

GAMEO Canadian Editorial Committee

Mennonite Heritage Museum
1818 Clearbrook Road
Abbotsford, British Columbia
January 14, 2016

Minutes

Present: Bert Friesen (chair, MB), Sam Steiner (associate managing editor, recording secretary), Victor Wiebe (SK), Richard Thiessen (BC, managing editor), Zacharie Leclair (PQ), Alf Redekopp (MB), Alice Unrau (AB), Linda Huebert Hecht (ON), Jon Isaac (consulting editor)

Guests: Korey Dyck, Dick Braun, David Neufeldt

1) Welcome & Opening

Bert Friesen welcomed the group and reviewed the history of this committee. He read a passage from Ephesians 2:14-21, and led in prayer. We had a round of introductions; Alice Unrau from Alberta is the new representative from Alberta.

2) Agenda

We reviewed and approved the agenda circulated earlier.

3) Minutes of January 15, 2015

Sam Steiner reviewed the minutes of our last meeting.

Moved/Seconded/Carried (M/S/C) (Sam Steiner/Jon Isaac): To approve the minutes of January 15, 2015 as presented.

4) Managing Editor's report

Richard Thiessen highlighted his Managing Editor's report (circulated separately). He noted that the numbers of visitors to GAMEO are down a bit, but visitors are viewing a few more pages and spending a little more time on the site. There were 200 new articles posted this year. Because of his responsibilities at the new Mennonite Heritage Museum, he has not been able to give as much time to GAMEO as he has in the past. The next Management Board meeting will be held in Goshen, Indiana in April.

5) Provincial Reports

- a) **Quebec.** Zacharie Leclair reported they did not do as much on GAMEO this year, but focused more on their society's new website. They also took a trip to France and Switzerland to meet other French speaking Mennonites. Unfortunately they did not hear much enthusiasm in Europe for GAMEO, which is regarded as an English-language resource. The Europeans have their own ways of doing history, and have own historical website. He said that in the future the Quebec group will prepare similar articles in French and English.

In response to a question on the usefulness of the templates for their work, Zacharie said they are helpful, but are adapted as needed. French articles need more of a preamble, since the context of articles is less well known.

- b) **Ontario.** Linda Huebert Hecht reviewed her printed report. Thirteen biographies were completed this year. Linda plans to resign as committee chair in August.
- c) **Manitoba.** Bert Friesen noted that Alf Redekopp serves on both the Ontario and Manitoba GAMEO committees. The committee focused on congregational articles this year Sommerfelder congregational articles were extensively revised or added, though some do not show up as new articles. They plan to take current photographs of churches and Hutterite colonies in Manitoba in the next years.

We had extended discussion on approaching Hutterite colonies about participation in GAMEO in locations other than Manitoba. Bert advised it was necessary to have internal contacts in colonies, and not to make “cold” approaches. We have tried to get them to write the articles, but this has not happened thus far.

- d) **Saskatchewan** – Victor Wiebe said one meeting has been held, but it has not yet resulted in articles. He has written a number of articles for GAMEO, though most have not been Saskatchewan related. He has taken many pictures of Saskatchewan church buildings.

He asked what approach to take for “preaching stations” where no building existed. Sam Steiner said some of these already exist in GAMEO; entries for them could be something like a stub.

- e) **Alberta** – As a new member Alice Unrau didn't have a prepared report.
- f) **British Columbia** – Richard Thiessen said two biographies had been completed. The committee has also worked on an interdisciplinary template on “Mennonites and Criminal Justice in British Columbia,” but this still requires further work.

Jon Isaac suggested that Royden Loewen could be asked to prepare interdisciplinary articles based on the many “Mennonites and” Conferences he has held at the University of Winnipeg.

6) Content issues

Sam Steiner encouraged provincial conferences to immediately write up biographies for leadership persons who are recently deceased and have received extensive Mennonite press coverage, e.g. David Schroeder, Al Reimer, Robert Kreider, etc.

We discussed whether provincial editorial committees should take the initiative to write articles themselves if finding writers is too difficult. The collection of biographies by Irene Klassen in Alberta would be one source. The *Saskatchewan Mennonite* Historian has included many useful biographies that could be modified for GAMEO.

We also discussed updating pictures of churches in the various provinces, and encouraged each other to do more of this.

7) Assigned articles table.

Linda Huebert Hecht has sent an updated table of in-process Ontario biographies to Richard Thiessen.

Richard Thiessen will set up a shared Google doc on the Internet that includes lists from each province.

This table is intended to prevent duplication between editorial groups; this has happened in the past.

8) Templates

a) Exhibit Template

We reviewed the template prepared by Wes Berg and Alf Redekopp, as well as the two examples – “In God’s Image” by Alf Redekopp and “Mirror of the Martyrs” by Wes Berg.

Our discussion suggested the first paragraphs, especially in the “In God’s Image” example should be broken up to make them shorter. We also suggested the history of the creation of the exhibit should appear earlier in the text, i.e. right after a shorter first paragraph.

We also agreed an element on the “purpose” or “goal” of exhibit should be added to the template.

CONSENSUS 1: To accept the Exhibit Template with the editorial changes as suggested. After the changes are made, it will be posted to the GAMEO site, along with the two articles.

b) Event Template

We ran out of time before we could thoroughly review this template prepared by Richard Loughheed.

CONSENSUS 2: To post the template as a draft on GAMEO, and review it more carefully next year.

11) Promotion of GAMEO

Richard Thiessen had a GAMEO display at Mennonite World Conference. The portable poster could be sent to the MC Canada conference in Saskatoon this summer, as well at the Mennonite Brethren conference in Toronto.

Jon Isaac will check on usage in Toronto; the MC Canada staff could probably get it to Saskatoon.

12) Finances

Richard Thiessen reminded us that Mennonite World Conference looks after GAMEO’s financial books. Final 2015 figures are not yet available. GAMEO’s income in 2014 was \$1014, with costs of \$2334. At the end of 2014 there was a balance of \$4582. In 2015 by September 30 GAMEO had income of \$1611 and expenses of \$3689.

CONSENSUS 3: The Canadian Editorial Committee asks MHSC for \$2000 for 2016 to cover this committee’s expenses, as well as the partner fee for the GAMEO Management Board and

Bert Friesen's travel to the Management Board meeting.

13) Report to MHSC annual meeting

Bert Friesen will prepare a report for the MHSC annual general meeting on Saturday.

14) Next Meeting

Our next meeting will be in conjunction with the MHSC annual meeting in January 2017 in Winnipeg. The date will be determined at the MHSC AGM.

15) Adjournment 4:30

Minutes recorded by Sam Steiner