

The Society for the Study of French History

<http://frenchhistorysociety.co.uk/>

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**Committee Meeting,**

**1.30 p.m., Saturday 12 July 2014**

**Tristram Room, St John’s College, Durham**

**MINUTES**

1. **Report from the Secretary**

Ralph Gibson Bursary 2014

It was reported that….

Following a discussion of the recommendations of the board of assessors which this year consisted of David Hopkin, Kevin Passmore & Sandy Wilkinson, the committee of the SSFH had agreed – exceptionally - to award two bursaries in the current academic year, both worth £3000. The recipients of these bursaries were confirmed as Robin Macdonald (York) for her project entitled ‘Inhabiting New France: Sensing Bodies, Spaces, and the Sacred, c. 1632-1740’, and Fabio Morabito (King’s College London) for his project ‘Performing Sociability: Ideas of Authorship in Parisian Chamber Music Culture under the Bourbon Restoration’.

The committee had ratified the recommendation of the undergraduate dissertation prize committee, which this year consisted of Claire Eldridge and Stephen Tyre. A first prize of £300 will be awarded to Craig Saunders (Edinburgh) for his dissertation on 'The Impact and Influence of French Socialism on the Paris Peace Conference, 1919'.

There was agreement that it was important to have a scholar with expertise in an earlier period in French History on the selection committee, and Noelle Plack kindly agreed to serve in this capacity. There was a suggestion, which found approval amongst the committee, that the nominating institution of the winning dissertation also be informed of the outcome of the prize so that it might publicise the award and perhaps link to the SSFH website. The committee also stressed the importance of publishing the winning dissertation on the Society’s website. It was also agreed that Irish HEIs be permitted to submit nominations for the dissertation prize.

SW will liaise with the Chair of the Selection Committee Stephen Tyre to agree a process of notification the successful applicant and institution and getting permission from the winner to publish the dissertation online, perhaps with a brief comment from the assessment panel.

In addition to the Ralph Gibson Bursary and undergraduate prize winners, SW provided a summary of awards made since 1 January 2014:

£6000 Ralph Gibson Bursary

£300 Undergraduate Prize

£250 French History Article Prize

£2000 Postgraduate Panel Scheme

£827 Conference Bursary Scheme

£1895 under conference grant scheme

£10,163 under research grant scheme

TOTAL: £21, 435 to date.

French History Article Prize (£250)

The board of assessors (Penny Roberts, Malcolm Crook and Julian Wright) recommended Ed Naylor 'Un âne dans l'ascenseur': late colonial welfare services and social housing in Marseille after decolonization’ as the winner of the French History Article Prize 2014.

Research Awards 2014

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Sean Heath | £750 | 2 weeks | Cult of St Louis in 17-18 centuries | St Andrews |
| Alexander Collins | £1000 | 6 weeks | Missals | Edinburgh |
| Marc Jaffre | £503 | 3 weeks | Early Bourbon courts 1589 1643 | St Andrews |
| Ellen Crabtree | £1000 |  |  |  |
| Chris Jones | £750 | 2-3 weeks | Mitterrand and dissolution of Yugoslavia | UEA |
| George Roberts | £715 | 4 weeks | France Intelligence in Africa | Warwick |
| Roel Van der Velde | £961 | 4 weeks | France/South Africa relations in the light of French military/industrial strategies | Portsmouth |
| Jerome Greenfield | £860 | 5 months | France as fiscal military ruler of Algeria 1830 50 | Cambridge |
| Ben Rhode | £750 | 2 months | French attitudes to Spanish American War | Oxford |
| Charlotte Faucher | £710 | 6 days and 5 days | History of Fr institute in London | QML |
| Anna Peterson | £750 | 2 weeks | Medieval hospitals in Sienna and Narbonne | St Andrews |
| Daisy Gibbs | £113.57 | 1 month | Grain trade in French and British colonies | UCL |
| Iida Saarinen | £300 | 1 month | Scottish Catholic links to France | Edinburgh |
| Alexis Romano | £1000 | 1 month | Fashion history | Courtauld |

*Postgraduate Panel Scheme*

Charlotte Faucher, Postgraduate Panel Scheme £2000 to attend the SFHS conference in Montreal in April 2014.

*Conference Bursary Scheme*

John Condren was awarded £300  to help defray expenses associated with attending the SFHS Conference in Montreal to present a paper entitled '*C'est* *la nature des italiens d'etre lents dans ce qu'ils ne font pas pour* *eux*': the French missions in northern Italy in the early stages of the Nine Years War’ .

Benjamin Darnell was awarded £227 under the conference bursary scheme to attend a workshop at St Andrews on 10 May 2014 on ‘France and the Mediterranean World in the Reign of Louis XIV’.

Sarah Wood was awarded £300 under our Conference Bursary Scheme to attend the SFHS conference in Montreal to present a paper entitled ‘*An 'interior' war on the margins of France: the Surinamese Civil War and Guyane, 1986-1996’.*

*Conference Grant Scheme*

Dan Power extraordinary grant of £395.00 towards the cost of hosting Professor Matthew Strickland’s lecture on the Battle of Bouvines.

Fraser McNair £500 to be used towards a conference, The Carolingian frontier and its neighbours to be held on 4-6 July 2014

Braganca – £500 Conference Grant Application ‘France, Vichy and me’: workshop/talks on the intellectual pathways of 14 of the most influential

researchers of WWII French history and memories

Alex Fairfax-Cholmeley – £500 Conference Grant Application ‘Finding Order in a Revolution: Violence, Communication and Control in Revolutionary Cultures, from 1789 to the present day’

1. **Report from the Treasurer**

Chris Warne had been unable to attend the committee meeting (but was present at the AGM). The following accounts were submitted for review.



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Dr Noelle Plack was nominated to replace Dr Chris Warne as Treasurer. The committee had endorsed this nomination unanimously, and the AGM ratified this recommendation.

It was resolved that:

the authorised signatories in the current mandate for the following accounts ("The Society for the Study of French History"; "Society for the Study of French History, Ralph Gibson Fund") be changed by the addition of Noelle Plack and the current mandate will continue as amended."

It was reported that all Charities with an income above 25k must an annual account, an annual Trustees’ report & and an independent examiner or auditor’s report.

1. **Financial Management of Society Awards**

It was reported that a new plan for the financial management of the society’s award schemes had been approved by the committee. This was also put before the AGM.

PG Research Bursaries (now up to £1k) £10k

Postgrad Panels (2x£2k) £4k

Ralph Gibson Award (1x3k; recently increased) £3k

PG Conference Bursaries (10x£300) £3k

Conference Grants (6x£500) £3k

Total £23k + £2k discretionary.

Two cut off points were to be implemented for the conference bursary and conference grant schemes.

1. **Report from Website Editor**

Andrew Smith reported that the website was continuing to develop well, and that we were putting online more and more content, not least podcasts of the Johnson Lecture and conference plenaries. Some cosmetic tidying had been undertaken. There were around 1,200 visits a month to the site, and that it our search rankings were high in Google (giving the Society a high web visibility). He indicated that more was being done to reflect the diversity of the Society in the imagery being published. He asked that members of the committee and society forward any appropriate content for his attention.

1. **French History Network**

It was reported that the Society collaborate with the French History Network and its blog created by Alison Carol and Ludivine Broch.

1. **Report from the Social Media Officer**

Joanna Warson indicated that significant progress had been achieved in growing the Society’s social media presence. Profitable discussions had been had with OUP, and OUP had agreed to retweet some Society news. She asked that members of the committee/society send her information which can be posted on Facebook / Twitter.

Report:

Twitter:

* + Twitter followers (on 26 June 2014): 557
  + Majority of social media activity taking place on twitter  constant stream of new followers and lots of re-tweets (including by accounts with a very large number of followers, such as @OxfordJournals who have 14.8k followers) and favourites.
* Facebook
  + Facebook likes (on 26 June 2014): 278
  + Society and journal pages now combined into one, which has yielded some increase in activity.
  + Overall page remains fairly static, with only a small increase in “likes” of page and individual posts (and not always quality “likes”) compared to the twitter account, which is much more active. Probably due to fact that Facebook tends to be viewed as more personal so people less likely to use for work related activities.

There was consensus in the AGM that more should be done to promote the social media profile – and in particular that this should be communicated clearly on all correspondence, and perhaps integrated into a new logo.

1. **Report from the Membership Secretary**

Noelle Plack (NP) indicated membership was up on the last reporting point in January, standing at 168. She drew attention to the statistics forwarded by Julian Wright, the organizer of the SSFH conference in Durham, indicating the comparatively high number of registrations as a non-member despite the Society’s recent efforts to increase the cost of conference registrations for non-members to encourage joining the Society. There was a proposal that this be examined for future conferences with a recommendation to conference organisers.

NP indicated that membership was quite a difficult sell, given that many prospective members already had institutional access to the journal.

1. **Annual French History Lecture in honour of Douglas Johnson 2015**

MC Confirmed that the Annual French History Lecture in honour of Douglas Johnson would be given by Professor John Horne (Trinity College Dublin) on 14 January 2015. The title is yet to be confirmed.

1. **Report from the editors of *French History* & Society News (Penny Roberts, Julian Wright & Jessica Wardhaugh)**

Julian Wright (JW) and Penny Roberts (PR) reported on an earlier editorial board meeting for *French History* which took place immediately prior to the committee meeting. There was considerable reflection on the core objectives and scope of the journal, as well as to how the reach of the journal could be extended, especially in France. JW reflected on discussions around new forms of material that might be published, either in the printed journal or online (or both) including the prospect of a review article which focused on articles rather than books, and dedicated podcasts. There was also a good deal of reflection on the importance of ‘new blood’, especially trying to attract younger talented French scholars in the 30-45 age bracket to serve on the editorial board.

Reflecting on the journal’s article prize, it was resolved at the earlier committee meeting to change the eligibility requirements from a scholar under 40, to a scholar up to 15 years after completing their PhD.

1. **Conferences**

Karine Varley (KV) discussed upcoming conference venues: St Andrews (2015), Chichester (2016), Strathclyde (2017) and Warwick (2018).

1. **Postgraduate representatives**

The postgraduate representatives reported on the Postgraduate Study Day held in Newcastle on 1 March 2014 and that a provisional date had been set for the next event, set for 7 March 2015 at Exeter.

1. **Date of the next AGM.**

At the annual conference in St Andrews.

1. **AOB**

Professor Malcom Crook welcomed Professor Máire Cross as the incoming President of the Society.