



The Society for the Study of French History

**Officer Reports for SSFH Annual General Meeting,
University of Leeds
Monday 9th July 2019
12.30 p.m.**

1. Report from the Journal Editors
2. Report from the Secretary
3. Report from the Treasurer
4. Report from Website Editor
5. Report from the Membership Secretary

Editors' report, July 2019

Additions to the Production Team

Following the much-lamented retirement of George Root from the press, James Gemmill has taken on the role of production editor for the journal, and we are working closely with him to streamline the production process. We have been able to ask our virtual online assistant to take on more tasks in the production process. Management of proofs has been through a transition period and we are now settling back to a more stable managed process.

Associate Editorships

Following on from the committee's discussions last year, the editors would like to proceed with the appointment of two associate editors to the journal. As discussed last year, we would hope to advertise these posts as widely as possible and to convene an appointment committee to review applications for these posts. Text was agreed some time ago and we hope to publicize over the next four months, with a deadline for expressions of interest in October 2019.

The *French History* Article Prize

We were delighted to welcome Laura O'Brien to join Sara Beam and the editors on the judging panel for the annual article prize this year, and to recommend Meike de Goede's article on 'Resistance and exclusion in matsouanist narratives of decolonization in French Congo' for the 2018 prize. Meike's article is now available to read on open access on the journal website.

OA/Plan S Update

Julian attended a session for journal editors organized by the RHistS and the IHR in April. The RHistS has taken a firm and robust approach to the general discussions in academia. CUP were represented at the meeting, and subsequently our managing editor Clare Morton confirmed that OUP, like CUP and other academic presses, were looking at a scenario where they are unlikely to suggest that journals should 'flip' to Gold Open Access only. Then, at the end of May, the Coalition S consortium released revised guidelines for implementing its Open Access policy. The most immediate result of these revisions is to push the implementation date back by a year to 1 January 2021, while transitional arrangements will be supported until 2024. These are welcome developments, but they do not fundamentally alter the implications these proposals potentially have for the future sustainability of Humanities journals in a fully-OA environment. We are still waiting to hear how UKRI intends to implement Plan S, but we will have a clearer sense of its potential impact when UKRI releases its draft OA plan in the autumn. The journal editors are glad of the leadership shown by senior established journals in our field such as the editors of P and P, and the relationship with OUP is long-established and allows us to continue to navigate the muddy waters of this discussion with the support and collaboration of a Press that we trust and that supports our academic aims.

Readership and Subscriptions

The concerns that were recently expressed about the membership subscription renewal process have been raised directly with the press. These are significant issues and we are assured that the press will look into streamlining and updating the online renewal system.

These problems aside, the journal's subscription renewal rate remains healthy, and our online presence is growing steadily year on year. We had an 8% increase in full-text downloads in 2018 on the 2017 figures, and initial figures suggest that 2019 is on target to continue that trend. The number of readers registering for issue alerts and advanced access alerts is growing at a similar rate.

Copy Flow

For the first time in a number of years, issues have been late to appear in print. In a sense, in the world of online publishing, the timing of the print issue is less important for many readers than it might have been. However, the management of the journal does rely on timely publication of the quarterly issues.

As we reached the end of 2018, we were managing the production of an extremely important special issue on French colonial history 'from below'. To ensure the issue worked as well as it possibly could – and we think it will have a really wide impact in the field – we took time to bring in the last pieces and ensure they were revised satisfactorily.

Volume 33 no. 2 is another vitally important special issue, edited by Joe Clarke, and this too has been delayed, though less significantly. It is worth the wait.

Equally, however, we had not enough 'stand alone' articles scheduled to bring together volume 33 no. 1 on time. So, while the flow of copy into the journal has been consistent over the past two years, we acknowledge the importance of tight management of special issues.

Happily, we now have five further special issues in train, in various states of preparation (see below). This gives us the chance to keep a closer eye on gender balance of authors (because we can commission guest editors to follow specific guidelines on this, whereas a reliance on 'stand-alone' articles leads, as in History journals more widely, to a slip towards more male authorship). And critically it allows us to be able to plan the balance of special vs. 'ordinary' issues in such a way that production remains timely.

Following 'Religion and Violence in France from 1500 to the Present', which will appear later this month, the following themed editions are in various stages of preparation:

- Pierre Purseigle's special issue on World War I is in train and should be completed shortly.
- We are also expecting copy soon from Alexia Yates for her themed edition on financial history.
- Charles Walton is editing a special issue on 'Social Rights and the Politics of Obligation'. This is in the final stages of preparation and we expect it should be ready for publication in 2020.
- Talbot Imlay and Jean-Numa Ducange are preparing a themed issue on French socialism in an international context

- Tom Hamilton and David van der Linden are putting together a collection on 'Remembering the French Wars of Religion', and this should be ready for review later this summer.

We are always eager to receive proposals from colleagues for themed issues, and we ask prospective guest editors to ensure an even gender balance among their proposed authors and, where possible, to include contributors from a variety of institutional contexts and at different points in their academic careers. To date, this has been very successful in promoting a greater degree of diversity among the journal's contributors.

We would urge members of the Society to encourage colleagues to submit to *French History* and of course to consider sending us on work themselves.

Author Experience

All of our contributing authors are surveyed as to their experience publishing with the journal and while the return rate on these surveys is, as ever, modest, the feedback has been very encouraging with respondents rating their experience as 'excellent' across categories such as 'speed', 'quality' and their 'communications' with the journal.

Virtual Issues

A new 'virtual issue' on 'Justice in the Revolutionary and Napoleonic Years' has just gone live on the journal website. Guest-edited by Alex Fairfax-Cholmeley, it brings together five previously published articles on different aspects of Revolutionary justice and can be accessed at

https://academic.oup.com/fh/pages/justice_in_the_revolutionary_and_napoleonic_years_virtual_issue

Again, we would urge colleagues to contact us with suggestions for virtual issues or indeed to volunteer to curate collections of this kind. The press is very keen to use these for promotional purposes as they do attract significant traffic to the journal website.

As ever, we would encourage colleagues and Society members to contact us with suggestions for subjects to consider and especially for books to review. Publishers sometimes need to be reminded to send books on for review so do let us know if you think that any important new works may have slipped through the net.

Joseph Clarke and Julian Wright

Secretary's Report
July 2019

1. Grants Awarded since last report in January 2019

<i>Conference Bursary</i>	Amount
Fabienne Chamelot (Portsmouth)	300
To attend Annual Conference of UK Libraries and Archives Group on Africa as well as the European Conference on African Studies	
Aaron Clift (Oxford)	300
To attend conference "Anti-Communism in the Twentieth Century: An International Historical Perspective."	
Emma Kavanagh (Oxford)	300
To attend annual conference of the American Musicological Society in Boston, Massachusetts	
Amelia Mills (Loughborough)	300
To attend Renaissance Society of America's annual meeting in Toronto	
Emmanuela Wroth (Durham)	300
To attend 'Women, Feminists, and Music: Transforming Tomorrow Today' (the joint conference of the International Alliance for Women in Music and Feminist Theory & Music 15), at Berklee College of Music in Boston, USA.	
<i>Visiting Scholar Grant</i>	
Pablo Fecundo Escalante (National University of San Martin, Argentina)	1590
Working with Colin Jones at QMUL to produce a history of the French Constitution of 1791 from the perspective of the history of emotions.	
<i>Research Grant</i>	
Daniel Baker (KCL)	375
'Diplomatic neutrality? - A Social History of French diplomats 1939-1945'	
Aaron Clift (Oxford)	1000
Social consequences of post-war French anti-communism	
Frederick Coombes (Leeds)	787.2
Popular participation and exclusion during the 1966 <i>Premier Festival des Arts Nègres</i> in Dakar, Senegal	
Antonio Marson Francini (Oxford)	900
Edition and commentary of the sermons of Nicolas de Biard, a thirteenth-century preacher	
Natalee Garrett (St Andrews)	600
French and British caricatures created between 1740 and 1800	
Ida Jorgensen (Portsmouth)	1000
Shipbuilding in 18th century Europe	
Lindsay Macnaughton (Durham)	467.74
Collecting the revolutions: French history in Franco-British collections in the nineteenth century	

Rana Mohamed (Strathclyde)	885
UK-French relations and their approaches to humanitarian relief during the period of 1944-1948	
Niall O Suilleabháin (Trinity College Dublin)	1000
Wealth, Violence and Status; Lay and Ecclesiastical Élites in the Middle Loire Valley, c. 850 – c. 1150,	
Sneha Reddy (St Andrews)	1000
North African and Indian soldiers in the First World War in Palestine and Syria 1917-23	
Shyam Sridar (St Andrews)	1000
Colonial logistics and defence in the French Atlantic, 1713-1763	
Gabrielle Storey (Winchester)	896
Nature of authority of four Angevin queens: the Empress Matilda, Eleanor of Aquitaine, Berengaria of Navarre and Isabella d'Angoulême.	
J William Sutcliffe (Leeds)	1000
Genesis of the French nuclear weapons programme under the Fourth Republic	
Emmanuela Wroth (Durham)	800
Sex, Song and Self-Fashioning: Women on the 19 th C Parisian Popular Stage	
Tom Zago (Cambridge)	1000
Princely Education and Revolutionary Politics in France, 1789-1795	
Total	15,800.94
18/19 Academic Year Total	18,200.94

2. Other Prizes and Bursaries

Ralph Gibson Bursary

We had 10 applicants from 7 different institutions running the length and breadth of the country. The results will be addressed later in the meeting. Many thanks again to the prize panel (Sandy Wilkinson, Kevin Passmore, David Hopkin) for their work in looking over the applications.

3. Future Deadlines for Society Funding Schemes

Research Grant: Friday 20 March 2020

Conference & Speaker Grant: Friday 13th September 2019, Friday 6 March 2020

Conference Bursary: Friday 13th September 2019, Friday 6 March 2020

Postgraduate Panels: Friday 6 March 2020

Ralph Gibson Bursary (Board of Assessors): Friday 24 April 2020

Undergraduate Dissertation Prize (Board of Assessors): Friday 26 July 2019 (then 24/07/20)

Visiting Scholars: Friday 20 March 2020

Andrew Smith, July 2019.

Treasurer's Report

The Society's funds remain healthy. The OUP profit share continues to increase each year, seeing a rise of over £3500 in the current year. The accounts for the year ending 31 December 2017 were audited, signed off and submitted to the Charity Commission in October 2018. Total funds in the TSB account stand at £48,106.58 as at 2 July 2019. The balance in the investment account is £38,282.

I have closed the NatWest account and transferred remaining funds to the TSB account. This means that from 2020, there will no longer be any subscription payments made under the old system. I will next seek to close the National Savings postal investment account, as agreed by the committee, and transfer the funds to the TSB account.

The Society continues to cover the costs of the annual Douglas Johnson lecture in their entirety (£1760.55 in 2019), even though the event is advertised as being jointly organised with the ASMCF. The committee may wish to consider whether this arrangement should continue in its current form.

Karine Varley (Strathclyde)

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Social Media and Web Editor' Report

Website and Blog

We continue to host the site with 34sp.com and have had no difficulties.

At present, we pay £7.95 per month for hosting, and a small fee every two years to renew our domain names. For ease, Andrew Smith continues to pay this personally and then claim for reimbursement.

I remain willing and able to get lots of different things up on the website and especially the 'News' section, and am still actively soliciting information about events and other things that could be of interest to our members. I would encourage committee members and society members who find mistakes or omissions on the website to get directly in touch with me (william.pooley@bristol.ac.uk).

We continue to get a steady stream of traffic to the website. As ever, this is mostly to the blog.

The Twitter account continues to see a great deal more interaction than the Facebook page.

There is now a draft job description for the social media role which I propose splitting off from the website. As long as we continue to use the current website, I am happy to continue maintaining it. If at any point the committee wanted to substantially update the website, that would be beyond my capabilities.

Will Pooley 19.06.2018

SSFH Membership Secretary Report, June 2019

We currently have 114 active members. This has dropped slightly from 120 in January of this year.

The current membership breaks down as follows:

- x1 Quarterly Review Print
- x29 Regular print subscriptions
- x31 Senior citizen/student print subscriptions
- x25 Regular online subscriptions
- x24 Senior citizen/student online subscriptions
- x5 life members - Malcolm Crook has still to be given the lifetime membership but this process has now been set in motion.

Following discussions at the January committee meeting, a number of committee members and trustees re-joined the society. This means that our membership rates now look as follows:

Committee	11/17 people are members
Trustees	7/9 people are members

I am aware that re-joining the Society via the OUP payment portal was not the most straightforward experience for some people. I would suggest that the next membership Secretary initiate discussions with OUP about how to make the process run more smoothly and also how we might improve our membership retention rates year on year. Connected to this, I would also suggest that the Society looks into making membership of SSFH a requirement for anyone attending the conference. This is a simpler solution than offering discounted conference rates for SSFH members, especially given that conference costs and budgetary constraints will vary depending on the host institution. It is also quite common practice among learned societies.

After a number of years in post, I am stepping down as Membership Secretary as of this committee meeting.

CE 28/06/2019