



THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF CHURCH HISTORY

# 2024 Committee Reports

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# Executive Secretary's Report

January 2025

Beyond the oversight and execution of the normal operations of the society, there were a few standout dynamics in 2024 that the secretarial team addressed. Each of these dynamics has many layers, only some of which I can enumerate here.

1. **Making the decision to run ASCH 2025 and 2026 in Chicago.** This decision, rooted in the pragmatic financial reality of the high cost of meeting in New York City, has enabled ASCH to do a number of things.
  - a. First, we estimate that we are saving on the order of \$40,000 by meeting in Chicago instead of New York in 2025.
  - b. Second, we are running a modest one-year experiment to see about the impact of not meeting alongside the AHA. At the turn of 2025, it seems that the impact on our meeting registration has been essentially zero, with about 300 people registered this year (as compared to 275 in San Francisco and 290 in Philadelphia). That said, we intend to run post-conference surveys to gather feedback and further illuminate any other dynamics emergent from this experiment. We look forward to meeting again with AHA in Chicago in 2026.
  - c. Third, we have gained leverage and saved some money by entering into a two-year contract with The Blackstone. Running two conferences in the same place gives us greater negotiating power.

Having said all this, we are not unaware that there are some people who chose to go to the AHA in New York City this year – not least members of the American Catholic Historical Association, with whom we have been enjoying a fruitful relationship in recent years. This example, among others, suggests that we should continue to move carefully as concerns our connection to the AHA and its other affiliate societies.

The bottom line regarding this move is that it seems to have been a sensible and measured risk that has paid off well so far. We will continue to learn from this as we make future decisions about our meetings, in the context of ASCH's wider financial picture.

2. **Redesigning the roles of President and President-Elect.** Last year we began the process of redesigning the role of the President-Elect to make the job more attractive to potential candidates. Specifically, we have removed the role of conference planning from the portfolio of the President-Elect, beginning in 2025 with President-Elect Elesha Coffman. The conference planning will now be done by the President, the second-year presidential position. In their first year position, the President-Elect will now offer support to the President in the conference planning process, as well as assisting the Past-President with any matters relating to nominations, and finally offering leadership in other areas as needed. This shift is intended to enable Presidents-Elect to get oriented

to the leadership work of the society, without immediately having to plan a conference when they begin their tenure. We hope this will make the role feel more doable and attractive to future presidential candidates.

Making this transition of course required us to have a President-Elect who was willing to plan *two* conferences. President-Elect Tim Larsen offered to do this important work, and has been a pleasure to work with in this transitional year.

- 3. Negotiating a four-year continuing publishing deal with Cambridge University Press for *Church History*.** While this brief report is not the place to enumerate all the ongoing challenges that the society is facing in regards to the seismic changes that are taking place in the academic publishing industry due to the shift to open-access journal models, it is worth naming (once again) that we must continue to address the effects of declining journal revenue as we assess the overall operational health of the society. We must carefully assess every possibility as we think through how to steward *Church History* – considered by many to be the leading journal in our field – into a fully digital age.

I am grateful that, this year, our team was able to negotiate a four-year continuation of our current contract with Cambridge University Press, while also (through the process) developing a much clearer understanding of the way that both CUP's financial model and *Church History*'s structure is affecting our society's income stream, as well as the manner in which we contribute to the intellectual infrastructure of our field. ASCH will begin to renegotiate that contract by the end of 2025.

I am also grateful that Past-President Jon Ebel has volunteered to chair an *ad hoc* committee that will serve to steer the journal toward its best possible future for the good of the ASCH and the field of the history of Christianity.

Again, there is much more to be said about this, but I will leave that to the work of the *ad hoc* committee.

Alongside these pivotal circumstances, I am most grateful that our "normal" operations (running elections, awarding prizes, running a conference, managing our membership rolls, and so on) are running smoothly. We have communicated adequately about these matters in other places, so I will not rehearse all those dynamics here.

**On a personal note**, in December of 2024, I made the decision to resign from the position of Executive Secretary of the American Society of Church History. This decision comes after careful consideration of my current commitments and a recognition of the need to focus more fully on my primary work in a denominational leadership setting. This work demands my utmost attention and energy at this time, and I believe that resigning from my role at ASCH is the best way for me to remain faithful to those responsibilities, as well as to ensure the best stewardship for the ASCH going forward.

Serving as the Executive Secretary of ASCH has been an extraordinary honor and a deeply meaningful chapter of my professional journey. The ASCH is a unique and vibrant community of scholars dedicated to exploring and interpreting the complex and rich history of the Christian tradition. I have been consistently inspired by the intellectual rigor, collegiality, and shared commitment to both excellence and curiosity that characterize our society. It has been a privilege to work alongside you to advance our shared mission and to support the flourishing of historical scholarship.

I want to express my deepest gratitude to all of you for your support, collaboration, and friendship during my tenure. I leave this position with a heart full of appreciation for the opportunity to serve, and I remain committed to the mission of the ASCH as a member of this remarkable community.

With warm regards and sincere gratitude,

Caleb Maskell

## Finance Committee Report

January 3, 2025

Prepared by the Finance Committee for the Membership

Bryan Bademan, Anselm House, Finance Secretary  
David Komline, Western Theological Seminary, Chair

### Balances as of Jan. 1, 2025

\$78,131.49	Bank of America Checking
\$75,018.67	Bank of America Savings
=====	=====
\$153,150.16	Total Cash on Hand ♦
\$58,180.00	Receivables from Cambridge University Press (CUP) for 2024
=====	=====
211,330.16	Cash and Receivables
\$854,529.76	Merrill Lynch Endowment †

♦ The Society's cash balances (plus receivables) are holding strong, collectively approaching a full year's operating expenses. The figures above do not include three large additional financial events scheduled to hit in early January: 1) an *additional* disbursement from CUP for \$27,500 (that is, in addition to the \$58K above), 2) a large deposit from our Jan. 1 membership renewals of around \$50K, and 3) negatively, a check to the Blackstone of around \$50K that will clear our account this week. These events will have a net *positive* impact on our cash balances of around \$25K.

† The endowment had a balance of \$681K a year ago on Jan. 4, 2024 (prior to withdrawing \$11K for prize checks).

Profit and Loss Statements/Budgets for Fiscal Years 2024-2026

*Note: Some of these dollars have been shifted to their "functional" fiscal year for ease of comparison, so this breakdown will not match our official financials, such as the 990. For example, if the Society prepaid for a conference in a previous fiscal year, we've shifted the prepayment expense to the year in which the conference took place.*

	FY24 Actual (SF)	FY25 YTD (CHI)	FY25 Budget (CHI)	FY26 Budget (CHI) PROPOSED
Revenue				
Membership	\$80,651	\$60,135	\$80,000	\$85,000
Conference Registration	\$49,064	\$47,180	\$45,000	\$55,000
CUP Profit Share	\$58,180	\$27,500	\$57,500	\$52,500
Other Journal Royalties	\$24,029	\$8,819	\$23,000	\$23,000
Donations	\$1,401	\$1,289	\$2,000	\$5,000
Other	\$0	\$718	\$0	\$0
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$213,325</b>	<b>\$145,641</b>	<b>\$207,500</b>	<b>\$220,500</b>
Expenses				
Secretarial Team	\$59,542	\$27,917	\$57,500	\$57,500
Journal Staff	\$64,620	\$38,555	\$65,000	\$70,000
Travel & Meals	\$1,975	\$768	\$6,000	\$6,000
Conference	\$74,758	\$73,585	\$68,000	\$70,000
Other (acct, fees, dues, etc)	\$14,803	\$9,218	\$15,000	\$15,000
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$215,697</b>	<b>\$150,042</b>	<b>\$211,500</b>	<b>\$218,500</b>
<b>Net Income/Loss</b>	<b>-\$2,373</b>	<b>-\$4,401</b>	<b>-\$4,000</b>	<b>\$2,000</b>

Notes

1. Our fiscal year ends on June 30. The P&Ls above for fiscal year 2024 (i.e., last year) and for fiscal year-to-date 2025 (this year) include several adjustments to provide the clearest financial picture possible. We have factored in the CUP receivables as well as the major upcoming "financial events" mentioned in the note (♦) above. The Society is operating lean and is basically breaking even.
2. In the last couple of years, we have suffered two major disruptions to our business model: First, conferences are getting more expensive (largely, we suspect, due to but also outpacing inflation). And, of course, the journal is not making as much money for us in the new OA environment (by about \$40K per year on average). The upshot of these disruptions is that the Society's margins have been thinning over the last years and have now disappeared. The basic outline of our current revenue model is quite simple:

- a. Revenue = \$80K (membership dues) + \$45K (conference fees) + \$80K (journal) + \$1K (donations) = \$206K
- b. Expenses = \$57K (secretarial team) + \$70K (journal team) + \$6K (travel & meals for secretarial team) + \$70K (conference) + \$15K (other: accounting, dues, website, subscriptions, etc.) = \$218K
- c. Average net loss = \$12K

Thus, on average we'll be upside down by \$13K (or more) per year. And this gap is likely to expand in the coming years. We can address this deficit in one or more ways: 1) We can fundraise the difference through targeted and general appeals. This is in many ways the most promising path. 2) We can try to secure funds through grants, though foundations do not typically support general operating expenses. 3) We can marginally raise our dues and conference fees. Finally, 4) we can try to cut our costs. It's likely we'll need to continue to revisit our financial model in light of the purpose and mission of the Society.

# Program Committee Report

Prepared by Timothy Larsen

The program committee this year consisted of Joel Carpenter, Lynneth Miller Renberg, Peggy Bendroth, Molly Lester, Rebecca Devlin, and Tal Howard, with Timothy Larsen as chair. Every proposal was evaluated, ranked, and commented on by members of the committee beside the chair. This information is invaluable for the program chair. There was a striking amount of agreement when different members of the committee independently evaluated a proposal. The members of the committee worked conscientiously and industriously, offering feedback that was substantial enough to be highly useful when making choices. This was, it would seem, a smaller committee than has often been the case, so the society owes the members of it an extra debt of gratitude for the many proposals they needed to evaluate. From these submissions, the 60 concurrent panels on the program were created either by accepting panel submissions or by arranging individual paper proposals into a themed panel. In addition to the presidential address, the 2025 conference program also includes three other plenary presentations: a lecture by Dana Roberts; a book panel on Carlos Eire's *They Flew*; and a documentary film. One thing that has surprised the chair is the attrition rate – that is, the number of people or even entire panels, that were accepted but have, as the conference has approached, sent in regrets saying they will not be presenting at the conference after all. When this happened early enough some of these slots were filled by approaching people with worthy proposals who had originally been turned down for lack of space on the program. At the risk of copying the annoying practices of major airlines, one wonders if it might be worth accepting a few more proposals than we have slots for in order to better assure an entirely full program for the conference. At the very least, next year more attention will be paid to having a kind of standby list.



# Nominating Committee Report

Prepared by Jonathan Ebel

The nominating committee undertook three regular tasks in 2024, as well as one special project related to the journal. Our three regular tasks were recruiting candidates for the position of president-elect, recruiting candidates for council, and finding society members to serve on our many committees. Thanks in large part to the heroic efforts of Caleb Maskell, executive secretary, we accomplished (or mostly accomplished) all of these things. We have excellent new leadership at all levels. And we have a reconstituted GS/IS committee after a one-year hiatus. The special project was to constitute an ad hoc committee on the journal, which the council determined was necessary given its transition to a new home and the uncertainty surrounding its financial future. The ad hoc committee met once in the summer and will again later in 2025.

# Journal Editors' Report 2024

Prepared by the editors of  
*Church History: Studies in Christianity and Culture*

## Current Status

Issue 93:1 (March: 2024) was published on November 4, 2024. Several of the articles for the June issue have already been published online and the full issue should be released within the next month. We experienced significant delays in releasing issues this year due to a cyber attack at Cambridge University Press that took about six months to resolve; as a result, Cambridge is still catching up with 2024's publications. We anticipate that all of the 2024 issues should be released by March 2025.

## Journal Activities Report as of December 2024

Issues 93:1 contains 238 pages which is in line with the issue average over the past several years (most issues contain about 250 pages - the 2023 issues contain 1061 pages total). This is well within our 1250-page limit from Cambridge University, allowing us to continue to publish roughly six articles and 50-65 book reviews and notes per regular issue. The 2024 issues will also contain 3 book review forums or roundtables (the same number that we published in 2023). These count as research articles published by the journal as recommended by Cambridge University Press.

In 2024, the journal will have published 24 articles: 2 on ancient/late antique Christianity, 4 on medieval topics, 5 on early modern European topics, 1 on the early modern Atlantic world, 3 on modern European topics, 4 on North American topics, 3 on Asian topics, 1 on modern Australia, and 1 global piece spanning multiple time periods and geographic locations. (As the December 2024 issue lineup is not firmly set, there is a chance for some of these numbers to change slightly). The most noteworthy observation is that we have maintained a significant increase in articles published on Asian topics. In 2022 we published no articles on Asian topics, while in 2023 we published 5 articles. This year we are set to publish 3. Otherwise, there were no notable changes in the distribution of article topics by geography or temporal period published between 2023 and 2024 (no topics changed by more than 1-2 articles published).

This year (issues 93:1-93:4), *Church History* will have published roughly 240 book reviews and book notes, in line with the 241 published in 2023 and the 244 published in 2022. (This number is hard to know exactly before each issue is released as we sometimes push book reviews back an issue or two depending on how long it takes for Cambridge to receive back copyediting and contracts from authors - we published 58 book reviews or notes in the March issue and are set to publish 68 in the June issue. We aim to publish between 60-65 notes or reviews in each issue).

In 2024, *Church History* received 106 manuscript submissions (including new, unsolicited manuscripts and resubmissions). This number is slightly down from 2023 when the journal received 112 manuscript submissions and 2022 when we received 123 submissions but is still up from 2021 when we received 101 submissions and 2020 when the journal received 105.

Among this year's submissions, 5 addressed topics in ancient/late antique Christianity, 19 focused on medieval topics, 21 examined early modern and Reformation Europe, 7 dealt with modern Europe, 24 were on North American topics, 17 on Asian topics, 4 on Latin American topics, 3 dealt with Africa, 2 focused on Australia, and 4 spanned multiple regions and/or time periods. Submissions in ancient/late antique Christianity decreased (from 15 in 2022 to 8 and 5 in 2023 and 2024) while medieval topics increased (from 13 to 19, returning to the 19 medieval submissions in 2022). There was also a decrease in modern European submissions (from 17 to 7) although most of the 4 articles spanning multiple regions included modern Europe and some of the articles counted as early modern/Reformation Europe continued into the modern period.

Of the 106 manuscripts received in 2024, the editors have made final decisions on 76, while 30 are still under consideration or out for review. (We experienced more delays with readers than usual this year, causing the review process for some articles to take longer than usual). Of the decisions made on these 76 manuscripts, 15 were accepted, 14 returned for revision and resubmission, and 47 were rejected. Many of the 30 still under consideration have received back one reader report that advises a revise & resubmit (which will bring in line the total number of revise and resubmits to our normal proportion between acceptances and rejections) Our acceptance rate for the year thus stands at 19.74% which is up from the 15.96% last year but in line with the 21.15 % acceptance rate in 2022 and 20.93% in 2021.

53 authors living outside of the United States submitted 51 manuscripts (48.11% of the total; several submissions were co-authored), representing a very slight decrease proportionally from the 54 (48.21%) received in 2023. The international submissions came from:

Australia	Germany	Nigeria
Austria	India	Poland
Belarus	Ireland	South Korea
Brazil	Italy	Spain
Canada	Japan	Switzerland
China	Kuwait	Taiwan
France	The Netherlands	Turkey
Finland	New Zealand	United Kingdom (including Wales & Scotland)

We continued to receive notably fewer article submissions from women than from men. While calculating an exact number is problematic for several reasons (including that most people do not indicate their preferred pronouns in the submission process, some names are gender neutral or ambiguous, and not everyone identifies according to a gender binary at all), we

received around 27 submissions from women (and an additional 3 submissions from sets of co-authors including women). This is a significant proportional increase from last year where submissions from at least one woman went up from roughly 22% of all submissions to 28% (in terms of total number, we received 30 submissions from women this year compared to 25 last year). While no articles in the March issue were published by women, 2 articles by women will appear in the June issue and 3 in September (with another 2 likely in December). It is also worth noting that of the authors who contributed to our three book forums this year, half (12) were women.

The editors considered 20 eligible submissions for the 2024 Sidney E. Mead Prize, considerably more than in recent years. The decision for this year's prize-winning paper is still being finalized as we await a few final reader reports on papers under prize consideration. The decision about the Mead Prize should be made by the end of January.

In the 2024 issues, *Church History* has and will publish three book forums/roundtables:

1) Kathryn Gin Lum's book, *Heathen: Religion and Race in American History* was the subject of a panel at last year's ASCH conference. The book forum is set to be published in the June 2024 issue with comments from 4 authors (in addition to Kathryn Gin Lum and an introduction by Katherine Carté).

2) Lloyd Daniel Barba's book *Sowing the Sacred: Mexican Pentecostal Farmworkers in California* and Jonathan H. Ebel's book *From Dust They Came: Government Camps and the Religion of Reform in New Deal California* were the subjects of a roundtable analyzing how the two books reframed the study of sacred space and the nature of religious communities in California's Central Valley, while advancing the study of religion. The book roundtable is set to be published in the September 2024 issue with comments from 4 authors (in addition to a joint introduction from Alison Collis Green and Matthew Sutton and a separate response from both Lloyd Barba and Jonathan Ebel).

3) Peter Brown's book *Journeys of the Mind: A Life in History* was the subject of a book panel at Vanderbilt University in March 2024. A book forum based on the panel is set to be published in the December 2024 issue featuring comments from 5 authors (in addition to an introduction from David Michelson and a response from Peter Brown). We also hope to publish a video recording of the panel on TARA when the book forum is published.

Our Associate Editor for book reviews, Jon Butler, worked hard organizing the Gin Lum and Barba and Ebel book forums and we are grateful for all of the effort he put in to make them both possible.

In the future, the *Church History* editors plan to publish more book forums or roundtables, some of which will also be presented online over Zoom. As discussed in the next section, we are already working on a forum on the occasion of the 1700th anniversary of the Council of Nicaea.

[Church History Virtual Issues and Special Forum in Celebration of Nicaea](#)

We plan to release our fifth annual virtual issue in early 2025 alongside the upcoming December 2024 issue. The virtual issue introduction will be published in the December 2024 issue. (Similarly, the introduction to 2023's virtual issue, [Christianity, Native Americans, and Global Indigeneity](#), was published in the December 2023 issue.) In celebration of the 1700th anniversary of the Council of Nicaea, the fifth annual Church History virtual issue will address the theme of creeds, councils, and confessions and will include articles published throughout the journal's history. The virtual issue will serve as a prelude and complement to a forum on the Council of Nicaea, currently being organized by Young Kim in consultation with the editors. The forum will include short contributions from multiple scholars on different Christian traditions and their diverse receptions of Nicaea.

The 2024 virtual issue will be accessible online through the ASCH website as well as on the Cambridge Core platform once it is released. Our four previous virtual issues remain available on both our ASCH website and [the Cambridge Core platform](#). Cambridge has made each virtual issue open-access for a 12-month period following its publication. The forum on Nicaea will be published in the June or September issue of the journal

#### Website/Social Media/Teaching and Research Archive (=TARA)

This year we welcomed Jessica Tharp as our new webmaster and social media coordinator, replacing our outgoing webmaster, Chris Saladin, in the fall of this year. ASCH's social media accounts have continued to post regularly. In 2024, the Twitter/X account currently has 4,155 followers (down slightly from 4,286 followers in 2023, but still up from 4,000 followers in 2022 - this decline likely correlates to a considerable number of Twitter users leaving the platform over the past year). In addition to our Twitter presence, we continue to post monthly [lists of recent books](#) in the History of Christianity and also post videos of book panels and other discussions on both TARA and the ASCH YouTube channel.

We continue to welcome new additions to our [Teaching and Resource Archive \(TARA\)](#). We hope to post a recording of the Peter Brown book forum on TARA this year. We have also shared a recording of a discussion between Chris Saladin and the guest editors of 2023's virtual issue on our YouTube channel, [A Conversation with Guest-Editors Brandon Bayne and Zara Surratt](#). Please spread the word and reach out if you know of a helpful resource (whether your own or another) that should be added to this site.

#### Editorial Updates and Changes

In May 2024 following protracted conversations and negotiations, we renewed our contract with Cambridge University Press enabling CUP to continue publishing the journal for four more years beginning in January 2025. The journal editors and staff, with the help of a recently formed ASCH committee, will continue to work with CUP on how best to steer the journal over the next few years to meet the changing realities of the publishing world, especially with regard to OpenAccess. This year we faced significant publication delays after Cambridge University Press

experienced a cyber-attack at the end of May/beginning of June 2024. This attack locked CUP staff out of their email accounts for months, with production on the 2024 Church History issues as well as copyediting for Church History not returning until late September. (The March 2024 issue, for example, was in the final proof stage when the attack occurred, causing the issue to be delayed from an early June publication date to one in late November). The attack also caused a significant production and copyediting backlog, explaining the delays in the publication of our other issues this year.

Cambridge University Press will also continue to provide copyediting for the journal (as they have been doing since the March 2022 issue). Since September 2022 we also continue to use Cambridge University Press's ScholarOne program, an online database program used to send articles electronically from journal staff to Cambridge staff (we previously had been doing everything via email and Google Drive). We have continued to adapt to this system in 2024, finetuning how both journal staff and authors interact with the system to try and make it a less burdensome experience for our authors (particularly book review contributors, who have continued to find the system frustrating).

On the positive side, the arrangement with Cambridge has continued to increase the journal's ability to publish articles OpenAccess. Almost all our research articles and all three of our book forums were – or are set to be – published OpenAccess this year. Several authors have specifically commented that they chose to submit their manuscripts to *Church History* because Cambridge University Press has an OpenAccess agreement with their university making their scholarship accessible to a significantly broader audience. This has become an increasingly attractive option for scholars worldwide and has continued to enhance the journal's visibility over the past few years.

In other significant news, Church History will be moving from the University of Minnesota to a new home base at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill by the end of summer 2025. Finding a new home for the journal has been a challenging and time-consuming endeavor over the past 2 years, especially for lead editor, Andrea Sterk, but the editors are extremely pleased with the final outcome. Brett Whalen and a team from UNC (including Brandon Bayne and Lauren Jarvis) will be taking over editorial responsibilities for the journal with new editors, associate editors, and a new team of graduate student assistants. In the journal's transition to its new home, current editors and journal staff at UMN will work closely with the UNC team in the late spring and summer. We are very excited about this transition and the future prospects of the journal!

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Kadow  
Senior Assistant to the Editors

# Membership Committee Report

Prepared by Joe Creamer (Chair) and Andrew Hansen (Assistant Secretary for Membership)

In addition to regular committee meetings, the membership committee continued to facilitate the very successful ASCH Connections at our annual meeting. This program matches a senior scholar with a few early career scholars for an informal conversation on career and professionalization. After the 2024 meeting, we conducted a brief survey of Connections participants that suggests these connections add significant value for the early career scholars and are also meaningful for the senior scholars. For the 2025 meeting, we've matched 50 early career scholars with 16 established scholars. Our membership committee is in need of new members because we have rotated off members over the years who have not been replaced. More committee members would potentially allow us to match more scholars at the annual meeting.

Our interest-focused ASCH working groups (currently 4) also continue to meet and add new participants, including some non-ASCH members who we hope may become members in the future. One particularly vibrant example is the British Nonconformity Working Group, which held five online meetings this year (involving around 20 participants) and organized their 2nd in-person meeting at Cambridge in July. We plan to put out a call for new working groups soon.

In terms of membership numbers, ASCH membership declined slightly in fiscal year 2024 compared to FY 2023 (20 fewer memberships purchased – down about 2%). Despite this slight decline in memberships between FY23 and FY24, revenue stayed even, due to slight inflation-based adjustments in membership fees. In quarters 1 and 2 of FY25, membership numbers and revenue appear to track almost exactly with FY24. Our graduate student membership numbers remain steady, accounting for around 19% of memberships purchased in FY24.

	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
<b>Q1</b>	37	57	53	40	57	31	41	45
<b>Q2</b>	446	296	296	225	230	240	229	236
<b>Q3</b>	309	473	505	532	576	568	567	
<b>Q4</b>	83	58	53	91	57	53	35	
<b>Total Memberships Purchased</b>	946	884	907	894	920	892	872	
<b>Total Unique Members</b>	799	858	890	873	896	870	854	

# Graduate Students and Independent Scholars Committee Report

Over the past several years, the primary work of the Graduate Students and Independent Scholars (GS/IS) Committee has been to adjudicate the awards for the two ASCH graduate student fellowships: the John F. Wilson Research Fellowship and the American Society of Church History Research Fellowship.

At the end of 2023, it became clear to the Nominating Committee for a variety of reasons that it was going to be prohibitively difficult to staff the GS/IS Committee for 2024. As such, the Council approved the decision to suspend the work of the Committee for one year.

In 2025, with Elizabeth Jemison returning as Chair, the GS/IS Committee will resume the work of adjudicating the two ASCH fellowships, as well as advocating for the interests of graduate students, independent scholars, and contingent faculty in the wider ASCH community.

Respectfully submitted,

Caleb Maskell



# Prize Committee Report

Prepared by Dyron Daughrity

I am happy to report the activity of the ASCH Prize Committee over the past year (2024). The prizes will be presented at the January 2025 annual meeting, where I (Dyron Daughrity) will present the results and read the laudatios at the awards banquet.

We gathered an excellent committee of nine scholars who worked hard to make thoughtful and timely decisions. Members of the committee were: Dyron Daughrity (chair), Douglas Clark, Tammy Heise, Shivraj Mahendra, Anna Lankina, David Mislin, Katherine Carte, Soojin Chung, and Hilde Stephens.

We realize that winning a prize can have a significant impact on a scholar's career. The committee started communicating in May, 2024. We had 31 books that were submitted for consideration, which was less than half of what we considered the previous year.

We were able to manage all of our business either by email or through phone calls. For the most part, the publishers were able to get the books to us in a timely manner, although there were some minor hiccups that we had to work through. One issue had to do with sending books internationally. A second issue had to do with some publishers sending e-copies instead of hard copies. We figured out solutions and began the long process of reading and evaluating. Each book was evaluated carefully by multiple scholars. Eventually we came up with deserving finalists for each prize. On 1 October 2024, we completed the selection of our winners. There was stiff competition for each award.

I think we as a society can be proud of our winners.

## Here are the results:

- The Schaff Award goes to Mark Valeri (*The Opening of the Protestant Mind*).
- The Brewer Award goes to Melissa May Borja (*Follow the New Way*).
- The Outler Award goes to Jennifer Snow (*Mission, Race, and Empire*).

## As we look ahead to the conference in January, I have two questions for the Society's leadership:

- Is there any way we can "beef up" the awards ceremony at the conference? It was not well-attended in 2023.
- Are there particular reasons for why we had such a smaller pool of books this year? I think we only had around a third of books compared to the previous year.

Respectfully submitted,

Dyron B. Daughrity