

Associate Editors

We are delighted to announce that Claire Eldridge and Jessica Wardhaugh have now started work as associate editors of *French History*. These posts were advertised internationally in late 2019 and Claire and Jessica were appointed at the end of the year. Travel restrictions permitting, we have been liaising with Claire and Jessica on their new roles and we look forward to working closely with them in the future, particularly in developing new directions for special and virtual issues of the journal, and in promoting *French History* internationally and, in tandem with OUP's marketing department, via social media. This of course also means that the Society will need to find a replacement for Jessica as the journal's SSFH News editor.

The *French History* Article Prize

We were delighted to announce that our judging panel has nominated Francesco Buscemi's 'The importance of being revolutionary: oath-taking and the 'feeling rules' of violence (1789-1794)' from the June issue for the 2019 article prize. Francesco's article is now available to read on open access on the journal website.

Forthcoming Special Issues

In 2019, we published two special issues, one on 'Religion and Violence in France, 1500-1800' and another on 'Social Rights in French History', and we will publish two more in 2020. Alexia Yates's collection 'Beyond the Dual Revolution: Revisiting Capitalism in Modern France' is due to appear in the September issue and this year's output will close with Tom Hamilton and David van der Linden's collection on 'Remembering the French Wars of Religion' in the December issue.

Further themed issues are in the pipeline but if colleagues have any suggestions for special issues for the future, do get in touch. Our special issues have been very successful in spanning the full range of the journal's coverage and in ensuring that the journal's output is as inclusive as possible. With this in mind, we do ask prospective guest editors to ensure an even gender balance among their proposed contributors and, where possible, to involve researchers at different points in their academic careers from across a variety of institutional contexts. To date, this has been very successful in ensuring that the journal's output fully reflects the diversity of the French historical community.

Readership and Subscriptions

The journal's subscription renewal rate remains healthy, and our online presence is growing steadily every year. The number of both citations and full-text downloads from the journal's website have increased significantly in recent years, and the early indications are that both trends will likely continue in 2020. The number of readers registering for issue alerts and advanced access alerts is growing at a similar rate.

We have been working with the press to iron out the difficulties that some subscribers experienced with renewing their subscriptions and we hope those problems have been resolved. Naturally, if colleagues are still experiencing any issues in renewing their subscriptions, they should let us know.

Copy Flow

The flow of new material into the journal has been increasing gradually over the past few years, but there is always room for improvement, so we would be very happy to hear suggestions from colleagues on the editorial board and the committee as to how we might encourage the submission of new copy. The Society's annual conference is always a fertile source of new submissions for the journal, so its postponement this year may have an effect on the flow of new material over the coming year. Consequently, if colleagues are involved in, or aware of, research presented at any online conferences or seminars that might be of interest, do let us know. We would also urge members of the Society to encourage colleagues to submit to *French History* and of course to consider sending us on work themselves.

Potential Consequences of the Covid-19 pandemic

The constraints of lockdown, allied to the additional pressures everyone has been working under these past few months, have obviously had an effect on all of our lives, both professionally and personally. This has been the case with the journal too, but we are working closely with Oxford University Press to keep this disruption to a minimum. However, the most immediate impact may be felt in our book reviews section. The closure of campuses, along with the fact that staff at many publishing houses have been working from home, has complicated the processing and distribution of new titles for our book reviews section. Our reviews editor, Stewart McCain, is liaising with OUP and other publishing houses to maintain the flow of new material for review, but as we are receiving fewer titles from publishers, we may be able to publish fewer review than usual over the coming issues.

OUP is also trying to assess the pandemic's potential financial implications for its journals output. We are in discussion with both the Society and the press concerning the best ways to mitigate this and will keep the Society posted as to any possible developments.

Joseph Clarke and Julian Wright

Editors, *French History*

July 2020

Secretary's Report
July 2020

Note on funding and COVID-19:

We responded quickly to offer guidance on how funding could be modified or postponed as a result of the current crisis. This was published prominently on the website on 19 March 2020, drawing on the policies of the Royal Historical Society:

<http://www.frenchhistorysociety.co.uk/cv19.htm>

We offered all funded applicants the opportunity to defer for 12 months without need for any additional authorisation, and in some cases offered the opportunity to redeploy funding (in support of the same project).

1. Grants Awarded since last report in Jan 2020 (in March round)

Conference and Speaker Grant	
Marc Jaffre (Oxford) Conference: Marginalised Voices and Figures in French Festival Culture, 1500-1800 Venue and date: King's College London, 11-12 August 2020	£600.00
Solange Manche (Cambridge) Conference: Ships in the Proletarian Night: Contemporary Marxist Thought in France and Britain Venue and date: University of Cambridge, 14 - 15 January, 2021	£500.00
Conference Bursary	
Audrey Borowski (Oxford) Two papers in Paris: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 'Gottfried Leibniz's Networks in Paris: Knowledge at the confluence of practice and sociability in Colbert's political and scientific apparatus' - '<i>Leibniz, Pierre Daniel Huet et la Querelle des anciens et des modernes dans la Republique des Lettres a Paris de 1672 a 1676</i>' ('Leibniz, Pierre Daniel Huet and the <i>Querelle des anciens et des modernes</i> in the Parisian Republic of Letters from 1672 to 1676') 	£300.00
Research Grant	
Teresa Barucci (Cambridge) Research trip to Paris and Orleans, thesis explores the construction, expression, and significance of social identification among the scholarly communities of the universities of Paris and Orléans during the 14th and 15th centuries.	780
Audrey Borowski (Oxford) Research trip to Paris, thesis is entitled 'Gottfried Leibniz in his World: the Making of a Savant (1672-1676)'	750
David Briscoe (Trinity College Dublin) Research trip to Paris, thesis analyses concepts of citizenship and community membership in France from 1760-1800 through the lens of poor relief.	982.59
Effie Dorovitsa (Hull)	800

Research trip to Rouen and Dieppe, thesis traces the reception, controversies and politics of the Norwegian ice trade in the French regions where it was mostly received, namely the North and Northwestern ports of France	
Panagiotis Georgakakis (St Andrews) Research trip to Paris, thesis explores the history of the Huguenot gazettes published in the Dutch Republic during 1677-1714, during an era in which King Louis XIV had launched massive military campaigns against the majority of European states.	700
Alexandra Georges-Picot (Oxford) Research trip to Paris and Normandy, thesis explores land reform and farmers' resistance in post-WWII Normandy, and in France more generally.	1000
Sky Herington (Warwick) Research trip to Brazzaville, Congo. Thesis entitled " <i>Théâtre pour l'humain: embodiment and performances of power in Sony Labou Tansi's plays</i> "	1000
Louis Klee (Cambridge) Research trip to Paris. Thesis entitled, 'The Histories of La Mémoire involontaire: From Marcel Proust to Lisa Roberston'	915
Carine Lemyre (St Andrews) Research trip to Beirut, Lebanon, thesis explores nineteenth-century French photography studio Maison Bonfils and French representations of the Middle East	519
Louis Pulford (Lancaster) Research trip to Rome, thesis explores the textual culture of the Albigensian Crusade	500
Sophie Rees (St Andrews) Research trip to Paris, MLitt dissertation explores political influence of Madame de Maintenon at court during the third reign of Louis XIV	1000
Michel Syrett (Strathclyde) Research trip to Paris, thesis entitled 'France, the doctrine of self-determination and the Treaty of St Germain'	1000
TOTAL	£11,346.59

2. Future Deadlines for Society Funding Schemes

Research Grant: Friday 26 March 2021

Conference & Speaker Grant: Friday 18 September 2020, Friday 12 March 2020

Conference Bursary: Friday 18 September 2020, Friday 12 March 2020

Postgraduate Panels: Friday 12 March 2020

Ralph Gibson Bursary (Board of Assessors): Friday 30 April 2020

Undergraduate Dissertation Prize (Board of Assessors): Friday 31 July 2020 (then Friday 30 July 2021)

Visiting Scholars: Friday 26 March 2021

Andrew Smith, July 2020.

							2017	2018	2019	2020
Income										
Membership subscriptions							275.00	125.00	122.00	0
OUP profit-share							29,278.00	32,836.00	36,233.00	36,936.00
Other income							-	71.00		
Conference income (publishers etc)							400.00	-		
							29,953.00	33,032.00	36,355.00	36,936.00
Expenditure										
Prizes							6,550.00	6,100.00	3,300.00	400.00
Research/Conference Bursaries							13,773.20	3,600.00	17,553.98	5,030.00
Conference Grants							3,146.00	3,300.00	1,000.00	800.00
Conference Support (incl. Douglas Johnson Lecture)							3,266.10	6,651.26	6,923.07	2,612.12
French History expenses (incl. annual prize)							4,512.16	1,530.53	250.00	746.76
Committee expenses							866.76	1,704.79	1,352.96	533.90
Audit fee							100.00	100.00	100.00	-
Bank charges								21.00	60.00	28.25
IHR project										5,372.00
Visiting scholar scheme							-	3,757.00	1,590.00	-
Total							32,214.22	26,764.58	32,130.01	15,523.03
Cash in TSB account as at 07.07							£55,509.03			

Treasurer's Report

As ever, the Society's funds remain healthy. The 2020 OUP profit share rose slightly, but less than in previous years. In response to Open Access implications and anticipating likely library budget cuts in the coming year, OUP have increased next year's journal subscription price by 15%. The accounts for the year

ending 31 December 2018 were audited, signed off and submitted to the Charity Commission in October 2019. Total funds in the TSB account stand at £55,509.03 on 7 July 2020. The balance in the investment account is £38,282.

It is likely that the pandemic will impact this year's spending, with the annual conference having been postponed, and conferences/research trips being postponed.

Karine Varley (Strathclyde)

SSFH 'SOCIETY NEWS' REPORT, JULY 2020

Overview, 2019–20

- During 2019–20 the 'Society News' pages of *French History* have continued to showcase the breadth of research and activities that we are able to support. Recent issues have included reports from postgraduate research grants, conference grants, and bursaries, as well as items on the Douglas Johnson lecture, the annual SSFH conference, and the MUP *Studies in French and Francophone History*. All research and conference reports are also made publicly available on our website in advance of their publication by the journal, thanks to our web officer Will Pooley.
- In 2019 we were delighted to offer a special tribute to Reverend Professor Richard Bonney (1947–2017), founder and first president of the SSFH, and creator of the newsletter that would become the 'Society News' pages of the journal. This bumper issue included reflections on Richard's personal and intellectual impact by Mark Greengrass, Bill Doyle, and Guy Rowlands, as well as a tribute to Richard Bonney's contemporary, Ralph Gibson (1943–95).
- With the recent and ongoing postponement of research trips and conferences due to Covid-19, our June 2020 issue of 'Society News' was the shortest to date. But we very much hope that the easing of restrictions will allow research trips to resume (and many seminars and conferences have, of course, found creative ways to continue online), and that we will soon be able to resume our reports on members' research and activities.

Next steps: SSFH Director of Communications

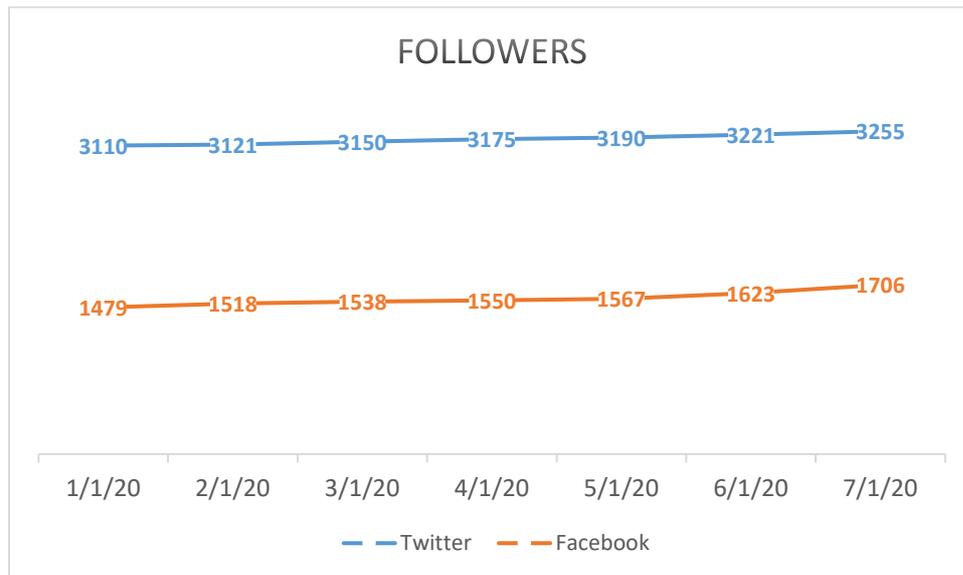
- Appointed as one of the two Associate Editors of *French History*, I have now stepped down from the role of 'Society News' editor after 8 years of service. It has been a pleasure to serve the Society in this role, and I would like to thank colleagues at the journal and OUP, as well as on the SSFH executive committee, for making it such an enjoyable experience.
- The editors and officers of the Society will shortly be welcoming applications for the new position of Director of Communications, bringing together the two currently vacant posts of Society News Editor and Membership Secretary. The successful candidate will connect the public, the Society's membership, the executive committee, and the journal *French History*, supporting and publicizing our rich variety of activities.


J. Wardhaugh

Dr Jessica Wardhaugh, 6 July 2020.

Social Media Report

Even though the pandemic slowed the number of views on both social medias, it did not hinder the amount of new people following us. The Twitter account continues to generate more interactions than the Facebook page, yet I have been posting regularly on the Facebook page and it grows more than the Twitter account. Since 1st January we gained 227 followers on Facebook, comparing to 145 for the Twitter account. I also try to engage with French researchers through posts in French, but I do not think I have been particularly successful so far.



I welcome everyone to send me an email regarding an event, article or news to share on social medias.

Anaïs Pédrón

SSFH Membership Secretary Report

We currently have 108 active members; 59 of these are print subscriptions and 49 are online subscriptions. This is a drop from the 140 active members we had in January, but we were expecting this as a large number of subscriptions were due to expire at the end of that month. The number of new members joining in the past quarter has been lower than we would normally expect at this time of year, primarily due to the postponement of the conference and the wider context, but we are still attracting new members. These two trends highlight the ongoing issue of retaining members – we are pretty good at attracting new people to the Society, but continue to struggle to ensure that the majority of these renew at the end of their first year and become regular subscribers.

The Committee's decision to award lifetime memberships to Malcolm Crook and Mark Greengrass in recognition of their many contributions to the Society over the years has been actioned by OUP. Malcolm and Mark have both expressed their thanks for this gesture and affirmed their intentions to continue attending and otherwise supporting the Society in all its endeavours.

I have been due to step aside from this position for a couple of years now, but the process of finding a replacement has proven more difficult than anticipated. To try and address this, it is proposed that the Membership Secretary position be combined with that of Society News Editor into a new 'Director of Communications' post (see role descriptor). Hopefully this change will enable us to attract strong applicants and broaden the number of office holders on the Committee.

CE 02/07/2020

SSFH Conference Officer Report

SSFH Annual Conference

Due to the Coronavirus Pandemic, the 2020 conference, due to be held at the University of Westminster on 28-30 June, was postponed for a year. The local organisers, Ludivine Broch and Itay Lotem, are still keen to hold the conference in 2021 and intend to keep the same theme (Power, Protest and Resistance) as this remains very timely. The organisers are also hoping to stick to similar dates (27-29 June 2021). Discussions are ongoing regarding the potential format of this event. Hopefully some in-person sessions and events will be possible, but we expect the conference to include a significant online component.

We need to identify a host institution for 2022, although this is likely to prove more challenging than normal given the current context both within HE and globally.

Other events

The SSFH, in partnership with the French Embassy, was due to hold a one-day event at the University of Leeds on 12 June 2020 in connection with the York Festival of Ideas. Aimed at postgraduate, postdocs and ECRs it would have included a keynote by Pierre Singaravélou, a practice-based workshop on decolonising curricula, and a screening of the ARTE documentary 'Décolonisations'. This event was also postponed due to Coronavirus. The plan was to hold the same event one year later with the same format and speaker. However, Alice Béja will be leaving her post as the Higher Education Attaché this summer so we will have to wait to see what her successor wishes to do. There are also some questions over the availability of the local organising team in Leeds.

In response to the postponement of their conferences, our American sister societies (Society for French Historical Studies, French Colonial Historical Society and the Western Society for French History) have recently conducted an online survey asking people what alternative activities their members might like them to organise over the coming months (https://iu.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_cuLkXcyLbZAPMk5) With the Committee's approval, I would like to explore ways for SSFH to contribute to these activities and to generally collaborate with our American counterparts as I think it would be a useful way to keep our members engaged while also creating opportunities for intellectual exchange and networking, which our PGR and ECR members might find especially valuable. There is also scope for closer collaboration with the IHR Modern French seminar series now that this has moved online.

CE 02/07/2020