

**Report on the General Assembly of the International Dostoevsky  
Society – Nagoya (Japan), 25<sup>th</sup> August 2023**  
**Отчет о генеральном собрании Международного Общества  
Достоевского – Нагоя (Япония), 25 августа 2023 г.**

The regular General Meeting of the members of the International Dostoevsky Society was held on 25<sup>th</sup> August 2023 at 6pm Japan Standard Time in Nagoya University of Foreign Studies (NUFS) Meieki Campus, Nagoya, Japan, Room ME 10, during the XVIII Symposium of the IDS. General meetings are held usually every three years; because of COVID-induced delays, the meeting took place four years after the previous meeting, held in Boston, USA. Approximately eighty IDS members were in attendance.

**Introductory statements / Вступительные слова**

IDS President (Carol Apollonio) and President of the Nagoya University of Foreign Studies (Ikuo Kameyama) gave introductory statements. The previous month (July 2023), Professor Kameyama had given a well-attended public lecture on his Dostoevsky scholarship at NUFS. A pre-Symposium had been held at NUFS in August 2022. These activities attest to the popularity Dostoevsky enjoys in Japan, to the importance of NUFS as a center for the study of Dostoevsky and Russian literature, and to the authority of Professor Kameyama and the scholars on the Japanese Organizing Committee.

**President's and directors' reports / Отчеты председателя и директоров**

Carol Apollonio gave the IDS President's report. The mission of the IDS is to support the work of Dostoevsky scholars worldwide through our journal, *Dostoevsky Studies*, our triennial Symposia, and our website. In the four years since the Boston Symposium, IDS has undergone significant changes. At the last General Meeting, the membership voted to create an Interim Board, comprising Carol Apollonio, Benamí Barros, Deborah Martinsen, and Jonathan Payne, to rewrite our bylaws; reincorporate the organization; to restructure our banking; and to create a new website. The Interim Board completed their work in the fall of 2019. IDS is particularly grateful to Jonathan Payne for his help in managing the legal and banking transformations.

IDS now is incorporated in the state of Delaware, USA; our banking is now

also based in the USA. The new bylaws are posted on the website. The Interim Board created an expanded Board, comprising eleven members out of a stipulated twelve. Currently there are ten Directors from four different continents. IDS now reaches around the world, and for the first time now has Directors from Asia and South America in addition to those from Russia, Western and Eastern Europe, and North America. Having voted in this new Board, the Interim Board disbanded.

Two other major achievements over this period have been the transformation of *Dostoevsky Studies* into an online journal, under the leadership of Managing Editor Stefano Aloe; and the creation of a state-of-the-art website, under the leadership of Katia Bowers. These two changes have enabled the IDS to reach readers and scholars worldwide. The move of the journal online has also enabled us to economize on printing and mailing costs, and to devote more funding to the website.

As part of our reorganization, the IDS restructured our system of Regional Coordinators, with the goal of introducing more flexibility into the previous system (which was based on country-by-country National Representatives) and creating a body of mid-career scholars able to support Dostoevsky scholarship and communication worldwide and to provide energy and leadership to the IDS as the organization grows in the future. There are currently nineteen RCs serving.

During the years since the Boston Symposium, the IDS sponsored innovative and successful events and activities:

- An IDS YouTube channel (with thanks to Stefano Aloe);
- An international competition of short videos based on Dostoevsky's novel *Demons* (October 2022). The Japanese Symposium Organizing Committee sponsored the competition, with generous prizes. Videos were entered from around the world and are posted on the IDS YouTube channel, along with the recording of the Video film festival itself (<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL9-O5dnoWKsIslz3komLijAo3CaBQT8pm>).
- Celebrations of the Dostoevsky Bicentennial through the year 2021. Our celebrations included a one-day live worldwide multilingual reading of *Crime and Punishment*, organized by Alejandro Ariel González and his colleagues in the Argentina affiliate Dostoevsky Society.

### **Treasurer's report (Jonathan Paine)/ Отчет казначея (Джонатан Пейн)**

Jonathan was unable to attend the Symposium but sent a complete report on our finances. IDS cooperates closely with the North American Dostoevsky Society, sharing banking operations and the website. We are in good financial shape. In the future the IDS will have some flexibility to budget funds for Dostoevsky-related activities. We also continue to be alert to ways of increasing our funding through charitable donations, in addition to our main income source, membership dues.

### ***Dostoevsky Studies* report (Stefano Aloe)/ Отчет о журнале (Стефано Алоэ)**

Journal Managing Editor Stefano Aloe reported on the process of transferring the journal from print to online format. Already three issues of the journal have been regularly released in the new online format.

### **Website report (Katherine Bowers) / Отчет о сайте (Катерин Бауерз)**

Katia Bowers managed the process of creating our new website. The website is thriving, and is a valuable resource for scholars around the world, with many links to Dostoevsky-related resources; an active News page; and links to the NADS blog, which draws thousands of hits for its regular, high-quality posts on new developments in Dostoevsky scholarship and outreach.

### **The meeting then conducted a vote to elect new Directors and continue the terms of some currently serving Directors / Совет МОД: Выборы Директоров:**

1. **RESOLVE**, that Professor Stefano Aloe be appointed President of the Society from the date of this meeting.  
**APPROVED by unanimous vote;**
2. **RESOLVE**, that Professor Tetsuo Mochizuki be elected to the Board of Directors of the Society.  
**APPROVED by unanimous vote;**
3. **Continuation of current Directors' terms / Продолжение срок службы директоров:**

**RESOLVE**, that the terms of office for Professor Carol Apollonio, Professor Benamí Barros García, Professor Alejandro Ariel González, Professor Katalin Kroó, Dr. Jonathan Paine, Professor Igor Volgin, Professor Vladimir Zakharov and Professor Zhou Qichao be extended to the date of the General Meeting to be held at the XIX Symposium.

**APPROVED by unanimous vote.**

### **RCs and their role / О региональных координаторах и их роли**

Carol Apollonio described the new system of Regional Coordinators and introduced the newly appointed RCs/ Представление региональных координаторов. The RCs are listed on the website and in the inside cover of *Dostoevsky Studies*.

Chinese RC Liu Na gave a presentation on the new IDS social media initiative in China / Отчет о китайских социальных медиа (Лю На). IDS now has WeCat.

### **Next Symposium location: announcement and presentation / О месте следующего Симпозиума (Объявление и презентация)**

RC from Spain Jordi Morillas read a presentation sent by Alejandro González, who was unable to attend the Symposium. The next (XIX) Symposium will take place in **Buenos Aires, Argentina**, in June 2026. This will be our first Symposium in South America.

### **Awards / Награды**

Carol Apollonio presented awards for exemplary service to Stefano Aloe for his work on the journal, the video competition, and the YouTube channel, and to Katia Bowers for her work creating and managing the IDS/NADS website.

New IDS President Stefano Aloe proposed that Carol Apollonio be named Honorary President. This was approved by unanimous vote.

**In memoriam / Память об ушедших коллегах**

As is traditional, the meeting closed with words in memoriam of colleagues who have passed away in the years since the Boston Symposium:

*Николай Николаевич Богданов* (умер 16 октября 2019 г.)

*Сергей Владимирович Белов* (1936 – 7 ноября 2019 г.)

*Rudolf Neuhäuser* (1933 – September 10, 2020)

*Борис Федорович Егоров* (1926 – октября 2020 г.)

*Галина Борисовна Пономарёва* (1935 – 25 марта 2021 г.)

*Инна Александровна Битюгова* (1926 – 5 мая 2021 г.)

*Deborah Martinsen* (1954 – November 28, 2021)

*Robert Louis Jackson* (1923 – May 2, 2022)

*Алина Валентиновна Денисова* (умерла 11 сентября 2022)





