May 22, 2014 8:00 pm

In attendance: over 25 members, including officers Clayton McCarl, Ann de León, Raúl Marrero-Fente, Patricia Tovar Rojas.

Clayton McCarl began the meeting with a summary of the proposal for continuity in the section’s leadership that the members approved earlier this year. He described the five-year commitment and indicated that the following individuals would serve on the executive council for the coming year: Pablo García Loaeza (council member), Mónica Díaz (council member and secretary/treasurer), Raúl Marrero-Fente (vice-chair and chair of awards committee), Ann de León (chair) and Clayton McCarl (council member).

Clayton reviewed the section’s finances by pointing out that we receive $6 of the $10 section fee paid by each member. He reported that we had approximated $1,200 in the account prior to the annual reception, and that the section had committed to spending approximately $600 on that event.

Clayton reported that we finished 2013 with 116 members and currently have over 100 for 2014. The section will sponsor two panels at the 2015 congress.

Clayton noted that the section newsletter has continued to publish quarterly. In the past year, Alejandro Enríquez joined as assistant editor and Rocío Quispe-Agnoli as editorial advisor.

Clayton presented Ann as the new Chair and she and the members of LASA Colonial thanked him and the section officers for the work done by the section.

Ann reported that the first “Maureen Ahern Doctoral Dissertation Award in Colonial Latin American Studies” was a success and thanked the donors of the prize monies for their contribution. 19 submissions were received and 5 semi-finalists were selected to submit their full dissertations. The prize ceremony was carried out by one of the jury members, Santa Arias. Larissa Brewer-García (not present) received an “Honorable Mention” certificate of recognition for her dissertation: Beyond Babel: Translations of Blackness in Colonial Peru and New Granada. Jason Dyck (in attendance) was named the winner and received a certificate of recognition and a $500 award for his dissertation: The Sacred Historian’s Craft: Francisco de Florencia and Creole Identity in Seventeenth-Century New Spain. This prize will be awarded on a rotating basis.

Ann suggested that the next prize should be an award for best colonial essay by a Latin American scholar in order to promote more international visibility for this section. Some members suggested prize monies be included to invite this scholar to present in LASA or to have
their essay published in a prestigious journal. Other prize suggestions included best book (or first book) by a scholar of colonial Latin America.

Ann ended the meeting by asking the members what the priorities of the group should be. Santa Arias and Raúl Marrero-Fente reminded members of the importance that donations to the section have in order to ensure future prize monies and an enjoyable reception. Some members suggested increasing the visibility of LASA Colonial to graduate students through contact to their universities or by encouraging their direct involvement in the organization in some capacity such as section website development. Graduate student travel awards were also suggested but it was noted that LASA already awards these and that our budget is limited.

Rocío Quispe-Agnoli encouraged section members to submit proposals for the next LASA in order to ensure more colonial panels.

Ana María Presta announced a call for papers for Colonialismo Sur, which will be circulated to members via email.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45.

Minutes respectfully compiled by Clayton McCarl and Ann de León