



The Society for the Study of French History

**Committee Meeting,
3 p.m., Sunday 25 June 2017
Collins Building CL201, University of Strathclyde, Glasgow**

Minutes

Attendance: MC, AS, Penny Roberts, Dave Andress, Karine Varley, Laure Humbert, Claire Eldridge, Clare Morton (OUP)

1. Apologies for absence
Jessica Wardhaugh, Linda Briggs, William Clement, Joseph Clarke, Glenn Richardson, Tim Baycroft, Mark Greengrass, Dan Power, Will Pooley, Samuel Wilkinson, Julian Wright, Joseph Bergin, Noelle Plack, Anais Pedron, Samuel Wilkinson, Malcolm Crook

2. Minutes of previous committee meeting (See Appendix 1A and 1B)

The minutes of the last Committee Meeting, held at the Douglas Johnson Lecture at the Institut Français were made available and approved by the Committee.

3. Matters arising

ACTION: Invite winner of UG diss prize to DJ lecture

4. Committee Membership & Nominations (See Appendix 9)

Máire Cross (MC) presented nominations for new trustees (Munro Price and Noelle Plack), and a new President (David Andress). The committee approved these nominations, to be approved by the membership at the AGM.

In addition, Andrew Smith (AS) announced that Linda Briggs had stepped down as Conference Officer, and notified the committee that we would need to seek a new person to fill the vacancy. A new Postgraduate representative would also be needed after William Clement came to the end of his term. The committee thanked Will for his efforts as PG Representative

ACTION:

AS to draft job description for Conference Officer and advertise vacancy
AS to advertise vacancy for PG Rep

5. Report from the President
MC presented the report included at Appendix 2
6. Report from the Secretary
AS presented the report at Appendix 3.

During the report, there was discussion about the Postgraduate Conference Bursary which has been receiving a low volume of applicants.

Karine Varley (KV) mentioned the potential of including a fund for international PGs to attend the society conference. AS suggested we could perhaps alter the existing PG fund to facilitate this. David Andress (DA) raised the difficulties that this scheme could face in funding repeat attendance by students (and how to monitor this) and worried about being swamped with applications for limited numbers.

MC highlighted the importance of maintaining a global perspective, and Claire Eldridge (CE) suggested a new fund or named prize could be established to bring international PGs to the society conference (as the French Colonial History Society does).

DA & Penny Roberts (PR) mooted establishing a potential relationship with either the French Historical Society or the Western Society to allow for Postgraduates to apply to attend those conferences. DA mentioned possibility of establishing a 'network' with other societies for reciprocal PG conference funding (for example, the French Colonial History Society, the Society for French Historical Studies, and the Western Society for French History).

ACTION:

Committee to continue discussing possible ways to fund international PGs to attend our conference.

DA to speak with other society heads to explore 'network'

7. Report from the Treasurer (See Appendix 4)

KV presented the report included at appendix 4.

As per the report, KV raised issue of bank accounts and recounted difficulties in current working practices. DA said the committee needed to do research on the best accounts available to us, poll trustees, then open it (and write cheque from old account to new). MC mentioned importance of having multiple signatories. Amongst the current account signatories were: Mark Greengrass, Stephen Tyre, Chris Warne. There was extreme difficulty with this given the fact that they are

not all still on the committee. We need to start process to ask them to help us transfer this to new account.

DA raised question about auditing process – KV outlined current arrangements, which are to use an ACA qualified accountant from Strathclyde Business School and pay them £100.

ACTION:

AS & KV to produce report for circulation to trustees by September.

DA to circulate to trustees.

KV to pursue opening of new account

8. Report from Postgraduate representatives

AS presented the report at Appendix 5 on behalf of the postgraduate representatives.

MC reiterated the importance of our PG reps collaborating with their counterparts in the ASMCF.

ACTION

New PG rep to be appointed

9. Report from the editors of *French History & Society News*

PR presented the report at Appendix 6. She noted in addition that our OUP representative Clare Morton (CM) had reported fully at a recent helpful meeting with the journal editors.

MC mentioned it would be helpful to discuss open access at AGM

CM explained that OUP operated a ‘hybrid’ model of subscriptions and APC, and explained where difficulties had arisen with consortia groups who sought preferential terms and conditions. This was a matter of ongoing discussion at the top level with OUP, and CM said she would update us as needed, though noted that *French History* had a low level of Open Access take up amongst authors. DA queried whether this meant that there were no outcomes of RCUK funded PhDs being published in the journal. It was noted that *French History* did not offer CC-BY licenses (the most liberal), and this may mean that *French History* was not necessarily compliant with the demands of those funders.

MC asked about translations and PR explained the need to bring in people with historical training to ensure that the historical idiom was recognized and serviced. Translators were being paid.

CE mentioned experiencing some problems with the coordination of book reviews in the journal: in particular, the efficiency of turning round reviews; having offered to write reviews and then not hearing back; and, having refused an invitation to review then being asked subsequently to review the same book. CM mentioned the system does show a lot of delays, and would have liked TB to be present at the editorial meetings. She suggested to the society that greater accountability was perhaps needed in the role of book reviews editor. CM mentioned potential of co-reviews editor (for example someone in France to help solicit material).

Term limits were then raised more generally – PR mentioned need to ensure posts were refreshed. DA mentioned editorial board as a way to recruit new editors etc. MC talked of need to democratize and become more transparent.

MC mentioned need to draft ‘call for interest’ for editorial positions (including teams of colleagues) which reinforced term limits. CM said she would send on draft editor contract as a model.

ACTION:

Journal editors to reflect on term limits and discuss with DA

10. Report on Website and Social Media Matters

AS presented report at Appendix 7 on behalf of Will Pooley.

11. Report from the Membership Secretary

CE presented the report at Appendix 8

AS minuted thanks to CE for continuing to promptly contact members when requested (and often at short notice).

12. Report from Conference Officer

Following Linda Briggs’ resignation, the post of Conference Officer was currently vacant, and no report had been received.

PR presented on the ongoing plans for organizing the conference at Warwick in 2018. She informed the committee that her organization team consisted of Charles Walton, Pierre Purseigle, and Michael Bycroft. The provisional theme for the conference was announced as ‘Political economy and cultures of inequality’. PR noted that she had booked one plenary speaker so far, Michael Crois an 18th Century scholar, had approached another scholar, and also planned a roundtable involving French scholars.

CE noted that she would like to express interest in Leeds hosting the conference for 2019, and would investigate this with her institution.

ACTION:

New conference officer to be appointed

New conference officer to liaise with PR and CE

13. Suggestions for New Activities

14. Douglas Johnson Annual Lecture 2018

MC confirmed that the next speaker for the Annual Douglas Johnson Memorial Lecture would be Malcolm Crook speaking on the theme of elections. In addition, MC noted that she was looking for suggestions for 2019 speaker.

15. Date of the next committee meeting

The precise date of the next committee meeting is to be confirmed (as soon as timing is confirmed with the Institut Français), but will take place at the Annual Douglas Johnson Memorial Lecture in January 2018.

16. AOB

No other business was raised.

The committee meeting adjourned.