

NEWSLETTER



INTERNATIONAL
PLATO SOCIETY

Société Platonicienne Internationale
Associazione Internazionale dei Platonisti
Sociedad Internacional de Platonistas
Internationale Platon-Gesellschaft

Established in 1989

Issue 1, Brasília, January 2014

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

We should like to begin by expressing our warmest wishes for the New Year to all of you.

We were very happy to meet many of you at the tenth *Symposium Platicum*, held in Pisa last July, and would like to express our sincere gratitude to Mauro Tulli and his very efficient and always kind team. The venue was truly symposiastic, allowing us all to enjoy something of the amazing culture of Tuscany as well as a very high-profile academic meeting.

We look forward to welcoming you all as our guests in Brasilia for the eleventh *Symposium Platicum* on the *Phaedo*. It is the first time an IPS Symposium will be held in the Southern Hemisphere, and we see this as an important step towards a deeper internationalization of our Society. We also see it as a great responsibility for the current presidents and their team. It is, we feel, something of a homecoming after a period of forty years, since the First Symposium was held in Latin America too, when it was organized in Mexico City in 1986 by the late Conrado Eggers Lan. The venue will be Brasilia University, possibly in the week of 4th-8th of July 2016. We shall be sending you more precise information on the matter next year.

Attached you will find the **Minutes** of the General Assembly held at the wonderful site of Certosa di Calci on July 18th. In them you will find information on the elections of Society's officers and committee-members.



The Blind Plato. Taigo Meirelles. Oil on canvas (Brasília 2013)



We have invited Professor Tom Robinson (Canada) to serve as **Vice President** of the Society for the period 2013-2016, and he has kindly agreed to do so. His curriculum vitae, his knowledge of and friendly links with Latin America, and his role in the development of the IPS are well known to everyone, and in our estimation make him a particularly suitable person for the job. His knowledge of and much appreciated enthusiasm for our Society is something we know we shall be able to count on over the next three years.

We should also like very much to welcome the new elected **Executive Committee Representatives** of Europe, Professor Francesco Fronterotta (Rome), of Latin America, Professor Raul Gutierrez (Lima), and of Africa, Asia and Oceania, Professor Yuji Kurihara (Tokyo). And we offer our sincere gratitude to the former Representatives, Arnaud Macé, Maria Isabel Santa Cruz, and David Runia, for their generous help and support to the Society over the past years.

We have also had some changes in the **Editorial Board**. Professor Filip Karfik (Fribourg) replaced Professor Michael Erler for the German Area, and Professor Dimitri El Murr (Paris) replaced Professor Dorion for the French Area, while Professor Franco Ferrari (Salerno) was elected Coordinator of the Board. We offer our warmest thanks both to Michael Erler, who undertook the responsibility of Coordinator of the Board over the past years, and to Louis-André Dorion, for their tireless dedication to our Series.

Let us now share further news with you about the life of the IPS.

Vice President and New Officers

Website and Membership

Thanks to the indefatigable work of Olivier Renault, we are happy to announce that we now have a **new website**, hosted at the same address as hitherto, www.platosociety.org. The website is more than a simple webpage; it is a *management platform*, allowing us to store information on our members; to send information to our members; to facilitate registration and payment of fees; to provide the Executive Committee with a means of direct communication to members; to allow postings on different topics such as venues, new publications and reviews, and so on. We invite you to take a tour of the Website and discover these and other facilities it provides.

We also thought the IPS deserved a logo, and one has now been chosen by the Executive Committee, inspired by *Timaeus* 55c ("used for the universe as a whole"). We hope you like it.

The IPS now has *Facebook* and *Twitter* pages as well: links to both pages are located at the top of our webpage. Social Networks are on the increase as academic communication tools, and we see them as a further way to reach Plato scholars around the world and to publicize IPS activities.

We are also adding the option of using **Paypal** for payment of membership fees. Unfortunately, Paypal allows us to work with one currency only, so members who opt to use it will need to do so in US dollars, using their own credit card or Paypal account. Bank transfer is still an option, of course, and this can be done in any of the three "official" IPS currencies (US dollar, euro, and pound sterling).

In the next short while every member will receive an **automated email** giving precise instructions, a *login* and

Website, Social
Networks and Paypal



a provisional *password* to access the website for Registration. We ask all of you to take a few minutes to complete the registration form with all information required (completing it will involve renewal of your membership dues). Since current membership covers the period 2013 to 2016, those who have already paid their fees in Pisa will only be asked for renewal of membership for the period 2016-2019 on the first day of the eleventh Symposium Platonicum in July 2016, in Brasília

Executive Committee work-in-progress

The Executive Committee, after a brief meeting in Pisa, has dedicated the last months to a wide discussion of the Society's activities, and a number of new ideas are in process of becoming proposals that will be brought forward over the next years. At least one decision we can happily anticipate: we have decided to create an **IPS Prize** for the best PhD thesis on Plato/the platonic tradition. The prize - a strategy to promote the IPS among new generations of Plato scholars - will be awarded by the IPS to exceptional theses in the field, and submissions can of course be made in all five of our official languages. The evaluation of these submissions will be managed by our Editorial Board. More details about the prize will be released in the next months.

Especial attention was devoted to our editorial policies, and some concerns were raised about our **Plato Journal**. We should like to emphasize that the production of *Plato Journal* is one of the core editorial policies of the Society, and a further two Co-editors, Irmgard Maennlein-Robert and Angela Ulacco, have now been appointed to help the current editor, Francisco Gonzalez, to design a road map of what is needed in order to achieve this very important goal. This new team,

IPS Prize and *Plato Journal*



we believe, will firmly establish our Journal within the framework of current international standards for academic journals. We are all very grateful to both Angela and Irmgard for their generous acceptance to join the project. Expect more news on this front too over the next months.

Midterm Meeting

Our next Midterm Meeting will be held at Emory University, Atlanta GA (USA), 13-15 March 2015, on *Platonic Moral Realism*. It will be co-sponsored by Emory University, the University of Georgia, and Agnes Scott College. Professors Richard Parry (rparry@agnesscott.edu), Edward Halper (ehalper@uga.edu), and Richard Patterson (rpatt01@emory.edu) will be the co-organizers, and we are very grateful to them for their effort.

Midterm Meeting

Office

On the Officers page of the website you can find the **e-mail contacts** of all IPS Officers, including the Regional Representatives. Please feel free to contact us for any needs or inquiries.

IPS Office

We have already set up an **IPS Office** in Brasilia. The contact address is:

Gabriele Cornelli
Archai Unesco Chair
Universidade de Brasília
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70904-970, Brasília, DF
Brazil

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Phone: +55-61-31077040

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Looking forward to meeting you all in Brasilia,

Our warmest regards,

Francisco Bravo (Caracas)

Gabriele Cornelli (Brasília)

INTERNATIONAL PLATO SOCIETY

General Assembly Minutes

Thursday 18th July 2013, Certosa of Calci
19.00 –20.30

Meeting called to order at 19.00 by the President of the IPS
Professor Mauro Tulli

Report of the President IPS Professor Mauro Tulli

Greetings and introduction of seven topics of discussion

Candidatures for the XII Symposium Platonicum.

Paris, in the person of Professor Luc Brisson, Professor Arnaud Macé and Professor Olivier Renaut, is presented as candidate to organize the XII Symposium Platonicum. The proposal is approved by the assembly with no oppositions. The *Sophist* as theme of the XII Symposium is also approved.

Candidatures of Members of the Executive committee.

For Europe, Prof. Tordesillas supports the candidature of Professor Francesco Fronterotta.

For Latin America, Prof. Padilla supports the candidature of Professor Raul Gutierrez.

For Africa, Asia and Oceania, Prof. Ho supports the candidature of Professor Yuji Kurihara.

Candidatures approved by the assembly with no oppositions.

New members of the Editorial Board.

The proposal by the President of Professor Franco Ferrari for the role of Coordinator of the Editorial Board is approved with no oppositions. Besides, Professor Filip Karfik will replace Professor Michael Erler for the German Area and Professor Dimitri El Murr will replace Professor Dorion for the French Area.

Mid-term meeting.

Professor Parry suggests to organize the mid-term meeting in Atlanta (Georgia) between the end of year 2014 and the beginning of year 2015. The proposal is approved.

Membership fees.

The President suggests the maintenance of the current membership fees. In addition, Professor McCabe supports the motion to confirm lower fees for members coming from disadvantaged countries until the Symposium in Brasilia. The assembly agrees.

Activities.

IPS 2016: Professor Gabriele Cornelli and Professor Francisco Bravo introduce the XI Symposium Platonicum, to be held in Brasilia, and fix the probable date of the week 4th-8th July 2016.

International Plato Studies: Professor Michael Erler, coordinator of the Editorial Board, describes the situation of the Series as flourishing, with four new publications in three years, and invites the members to submit their works for further publications.

Internet Journal: Professor Francisco Gonzalez, Editor of the journal, invites the members of the Society to submit their works to the journal more regularly to heighten its level and underlines the need of referees and two other coeditors.

Plato Web: The report of Professor Debra Nails on *Plato Web* is read during the assembly.

Regional Activities: Professor Notomi announces the organization of a smaller conference in Japan in April 2014, open to all the members of the Society and especially addressed to scholars from the nearby countries.

Financial situation: The President informs the members present at the assembly of the financial situation of the IPS and reminds that just half of the members of the Society, approximately 620, is constituted by paid-up members, 300.

Other Issues

Professor Alonso Tordesillas suggests to institutionalize the Mediterranean Platonic Society, already present in the IPS as an informal structure, financially independent from the IPS and with the aim of promoting international exchange and cultural interaction within the Society. The assembly agrees.

Assembly adjourned at 20.30.

Mauro Tulli