

The Society for the Study of French History

**AGM,**

**8.40 a.m., Monday 29 June 2015**

**School III, St Salvator’s Quad, St Andrews**

## MINUTES

**Present: Máire Cross (Chair), Claire Eldridge, Penny Roberts, Julian Wright, Sandy Wilkinson, Joe Bergin, Mason Norton, Lori Oates, Ellen Crabtree, Malcolm Crook and Norman Ingram.**

Copies of all submitted reports by officers of the Society were circulated or otherwise made available for consultation. These are reproduced below.

1. **Minutes**

The minutes of the last AGM held in St John’s College, Durham on 12 July 2014 were made available.

1. **Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising.

1. **President’s Report**

The President, Máire Cross (MC), reported that it had been a good year for the Society. In particular, she drew attention to the fabulous turnout for the Douglas Johnson Lecture in January 2015 delivered by John Horne.

1. **Committee Membership & Process for the Future Appointment of Committee Members**

There was recommendation advanced by MC that the following procedures be adopted for the appointment of new members of the committee.

That key strategic roles on the committee, in particular President, Secretary and Treasurer, continue to be recruited from within the committee. That to encourage new committee members, and greater transparency in appointments, 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.

This recommendation was passed.

1. Report from the Secretary (see Appendix I)

The Secretary reported on grant expenditure. Also presented were the recommendations of the committee to i) develop a new one-off lecture grant and ii) to increase the number of times the conference grant scheme was offered during the year (from the current 2 deadlines to 4). Both these measures were endorsed by the members present.

Malcolm Crook indicated that there had been previous discussions with Catherine Robert about possible funding for the one-off lecture grants.

There was also support for some form of scheme for Masters-level students. It was agreed that this would be explored further.

1. Report from the Treasurer (see Appendix II)

The finances of the Society were presented to the AGM. It was noted that the process of transition from the outgoing to incoming Treasurer was now almost complete.

MC noted the importance of satisfying the requirements of the Charities Commission and that an accountant would need to be brought in to certify our finances.

It was noted that a new claim form would be produced by the Treasurer for expenses incurred by members of the committee.

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

Julian Wright indicated that the profit share from OUP was up yet again, and that this is where the Society reaped most of its funding. He noted that OUP was very forward-thinking in its dealings - in particular with social media promotion of the journal. He drew the attention of the AGM to the number of virtual special issues, which largely repackaged earlier material with appropriate editorial comment and gloss. Readership of the journal had plateaued a little, but that there was little worry about. However, attention would be given in the coming year to promoting *French History* more pro-actively. In particular, Julian and Andrew Smith would work with Alex Beaumont at OUP to work with various lists, not least H-FRANCE.

Malcolm Crook indicated that such promotion should look broadly at available online resources, not least Francophile, H-Nationalism, H-Colonial and so forth.

MC noted thanks to the editors, and to Jessica Wardhaugh the Society news editor, and to Tim Baycroft the book reviews editor.

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

As tabled.

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

Claire Eldridge (CE) reported on membership matters, indicating that the current system of subscription via OUP and an online membership form to be submitted to the Society would be replaced from the end of this year. CE would periodically review OUP’s lists and send a welcome letter to all new members, along with a questionnaire inviting members to indicate what they would 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.

Norman Ingram proposed that only members of the Society should be able to attend the annual Society conference This was the case with many sister societies. The AGM favoured retaining a discounted conference rate for members. However, it was agreed that Norman Ingram’s suggestion would be considered further.

1. Report from Conference Officer (see Appendix V)

Joanna Warson reported on arrangements for next year’s conference in Chichester to be held on 3-5 July 2016. The importance of offering a discount for members, and of holding the AGM at a more appropriate time was endorsed by the AGM.

1. Report from Postgraduate representatives (see Appendix VI)

As tabled. It was noted that there were 33 attendees at the postgraduate study day held in conjunction with the ASMCF, which considered the theme of local and global. It was a great success and MC extended the congratulations of the Society to the organisers.

1. Douglas Johnson Annual Lectures

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. There was approval on all counts.

1. Date of the next AGM

To be confirmed. This was likely to be on 4 July 2016.

1. AOB

MC thanked the outgoing Secretary, Sandy Wilkinson.

**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 |
| Norton | Mason |  | Edge 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 | TBC |
| Conference income (publishers etc) |  | £0.00 |  | £0.00 |  | £74.08 |
|  |  | £24,719.20 |  | £25,438.00 |  | £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* | £69,505.00 | *Assets 30/06/2014* | £60,217.06 | *Assets 30/06/2015* | £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 Carrol (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: Browser 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* | 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**



Lori Lee Oates & Ellen Crabtree

18 June 2015