

The Society for the Study of French History

**Committee Meeting,
4.15 p.m., Sunday 28 June 2015
Room 0.01, St Katharine's Lodge, The Scores, St Andrews**

MINUTES

In attendance: Máire Cross (Chair), Julian Wright, Ellen Crabtree, Joanna Warson, Andrew Smith, Penny Roberts, Claire Eldridge, Karine Varley, and Sandy Wilkinson. Sophia Martin-Pavlou from OUP Journals joined the meeting.

1. Apologies for absence

Received from Joe Bergin, Tim Baycroft, Mark Greengrass, Dave Andress, Dan Power, Will Pooley, Jessica Wardhaugh, David Hopkin, and Stephen Tyre.

2. Minutes of previous committee meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting of the committee held on 14 January 2015 at the Institut Français were accepted.

3. Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

4. Committee Membership & Process for the Future Appointment of Committee Members

It was agreed that key strategic roles on the committee, in particular President, Secretary and Treasurer, would continue to be recruited from within the committee. However, to encourage new committee members, and greater transparency in appointments, it was resolved that all other roles falling vacant would henceforth be advertised across the membership. Expressions of interest would be invited along with CVs. These would be considered by the President, normally in consultation with the Secretary. Nominations would be made to the committee and then submitted for formal approval at the next AGM.

ACTION POINT:

Incoming Secretary ANDREW SMITH to organise a call for two postgraduate representatives.

5. Report from the Secretary (see Appendix I)

A report was submitted by the outgoing Secretary, Sandy Wilkinson (SW) outlining the various awards made since the last report in January 2015. It was noted that in reference to the agreed spending targets of July 2015, that there was a significant underspend.

It was resolved that i) that the number of deadlines relating to the conference grant scheme would be increased from 2 to 4 that ii) a new scheme would be established to support one-off lectures across the UK and Ireland. That members of the Society would be eligible to apply to this scheme. The President and Secretary would draft a proposal, including indicative budgets for domestic/overseas lecturers, and to circulate this to the committee for comment.

There was a proposal made by Julian Wright and seconded by Penny Roberts that the Society might consider supporting Masters students, perhaps in the form of a fee-waiver. There was general support for this proposition, though with some questions about the practical form that this might take.

ACTION POINTS:

MC AND ANDREW to draft a proposal, including indicative budgets for domestic/overseas lecturers, and to circulate this to the committee for comment.

MC At the subsequent AGM, Malcolm Crook indicated that there had been discussions with the Institut Français about possible financial support for one-off lectures. This might be explored further.

ALL COMMITTEE MEMBERS: To reflect on how the Society might support students on Masters programmes and the desirability of such a programme.

Undergraduate Dissertation Prize

The nominations of the assessment team for the undergraduate dissertation prize were ratified by the committee. There will be a joint award of #300 GBP each to

Georgina Rose Whittington (Cambridge) for her dissertation entitled ‘Representations of Joan of Arc in French Schools, c.1880 – 1914’.

Katherine Bulteel (Cambridge) for her dissertation entitled ‘The Use of Religious

Justifications of War during the Albigensian Crusade and the Conquests of James I of Aragon'.

ACTION POINT:

ANDREW SMITH & STEPHEN TYRE to communicate with

hpb21@cam.ac.uk

Mrs Hellen Balding,

Administrative Secretary for Part II

University of Cambridge

Faculty of History

West Road

Cambridge CB3 9EF

and arrange to have the two cheques issued to the winners. As per discussion at last year's committee (and stipulated in the terms and conditions of the prize), it will also be important to investigate the possibility of publishing the dissertations on the

i) website and ii) in a revised form in the Society's journal.

Ralph Gibson Prize

For transparency purposes, please note that MC, Ellen Crabtree and Lori Oates left the room for all discussion linked to this prize, and that MC (as supervisor of Ellen Crabtree) had no role in the assessment process.

The findings of the assessment panel for this year's Ralph Gibson Prize were reported to the committee. Given the health of the Society's finances, it was agreed that – exceptionally – two prizes would be awarded in the current year. The nominations of Ellen Crabtree (Newcastle), 'The historical militancy of Madeleine Réberioux (1920-2005) and Erika Graham (York), 'Negotiating Princely authority in Late Medieval French Society: Jeanne de Penthievre, Duchess of Brittany (1325-1384)' were ratified by the committee.

ACTION POINT: PRESIDENT to communicate the prize to Erika Graham (who was not present at the conference) and for incoming SECRETARY ANDREW SMITH to arrange payment of the prize with KARINE. Erika Graham's email is erika.graham@york.ac.uk

6. Report from the Treasurer (see Appendix II)

The financial accounts of the Society, prepared by the former Treasurer Chris Warne, were presented to the committee. Karine noted that she and MC had now been

authorized as signatories on the Society's cheque book and that she now had possession of the cheque book. She noted that she still required access to online banking.

It was reported that a situation had occurred recently where a cheque had been issued without sufficient funds in the current account for it to clear. Karine agreed to speak with NatWest about the 70 GBP charge. The problem had arisen because the former Treasurer, Chris Warne, had expected the OUP profit-share money to have cleared, but it had not. The Society maintains two accounts – a higher interest savings account as well as a current account.

Julian Wright inquired as to whether travel expenses for committee members were allowable for conference attendance. MC agreed that such expenses were permissible. However, the need for a proper and accountable system was stressed.

MC recorded her thanks to Karine for taking over this role.

ACTION POINTS:

KARINE. To speak with Natwest urgently about completing paper work for change of address etc of the Treasurer, gaining access to the full details of the bank account; banking and to dispute the 70 GBP charge.

KARINE. It was agreed that the Society needed clear guidance to regularize payment of expenses to committee members for attendance at meetings. Karine agreed to draw up a claim form for expenses, modelled after the ASCMF. This would include an agreed per-mile rate for anyone using their cars.

MÁIRE. *It was noted at the AGM - subsequent to the committee meeting - that an accountant would need to be brought in to certify the Society's finances so that we could meet our obligations to the Charities Commission. The President agreed to make this appointment.*

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

A publisher's report was tabled for members of the committee. Sophia Martin-Pavlou spoke to this report, along with the editors of the journal Julian Wright and Penny Roberts. The Society's profit-share had increased this year, largely as a consequence of the journal being bundled with others as part of an online package offering to libraries &c. There was some concern that access figures (circulation) had dipped a little. However, it was noted that Alex Beaumont from OUP was working hard to improve the visibility of the journal and its offerings across a range of platforms.

Julian Wright commented on the success of virtual special editions which drew on existing articles from within our journal (and others) and repackaged them with an appropriate gloss. Such editions offered a 'nice tag and handle' for social media

promotion. MC suggested political violence and colonialism/post-colonialism as potential special issues.

It was noted that the size of the journal had expanded from 608 to 624 pages, and that this was in large measure a consequence of the steady flow of copy sent by the Reviews Editor, Tim Baycroft.

SW reported that Jessica Wardhaugh had sent on a report indicating that the new 400 word report system was working well, and that winners of the various postgraduate prizes in particular had expressed their gratitude to the Society for its support of their work. She enquired whether it would be sensible to include a summary of the Douglas Johnson lecture every year. This was welcomed by the committee.

ACTION POINTS:

JULIAN to liaise with Alex Beaumont at OUP about a yearly ‘plan of attack’, the strategy for the promotion of the journal.

JULIAN to investigate potential of MC’s suggestion for future special issues.

ANDREW (an H-FRANCE editor), to work with OUP on developing this strategy, including offering a list of appropriate forums (sub-sites &c).

ANDREW to issue notice to members (in consultation with Julian and Tim) that if they see a book they would like to review to make contact with Tim.

JESSICA to arrange for a summary of the DJ lecture to be included in Society News.

8. Report on Website and Social Media Matters (see Appendix III)

Andrew Smith (AS) had tabled a report. He noted in particular how important the French History Network blog was for pushing traffic to our website. He noted that everything was in place for the handover of responsibilities to Will Pooley.

AS noted that a new logo for the Society was in the advanced design stages. The committee noted that it would be useful for engagement purposes if the broader Society membership was consulted prior to a final design being chosen.

ACTION POINTS:

KARINE to arrange to reimburse Andrew for website hosting costs.

ANDREW to facilitate development of logo and find ways of consulting with members of the Society prior to agreeing to a final version.

9. Report from the Membership Secretary (see Appendix IV)

Claire Eldridge (CE) noted that the Society had around 152 members, which was very healthy, and that she had been in talks with Clare Morton at OUP about ways in which the Society could be more pro-active at engaging with its membership. It was agreed that, from November/December 2015, CE would review OUP's lists periodically and send a welcome letter to all new members, along with a questionnaire inviting them to indicate what they might like the Society to do for them. There was also a suggestion that members whose subscriptions had lapsed would be contacted about their reasons for not renewing. These suggestions were welcomed by the committee.

ACTION POINTS:

CLAIRE to implement new communication policy with members effective from the end of the current year, including welcome packs and questionnaires and surveys.

10. Report from Conference Officer (see Appendix V)

Joanna Warson indicated that everything was in hand for the forthcoming conferences, and that she had been communicating with Hugo Frey at Chichester about the 2016 conference on High and Low Culture (3-5 July).

There was a discussion of the policy of St Andrews not to offer a discount to members because of the complexity of online systems. However, there was widespread agreement in the committee that discounted rates for members were required and should be implemented at all future conferences.

Criticism was expressed, and widely shared, that the AGM had been set for an early morning slot and that this was not conducive to the Society's attempts to engage its members. In future, all AGMs should be held in the lunchtime slot of the first full day of conference activity.

SW reported a conversation with Guy Rowlands, one of the St Andrews conference organisers. There was a suggestion from Guy that plenary speakers at the Society's annual conference should be funded directly by the Society. It was also necessary for an appropriate float to be put in place to assist the conference organization team. *[NOTE: From subsequent discussions with the former and current conference officers, it appears that a float is routinely offered to conference organizers]*

ACTION POINTS:

JOANNA to make clear in any and all guidance issued to conference organisers, that the Society expects that a discounted rate should apply to members.

JOANNA to make clear that the Society expects that the AGM be held over lunchtime on the first full day of conference activity so that as many members as possible can engage with Society business.

11. Report from Postgraduate representatives (see Appendix VI)

A detailed report was submitted by the two postgraduate representatives. It was suggested that the next study day might be held in London. The importance of securing replacement postgraduate representatives was recorded. Lori Oates has now come to the end of her term. Ellen Crabtree has agreed to carry on for a short while to overlap with the incoming representative(s).

MC congratulate both Ellen and Lori on doing such a fantastic work, and in particular for the success of the postgraduate study day.

**ACTION POINT:
ANDREW – see under 4 above.**

12. Douglas Johnson Annual Lecture 2016

MC reported that Sian Reynolds had agreed to deliver the 2016 Douglas Johnson Lecture on the subject of ‘Children of the Revolution’, and that Colin Jones had agreed to deliver the 2017 lecture. MC also noted that the Institut Français was keen on hosting the lecture in 2016. The committee approved of all points. The 2016 lecture will be held on 13 January 2016.

13. Date of the next committee meeting

The next committee meeting will precede the Douglas Johnson lecture, and will therefore take place in the afternoon of 13 January 2016.

ACTION POINT: MC and AS to liaise with appointed speakers and French Institute for room booking etc. Date to go on web page.

14. AOB

MC recorded her thanks to the outgoing secretary, Sandy Wilkinson for his sterling work during the full three year period and particularly in the transition from one president to another.

APPENDIX I – REPORT FROM THE SECRETARY

Secretary's Report

Funding Schemes (since January 2015)

REFERENCE PLAN FOR SOCIETY EXPENDITURE [Agreed in July 2014]

PG Research Bursaries (now up to £1k)	£10k
Postgrad Panels (2x£2k)	£4k
Ralph Gibson Award (1x award)	£3k
PG Conference Bursaries (10x£300)	£3k
Conference Grants (6x£500)	£3k
Discretionary	£2k
Total	£25k

Research Grant Scheme

Fein	Stephen	QMU	1000
Graham	Erica	York	560
Hermans	Sven	St Andrews	1000
Honey	Emily	Oxford	500
		Edge	
Norton	Mason	Hill	750
Redding	Benjamin	Warwick	1000
Rispin	William	Warwick	477
Shtasel	Rebecca	Sussex	828
Tavernese	Claudia	Durham	1000
Veneziani	Enrico	St Andrews	800

£7,915

Conference Grant Scheme

Current Round

Charlotte Faucher (Queen Mary) with Olivier Rauch (Lycée Charles de Gaulle), one day conference on *La diffusion de la langue française dans le contexte anglais : volontarisme, obstacles, rivalités / The spread of the French language across the British world: diplomacy, challenges and rivalries* (London, May 2015), £300.

Joan Tumblety (Southampton) with Catherine Kelly (University of Western Australia), ‘Physicians, persuasion and politics: lobbying and culture in Britain and France, c.1780-1940’ (Southampton, July 2015), £398

Previous Round

Two awards of £500 were made.

Total for this scheme 2014-2015 = £1,698

Annual budget: £3,000

Conference Bursary Scheme

Charlotte Faucher (QMUL), £285
Alexandra Jordan (Durham), £300
Itay Lotem (QMUL), £300
Lori Oates (Exeter), £300
Idir Ouahes (Exeter), £300
Anaïs Pedron (QMUL), £188
Hope Williard (Leeds), £300

Total (March 2015 round): £1973 GBP

Total (September 2014 round): £600

Spent: £2,573 GBP

Annual budget: up to £3,000

Undergraduate Dissertation Prize 2014

Recommendation of assessors (CE, NP and ST [chair]) to be announced at the committee.

Ralph Gibson Prize

We received 12 applications this year from research students at Edge Hill, Edinburgh, Exeter, KCL, Leeds, Newcastle, Oxford, Queen Mary, Southampton, St Andrews, UCL, and York. Projects spanned the twelfth century to the present. Recommendation of assessors (DA, JW and SW [chair]) to be announced at the committee.

SOCIETY FOR THE STUDY OF FRENCH HISTORY

Running accounts, 2013 – present					
	2013		2014		2015
Income					
Old-style membership subscriptions	£501.50		£478.00		£413.00
OUP profit-share	£23,951.00		£24,624.00		£27,172.00
INVAC interest	2012	£266.70	2013	£336.00	2014
Conference income (publishers etc)		£0.00		£0.00	TBC
		£24,719.20		£25,438.00	£74.08
					£27,659.08
Expenditure					
Prizes	£2,300.00		£6,000.00		TBA
Research/Conference Bursaries	£10,037.27		£16,189.57		£10,008.00
Conference Grants	£5,844.00		£2,645.00		£1,198.00
Conference Support (incl. annual conference)	£3,428.15		£2,828.45		£2,321.93
French History expenses (incl. annual prize)	£1,562.00		£5,571.54		£1,456.00
Committee expenses	£1,065.94		£1,491.38		£730.32
Publication support (incl web site)	£61.70		£0.00		£83.40
		£24,299.06		£34,725.94	£15,797.65

Assets 31/12/2013	Assets 30/06/2014	Assets 30/06/2015
£69,505.00	£60,217.06	£72,078.49

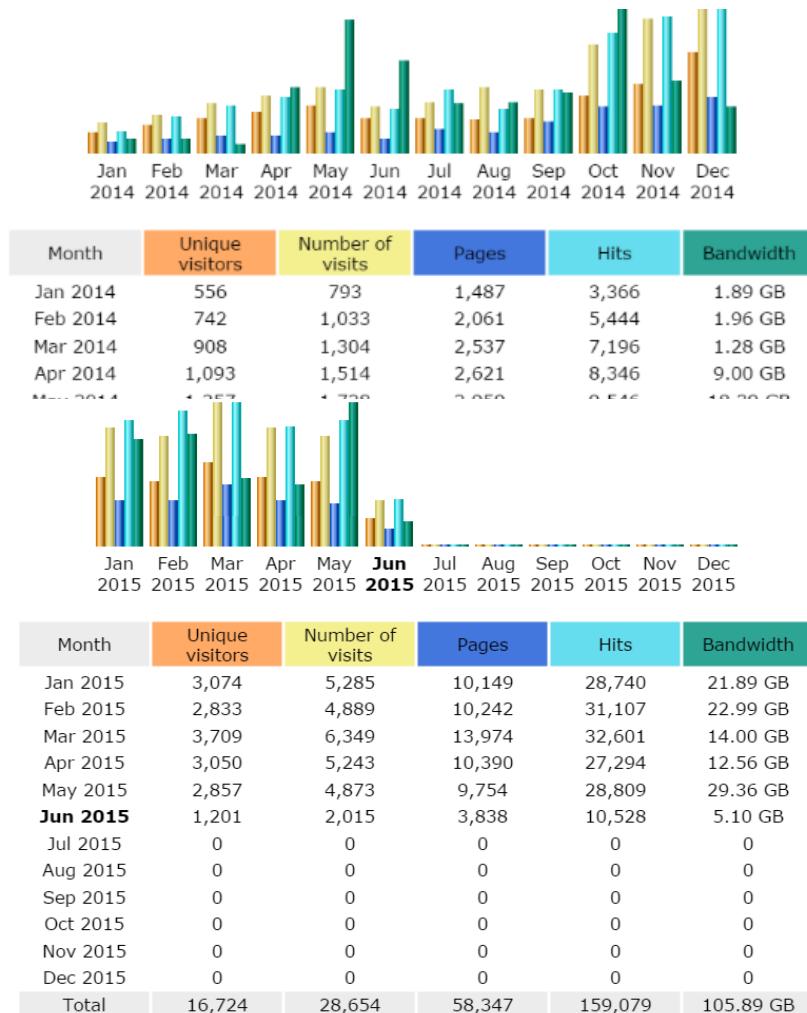
APPENDIX III – REPORT FROM WEBSITE EDITOR AND SOCIAL MEDIA MATTERS

Web Editor's Report

The website continues to be an effective means of communicating with members and the public. It continues to host information on upcoming events, calls for papers, resources and underpins our Social Media presence.

We continue to host the site with 34sp.com and have had no difficulties. At present, we pay £6.95 per month for hosting. For ease, I have been paying this personally and then applying to the treasurer for reimbursement. I last did this at the AGM in January 2015 and will supply receipts to the Treasurer again for reimbursement of £90.35 (13 months) covering until 18 February 2016.

Below are charts detailing the traffic for 2014, and the start of 2015:



You will note that there has been a marked increase in the traffic to the site and in the number of visitors. This is due to a more active maintenance of the site, and also largely (upwards of 60%) as a result to our hosting of the French History Network Blog (launched October 2014). This is not a problem with our current level of hosting, and the increased traffic presents no significant problems.

Pre-emptively, I have been moving content onto YouTube to ensure that we do not handle too much bandwidth as we expand as a purely precautionary measure. This has been useful, though we can continue to promote, and it will be useful to build more content for this, by continuing to film and record lectures. 174 people have watched the plenaries from our 2014 conference.

The blog continues to be a very successful addition to the site and the excellent work of the editors Ludivine Broch (Westminster) and Alison Carroll (Brunel) should be noted. I would also like to thank Ellen Crabtree for her continuing efforts, which have produced fantastic interviews of real interest and entertainment. I would encourage committee members to keep up to date with the blog and recommend it to others. The blog has also allowed us to get good value out of our contribution to the IHR Modern French History Seminar, and reports on all of the papers given there appear on the blog. More often than not, this includes an audio recording (on express permission of the speaker). This has allowed us to make sure that the London base of the seminar has become more open and accessible to members and interested parties from further afield.

As ever, the website continues to flourish as a result of the contributions of members. Thank you for all material supplied and please continue to send in items of interest and relevance. Likewise, I am sure both myself and the Social Media Officer would encourage everyone to pass on photos from events they have attended, as good quality photos of events are often the most challenging thing to come by.

Other stats for those interested:

OS breakdown of hit traffic, March 2015:

OS	Hits	%
Windows	18,915	56.7
Macintosh	11,002	33
Linux	1,975	5.9
Others (inc. Java, BB, Symbian)	1,419	4.2
BSD	14	0

Browser breakdown of hit traffic, March 2015:

Browser	Hits	%
Chrome	9,057	27.1
IE	6,474	19.4
Safari	6,285	18.8
Firefox	6,023	18
Others (inc. proprietary mobile)	5,112	15.3
Opera	222	0.6
Netscape	152	0.4

I will soon be transferring these duties to Will Pooley (Bristol), and will continue to work with him to ensure a smooth transfer.

Andrew W M Smith, 12 June 2015

APPENDIX IV – MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

SSFH Membership Secretary Report July 2015

At the last meeting I reported that we had 192 members. This, it turns out, was an over-optimistic misreading of the data on my part. We have almost 200 people on our email list but, of these, only 137 are currently ‘active’ (i.e. paid up) Society members according to the most recent OUP lists. This 137 is nonetheless a considerable improvement on the 2013 low point of 92 members. We have also received 24 membership applications since the start of 2015. The vast majority of these have been from PG students, which is an encouraging sign.

I would be inclined to leave the email list as it is rather than prune it down to only active members as I think it is helpful to circulate news about the Society to as many people as possible. These emails may prompt people to re-join, especially as they will need to be current members if they want to apply for any of our grants or bursaries. But I would be interested to hear thoughts from the rest of the committee on this.

Claire Eldridge

APPENDIX V – REPORT FROM THE CONFERENCE OFFICER

Conference Officer's report for June committee meeting

Prepared by Joanna Warson, 10 June 2015

2015 conference update

Guy, Sarah, Stephen and Sven have done an excellent job preparing for the 2015 SSFH conference in St. Andrews.

Final attendance figures are still to be confirmed at time of writing report (10 June 2015), but c.95-110 delegates (majority staying for whole conference, with a few attending for 24 hours only). Approx. division of full rate to PG = 70:30

I reviewed a budgetary breakdown for the 2015 SSFH conference in March. Financial arrangements for conference appear to be in good order, with substantial funding secured from St. Andrews School of History (£2962) + Institut Français (£500). Subsidy of £700 from SSFH requested by conference organisers + approved by the Committee (via email).

2016 conference update

University of Chichester, 3-5 July

Organisers – Prof. Hugo Frey (main contact), Dr. Mark Bryant + team

Theme – High and low culture

Plenary speakers – Professor Richard Golson (Texas A&M); other plenary TBC (possibly Pascal Ory)

Session planned in the Pallant House Gallery <http://www.pallant.org.uk>

Point for discussion

Does the society want to continue offering different rates for SSFH members/ non-members? Very complicated for organisers to set up and also for delegates when registering via online stores. St. Andrews team were not able to offer this option without offering delegates 17 different options in Online Store (from which they would choose up to 6 options).

APPENDIX VI – REPORT FROM THE POSTGRADUATE REPRESENTATIVES

SSFH Postgraduate representatives' report (June 2015)

Our activities over the past six months have fallen into two main areas – continuing to work on the French History Network Blog and organising the annual Postgraduate Study Day in association with the ASMCF. We have also drafted a job description to help recruit the next two representatives.

French History Network Blog

In conjunction with Ludivine Broch and Alison Carrol we have continued to work as special features editors on the FHN blog, posting pieces about the postgraduate community and the Study Day as well as interviews with academics as part of the 'under the spotlight' feature. Recently this has featured key note speakers (Alice Conklin and David Bell) to tie in with the annual conference.

SSFH and ASMCF Postgraduate Study Day, University of Exeter, Saturday 7th March 2015: Report

The Association for the Study of Modern and Contemporary France and the Society for the Study of French History's Joint Postgraduate Study Day was held on Saturday 7 March 2015 at the University of Exeter. Responding to the rise of global approaches within cultural, historical, and social studies, 'The Local and the Global' sought to examine the relationship between these two seemingly antonymous terms. The event welcomed eleven graduate speakers from across the United Kingdom, France, Morocco, and Exeter itself. Dr Claire Eldridge (University of Southampton) offered a keynote which discussed how *pied-noir* communities in France appropriated global affairs to express local sentiments of marginalisation. This engaging lecture spoke to questions of collective memory, identification, and integration.

A diverse programme of papers covered the nineteenth to the twenty-first centuries, and explored the Francophone world from the shores of Normandy to Mali, via the Maghreb and the Sahara. The morning of the conference was dedicated to professional development sessions targeting key concerns for postgraduates considering a career in academia, including the viva, academic journals, monographs, and social media. In the afternoon, two parallel sessions of two panels each rounded off the programme. Panel A focused on the history of the urban environment and explored the political culture of three French cities. Using examples from literature and film, Panel B discussed representations of Francophone Africa and its relationship to France. Panel C explored how regional languages, the translation of literature, and the media coverage of rugby union contribute to a sense of identity in areas of the French-speaking world. Panel D offered new understanding of the ideologies and motivations behind French policy in Africa. Across the day, we found that considering local and global as opposites belies the potential impact that they can have upon one another. The organisers of the conference would like to thank ASMCF, SSFH, Exeter's College of Humanities, and the Voltaire Foundation for their kind financial support for this event.

(Report by Stacie Allan, University of Bristol; Ellen Crabtree, Newcastle University; Lori Lee Oates, University of Exeter; and Mason Norton, Edge Hill University)

Study day budget

Expenditure				Income	
Item	Projected cost	Actual cost	Detail	Source	Amount
Door unlock fee (room hire)	£220.00	£220.00	£20 per hour at 11hrs	University of Exeter, College of the Humanities (see note one)	£220.00
Catering	£544.80	£560.88	40 delegates, 7.95 lunch, 2 tea breaks, incl.VAT, +20% weekend fee	The Voltaire Foundation (see note two)	£15.00
Stationery	£0.00	£0.00	donated by UniofExeter	SSFH contribution to travel	£352.00
Travel expenses for postgraduate speakers	£910.00	£734.35	budgeted for 13 delegates at £70 each	ASMCF contribution to travel	£382.35
	£1,674.80	£1,515.23		SSFH contribution to catering	£280.44
				ASMCF contribution to catering	£280.44
					£1,530.23

Note one: The College of Humanities initially agreed to contribute £250 towards the cost of the study day but in fact only paid £220.

Note two: In return for displaying flyers at the study day the Voltaire Foundation contributed £15 towards costs. For simplicity, a cheque for £7.50 was sent to each society.

Lori Lee Oates & Ellen Crabtree
18 June 2015