



Minutes of the ASMCF Annual General Meeting, held on Tues 6 Sept 2016 at 15.45 in Conference Aston, University of Aston.

In attendance: Prof Jan Windebank (President); Dr Steve Wharton (Hon. Vice President); Geoff Medland (Outreach Officer); Owen Heathcote; William Rispin; Maggie Allison; Jonathan Irvine; Elizabeth Walker; Madeleine Markey; Mason Norton; Wendy Michallat (Communications Officer); Clare Siviter (Postgraduate Representative); Abigail Taylor (Ordinary Member); Thomas Martin; Daniel Gordon; Margaret Majumdar; Tony Chafer; Aude Campmas (Hon. Treasurer); Fiona Barclay (Membership Secretary).

AGM 16.1. The President welcomed those attending to the meeting. Apologies for absence had been received from Chris Tinker (Hon. Secretary), Sian Reynolds (Hon. Vice President), Maire Cross (Hon. Vice President), Gill Allwood (Executive Editor, *Modern and Contemporary France*); Martin O'Shaughnessy (Editor, *Modern and Contemporary France*) and David Lees (Web Officer).

AGM 16.2. The minutes from the AGM of 9 Sept 2015 were circulated and the President asked for any corrections to be advised by email. There were no matters arising.

AGM 16.3. Chair's business

In her report, the President presented the Association's activities under the headings of Events, People and Initiatives.

Highly successful events included the 2015 annual conference, held at Hull University, the Douglas Johnson Memorial Lecture given by Prof Sian Reynolds, sponsored jointly by the ASMCF and the Society for the Study of French History, and the Postgraduate conference, organised jointly with the Society for the Study of French History. The Initiative Fund sponsored 3 events between Sept 2015 and Sept 2016, with a maximum grant of £500.

A number of new colleagues joined the Executive Committee this year whilst others took on new roles. Dr Abigail Taylor joined the committee as an ordinary member after having served as Postgraduate representative in 2013-14. Dr Aude Campmas became Hon. Treasurer and Clare Siviter was appointed as Postgraduate representative. Dr Brian Sudlow and Prof Jim Shields served as Aston conference organisers. Thanks were expressed to the outgoing Web Officer, Dr David Lees. The President is the Association's representative on AUPHF, and the Honorary Vice Secretary has been the Association's Representative to UCML. We have a 'People' page on the website to introduce you to our committee members each year: www.asmcf.org/people

The contract of the Editorial team of *Modern and Contemporary France* ended in Feb 2016; the current team was invited to re-apply and was duly

reappointed until Feb 2021. The President outlined the process by which this took place. Two new members of the Editorial board were appointed for an initial two-year term: Dr Oliver Davis (University of Warwick) and Dr Cathal Kilcline (NUI Galway). Prof Gabriel Parker was appointed to the International Advisory Board of the journal.

The first Visiting Scholars Seminar Series grant was awarded to Dr Frédéric Royall and Dr Liam Murray of the University of Limerick. Schools liaison work continues, with a statement of aims agreed, and it was proposed that the Association launch a new Schools Liaison and Outreach Funding Initiative to support member-led activities. Further details will be circulated to members shortly.

The Association's essay prize winners were announced as follows: Brian Darling Memorial Essay Prize to Liam Innes (Newcastle), on Flora Tristan and the utopian socialists; Peter Morris Memorial Postgraduate Travel Prize to Adam Spencer (Hull), on the study of collective memory in WWII in the Charente region. Thanks went to Dr Steve Wharton and Dr David Lees for joining the President on the judging panel. Disappointingly no entries were received for the Douglas Johnson Memorial Essay Prize. The inaugural Postgraduate Essay prize went to Emily St Denny (Nottingham Trent), for a paper on the development of prostitution policy in France, and thanks went to Dr Fiona Barclay and Dr Abigail Taylor for joining the President in judging the entries. The President then introduced the idea of a new Early Career Researcher Travel prize which would be open to researchers in the three years following their viva. Further details will follow.

AGM16.4 Report from Officers

AGM 16.4.1 Honorary Secretary's Report

The Secretary noted that the Association liaises with AUPHF, UCML and other professional bodies to ensure that the broad range of interests is represented to government and funding bodies, and that the Association continues to strengthen links with the French Cultural Service and Dr Catherine Robert, Attachée de coopération universitaire. In the Hon. Secretary's absence, this report was circulated and there were no comments.

AGM 16.4.2 Honorary Treasurer's report

The Treasurer reported that the financial situation has slightly improved since last year, and remains healthy. No questions were raised.

AGM 16.4.3 Membership Secretary's report

The Membership Secretary outlined the report, advising that the number of members was slightly lower than in 2015, although higher than in 2014. Taken over the long term, the trend is towards a slight decline. She advised of a new marketing plan proposed by Taylor & Francis to strengthen membership. Maggie Allison asked about numbers of postgrads and overseas members; Tony Chafer asked whether the declining numbers were related to the shrinkage of departments, and the Membership Secretary advised that membership benefits were perhaps more likely to be the cause, and were consequently being reviewed. The President advised that the newsletter would be replaced by an

annual report of activities, and additional communications, both mass and targeted. The 'Recommend a Friend' scheme was highlighted. More details can be found on the Association website.

AGM 16.4.4 Postgraduate Representative's report

Forty-five delegates attended the Study Day at Queen Mary University on 5 March, including a number of attendees from France. Sessions included an archive training session. For the first time, the longstanding poster session at the annual conference has been replaced with a Postgraduate Essay Prize. Discussions have taken place about introducing a new blog to the website, with postgrads keen to write summaries of their research. It was suggested that members who receive initiative funding should write a report or produce a video, and should tweet about it to increase awareness of Association's activities. The President thanked the Postgraduate Representative for her hard work over the year. The new Postgraduate Representative will be announced shortly.

AGM 16. 4.5 Schools outreach officer's report

The Outreach Officer presented the new objectives, and introduced the outreach initiative fund. The President pointed out that applications should reflect real collaboration with local teachers rather than marketing events run by the University. Tony Chafer suggested that it would be helpful to produce some electronic copy which could be passed on to members looking to build relationships with schools.

AGM 16.5.1 Report from the Editors of Modern & Contemporary France

Chris Reynolds highlighted the number of downloads, the range of articles, and the international reach which suggest that the journal is thriving.

Taylor & Francis's marketing campaigns have been continuing, and articles from M&CF have been included in broader campaigns, suggesting that the material is strong. The journal's North American editor continues to work to increase submissions from there. Editorial Board members Dr Natalya Vince and Dr Elise Hugueny-Leger have worked with Dr David Lees to strengthen the relationship between the editorial board and the Executive Committee via social media.

Virtual Special Issues continue and members with ideas for VSIs are encouraged to get in touch with the editors. The next, 24.4, on the topic of Violence, will be published in Nov 2016. In May 2017 a special issue on France and Europe will appear, to coincide with 60th anniversary of Treaty of Rome, with a further one on Presidential elections to follow. Copy flow is healthy but members are encouraged to get in touch and submit. The President encouraged members to see whether their institution has a fund for Gold open access.

Changes have recently been made to the journal layout. Following continued difficulties with the ScholarOne system, improvements have been made, but more to be done. Members were encouraged to contribute book reviews, and to identify new books for review. Thanks to the Editorial team were recorded.

AGM 16.6 Web Officer's report

No report was available at the meeting, and it was agreed that it would be made available on the Association's website.

AGM 16.7. Elections to the Executive Committee

One nomination had been received for each vacancy and these were confirmed. The new President is Prof Chris Tinker, Heriot-Watt University, and the new Web Officer is Clare Siviter, Warwick. Dr Fiona Barclay was co-opted for a year as the new Honorary Secretary. The Membership Secretary and one Ordinary member positions are vacant.

Steve Wharton pointed out that outgoing Presidents are made Honorary Vice President and proposed that prof Jan Windebank be so honoured. The motion was passed by the meeting.

AGM 16.8 Conferences and events

The President thanked and complimented the Conference Organisers for the quality of the current Conference, and this was endorsed by the meeting.

Dr Jonathan Ervine presented the arrangements for the Bangor conference, emphasizing the accessibility of Bangor, and about the content of the Call for Papers on the topic of Work and Play, a draft of which was distributed and which will shortly be available in its final form.

The 2018 conference will take place at the University of Lancaster, with an organizing committee including Dr Charlotte Baker, Dr Delphine Grass, and Dr Erica Fulop.

AGM 16.9. AOB

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 16.45. The next Annual General Meeting will take place during the Bangor conference on 7-9 Sept 2017.