffeehouse Conversation (12 NOON-2 PM) Tall Tales Cafe</td>
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<tr>
<td>March (Late)</td>
<td>Forum: Women’s Issues</td>
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<tr>
<td>April (Late)</td>
<td>Forum: Internet</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 1</td>
<td>Newsletter deadline for May 15 issue</td>
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<td>June</td>
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<td>July</td>
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<td>August</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 1</td>
<td>Newsletter deadline for September 15 issue</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 15</td>
<td>Deadline for November 15 Journal</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 1</td>
<td>Newsletter deadline for November 15 issue</td>
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<tr>
<td>December (early)</td>
<td>Annual Meeting</td>
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The Minnesota Independent Scholars' Forum
2303 Third Avenue South
Minneapolis MN 55404

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Address Correction Requested