

The Society for the Study of French History

**Minutes of the Committee Meeting held in the Isabel Bruce Room, Aberdare Hall, Cardiff,**

**30 June 2013**

## Agenda

Present: Malcolm Crook, Mark Greengrass, Noelle Plack, Dan Power, Karine Varley, Joanna Warson and Sandy Wilkinson.

1. Apologies for absence

Tim Baycroft, Joe Bergin, Linda Briggs, Robin Briggs, Joe Clarke, Maire Cross, William Doyle, Claire Eldridge, Kevin Gould, David Hopkin, Pam Pilbeam, Penny Roberts, Andrew Smith, John Strachan, Stephen Tyre, Jessica Wardhaugh, Chris Warne, and Julian Wright.

1. Minutes of previous committee meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 16 January 2013 in London were accepted with two amendments: (i) Powers -> Power (ii) Apologies to include Noelle Plack.

1. Matters arising

At the previous committee meeting in January 2013, Dan Power was asked to report back on the Open Access conference. This was cancelled. The committee discussed Open Access and its implications for French History. It was agreed that a report from Julian Wright be circulated to the committee for information.

1. Report from the Secretary
2. Ralph Gibson Prize Award for 2013 For Approval

There were three outstanding applicants to this year’s Raph Gibson Bursary competition. The assessment committee - John Strachan, Isabel Di Vanna, and Sandy Wilkinson - nominated Will Pooley (New College, Oxford) to receive the award this year. The assessors felt that his project, entitled ‘Misery in the Moorlands': Lived Bodies in the Landes de Gascogne, 1870-1914’, seemed to be particularly brazen and with the potential for establishing more bridges between cultural history and socio-economic history, and to cross-disciplinary approaches which make use of literature, textual criticism and philology.

1. Research Grants for 2013

There were fifteen applications submitted for the research grant scheme this year. There were thirteen successful applicants, and £9101.27 in total was awarded by the Society. The successful applicants were:

Will Clement £521.27

Fiona Foulkes £750

Stefania Gargioni £750

Alessandro Gnasso £750

Jan de Graaf £750

Anna Jenkin £730

Niall MacGalloway £750

Martha McCarey £350

Lori Oates £750

Imaobong Umoren £750

Elisabeth Wallman £750

Bernard Wilkin £750

Jacob Zobkiw £750

1. Undergraduate Dissertation Prize

The winner of the Society’s undergraduate dissertation prize for 2012 was Daniel Hully (Durham) for 'L'Ecole sans dieu: primary education in Paris and its arrondissements, 1871-1914'. The runner-up was Simon Torracinta (Oxford) .

Stephen Tyre will look at the dissertation committee for 2013. Mark Greengrass has agreed to serve on this if required.

1. Other Items

A proposal submitted by Mark Greengrass and Robin Briggs for a conference to be held on 27-28 September 2013 to celebrate the achievements of Professor Joe Bergin was considered by the committee. The committee unanimously endorsed the proposal, and agreed to award the 494.00 GBP requested.

A proposal for the Society to commit to ongoing support for the IHR seminar submitted by Alison Carroll (Brunel) was considered by the committee. Following suggestions by Mark Greengrass and Andrew Smith, it was agreed that the Society would commit to 200 GPB per annum to support one seminar on condition that, subject to the agreement of the speaker, that the event be podcast made available via the normal channels of the Society.

1. Report from the Treasurer

A report was submitted by Chris Warne, the Society’s Treasurer, which was accepted by the committee.

1. Report from Website Editor

The Social Media Officer, Andrew Smith, updated the committee on issues affecting the website in his report to the committee.

1. Report from Social Media Officer

A report was submitted by Andrew Smith, outlining the impact of the Society in Facebook and Twitter. The importance of having material to publicise was emphasised, including promoting the various funding schemes operated by the Society, and also a broad range of other events.

The President asked that the minutes reflect the gratitude of the Society to both Kevin and Andrew for their work in maintaining, updating and development the website and the Society’s presence in social media.

1. Report from the Membership Secretary

Noelle Plack updated the committee on membership issues, noting a dramatic increase in membership to 146. She remarked in particular that the decision to offer an incentivised annual conference rate to members was bearing fruit. It was noted that a system of direct debit would be far more beneficial than the current system by which members were invited to renew annually. Comment was also made expressing some frustration at the UK versus EU rates charged for membership which were very much out of line with normal exchange rates.

1. Douglas Johnson Annual Lecture 2014

The President made one or two suggestions for the Douglas Johnson Annual Lecture 2014 which were supported by the committee. He has agreed to make the necessary approaches. The lecture will take place on 15 January 2014 in London.

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

A very detailed report was tabled by the editors of *French History* which was welcomed warmly by the committee who expressed their gratitude at the work undertaken here. A request for the Society to fund an intern was approved, subject to the post being advertised in a normal fashion.

[Due to time pressures at the committee meeting, the following was referenced only very briefly]. Jessica Wardhaugh, although unable to attend the meeting, submitted a report on Society News which remarked on the very good flow of copy this year, with postgrads very prompt at submitting their reports. She invites anyone with news to forward this to her. In particular, she has suggested that recipients of the Ralph Gibson Bursary be asked to reflect on the benefit of this to their work, and that there should be an annual report on the Douglas Johnson lecture.

1. Conferences
2. Preparations for 2014 conference

Karine Varley reported that plans for the 2014 conference were well under way. The conference, to be held in Durham 10-12 July, will take as its theme ‘History and the Senses’.

1. Confirmation of venues for future conferences

2014 Durham

2015 St Andrews

2016 Chichester

1. Postgraduate representatives

Joanna Warson presented a report on behalf of the postgraduate representatives, and in particular remarked on the success of the study day jointly organised with the ACSMF. It was also reported that plans, developed in consultation with the editor of the website Kevin Gould, are already well advanced for the publishing of web resources. Joanna indicated that the current p/g representatives are nearing completion of their PhDs, and that new representatives would need to be found.

The President and committee thanked Joanna and the postgraduate representatives for their enormous contribution.

1. Date of next Committee Meeting

The date of the next committee meeting will be 15 January 2014.

1. AOB

Under AOB, Mark Greengrass raised the issue of the MUP French monograph series. While proceeding well, the editors are looking for senior figures to publish in the series as well as junior colleagues. Despite a difficult market, especially in N. America, there were still opportunities. Mark indicated that the current five-year term of the editors is coming to an end, and that the Society should consider their replacements.