



DRAFT MINUTES of the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the Association, held in the Main Lecture Theatre at the Wilberforce Institute for the Study of Slavery and Emancipation (WISE) at the University of Hull on Wednesday 09 September 2015, commencing at 16.00hrs.

Present: Stacie Allan (PG Representative), Maggie Allison, Catherine Annabel, Fiona Barclay (Membership Secretary), Richard Bates, Helena Chadderton (Conference 2015 Organiser), Tony Chafer, Fabienne Chamelot, Jackie Clarke, Ellen Crabtree, David Cummings, Nicole Fayard (Conference Officer), Daniel Gordon, Owen Heathcote, James Illingworth, Beatrice Ivey, Mike Kelly, Barbara Lebrun, David Lees (Web Officer), Imogen Long (Conference 2015 Organiser), Thomas Martin, Martin O'Shaughnessy (Editor, *Modern & Contemporary France*) Geoff Medland (Schools' Outreach Officer), Wendy Michallat, Mason Norton (PG Representative), Kelsey Suggitt, Abigail Taylor, Chris Tinker (Honorary Secretary), Sheila Vince, Samuel Wilkinson, Jan Windebank (President, in the chair), Sarah Wood.

AGM15.1

The President welcomed those attending the meeting. Apologies had been received from Gill Allwood (Executive Editor MCF), Aude Campmas, Máire Cross (Hon Vice President), and Aurelien Mondon (Hon Treasurer), Steve Wharton (Honorary Vice Secretary).

AGM15.2

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 10 September 2014 were AGREED as a correct record of the meeting. There were no matters arising.

AGM15.3 President's Report

In her Report, the President made the following observations under the headings of Events, People and Initiatives.

Events: The very successful and well attended 2014 annual conference was held at Southampton University in September; the Douglas Johnson Memorial Lecture (Professor John Horne, TCD) took place on January 14th 2015 at the *Institut Français* sponsored jointly by the ASMCF and the SSFH; the Postgraduate conference, organised jointly with the French History Association and held at the University of Exeter on 7th March provided a day of lively and thought-provoking discussions; the Initiative Fund sponsored 5 events between September 2014 and September 2015, and the maximum sum available is currently £500.

People: We welcomed a number of new colleagues to the Executive Committee this year: Stacie Allan and Mason Norton sharing the post of PG Representative; Aude Campmas (Southampton) as an ordinary member; Geoff Medland as our first Outreach Officer; Chris Tinker (Heriot-Watt) as Honorary Secretary; the Hull Conference Team - Rachel Haworth, Imogen Long and Helena Chadderton. Many thanks go to our outgoing Honorary Treasurer Aurelien Mondon who has done an excellent job over the last three years and leaves the Association's finances in good shape.

The President is the Association's representative on AUPHF, and the Honorary Vice Secretary is 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

Initiatives: A further sixth-form day was organised during the Hull conference. As Outreach

Officer Geoff has made some excellent contacts on our behalf with exam boards which have been invaluable in gaining insight into the changing A-level curriculum (from September 2015). We continue to aim to reinvigorate our connection with sixth-form teachers within the context of the challenges that we all face in terms of encouraging young people to pursue language studies, and would ask members to promote the Association at sixth-form days/teacher conferences in their institutions. Publicity materials are available (please contact either the President or our Newsletter and Publicity Officer, Wendy Michallat).

This AGM sees the launch of a new scheme to complement our existing provision for funding member-led research initiatives: the Visiting Scholars' Seminar Series. Barbara Lebrun suggested funding visits by professionals and practitioners in addition to those by academics. This suggestion was welcomed by the President and would be referred to the Executive Committee for consideration.

The President then turned to the **Association's Prizes**. Whilst disappointingly there had been no applicants for the Peter Morris Postgraduate Travel Prize, the high quality of entries for other Prizes was noted. Barbara Lebrun asked if it would be possible to add titles of entries to the website and make them available for use in Open Days - a suggestion which would be considered by the Executive Committee.

The Executive would keep the Postgraduate Prize offering under review, and members were invited to communicate ideas to the President.

Thanks were expressed to Gill Allwood and Chris Tinker for forming the reading Jury with the President.

Prizewinners were then announced :

Douglas Johnson Memorial Essay Prize

Liam Jones (Portsmouth): Mitterrand, Kohl and the quest for EMU: an awkward inheritance or a visionary endeavour? An analysis of the motives behind increased Franco-German economic integration in Europe from 1982-1995 and its consequences.

Brian Darling Memorial Essay Prize (shared by two entrants)

Julia Dobson (Warwick): Analyse and evaluate the success of the GIP's resistance to techniques of coercive governance both at home and abroad.

Danielle Hayter (Portsmouth): How and why has the contribution of African soldiers to the French war effort during the Second World War been remembered in France and Senegal since the mid-1990s?

AGM15.4 Report from Officers

AGM15.4.1 Honorary Secretary's Report

The Honorary Secretary spoke to his Report, reminding the AGM that it would be submitted to the Charity Commission together with the Annual Accounts. He also reported that we continue to strengthen our links with Dr Catherine Robert, Attaché de coopération universitaire in the French Cultural Service, and with Dr David L. who generously hosted two of the Executive's meetings this year. Throughout the year the Secretary has been attending Executive committee meetings and dealing with Initiative Fund applications pre/post award; applications for *Modern & Contemporary France* Editorial Board vacancies including the appointment of a new North American Editor; essay prize applications; and applications for positions on the Executive Committee. He also thanked the President and members for their support as well as his predecessor the Honorary Vice Secretary Steve Whetton for his guidance and help.

AGM15.4.2 Honorary Treasurer's Report

The report was taken as read and a healthy position noted. Maggie Allison queried the difference in the bottom line between 2013-14 to 2014-15. The Secretary referred members present at the AGM to the Treasurer's explanation in his report: the clearance of outstanding cheques, more investment in the initiative fund, and a slight increase in editorial board expenses.

AGM15.4.3 Membership Secretary's Report

In speaking to her Report, the Membership Secretary noted the positive picture and a 15% increase in full-rate members and the positive effect of Taylor and Francis marketing campaigns, including use of electronic and social media communications. Maggie Allison congratulated the Association on its increased levels of overseas membership. The Membership Secretary thanked Taylor and Francis for their help in dealing with membership queries and reports. She also asked members to get in touch directly if they are planning events/conferences and require marketing materials for the Association/the journal.

AGM15.4.4 PG Representatives' Report

In presenting their Report, the PG Representatives drew attention to the successful annual Postgraduate Study Day (Exeter, 7 March) organised jointly with SSFH on the theme 'The Local and the Global'. The PG Representatives expressed thanks to the College of Humanities at Exeter, members of both associations for their help and support and the SSFH PG Representatives. The ASMCF/SSFH PG Representatives have produced a useful conference organisation guidance document for their successors.

During the annual conference, the PG Representatives are running the postgraduate meeting and the poster competition (the high quality of entries was noted). The postgraduate webpages have been updated with the help of Web Officer; and a PG mailing list has been set up with the help of the Membership Secretary. Postgraduates are contributing a significant number of papers at the annual conference. The affiliate group ASMCF North West is also boosting the Association's postgraduate activities. Their Study Day was held in Liverpool on June 10, and is a welcome addition to our calendar of events. The PG Representatives expressed thanks to the rest of the Executive and their predecessor Abigail Taylor for their help over the last year.

The President expressed her thanks and gratitude to the PG Representatives for all their hard work and initiative during their term.

AGM15.4.5 School's Outreach Officer Report

In presenting his report, the Schools' Outreach Officer encouraged members to inform the Executive of events involving teachers so that publicity materials can be supplied. The President outlined the context of the new 'A'-level syllabus, which includes more set texts and films. Although it is not entirely clear how far the new syllabus meshes with the Association's interests, the Schools' Outreach Officer is attempting to clarify the situation, particularly as mechanisms within Universities for reporting changes appear to be lacking. Any update will be posted on the website. Mike Kelly highlighted the role of Routes into Languages in disseminating information on the A level changes, and suggested that Routes activities across the England and Wales could provide opportunities for members of the Association to work with teachers in schools on addressing new texts and topics that are introduced. The President thanked Martin O'Shaughnessy, Daniel Gordon and the Conference Organisers for staging this year's Outreach event.

AGM15.6 Report from the Editors of *Modern and Contemporary France*

AGM15.6.1 Report from the Editors

The Editor reported an increase in article downloads. Although there was a slight long-term decline in

individual journal subscriptions (currently c.170), this has been offset by the increase in institutional bundled subscriptions. The Editor noted that copy flow was healthy and encouraged members to keep submitting articles and Special Issue proposals. While the most popular articles concern political/social topics, cultural history and cinema are also strong.

Recent and forthcoming Special Issues include Media, Memory & Nostalgia; Anarchisms; Violence, France and Europe; and the Presidential Elections. The Book Reviews Editor had reminded members to get in touch with any overdue reviews, request books from his list of available titles, and to identify any other suitable books for review. The Editor reported that Natalya Vince (member of MCF Editorial Board) and David Lees (Web Officer) would collaborate to build a joint social media profile for the journal and Association. The international reach of the journal was noted including growth in China, the USA and the Netherlands. The work of Taylor and Francis in marketing and supporting membership renewals was appreciated. The Editor also drew attention to Virtual Special Issues (incorporating previously published articles) – a VSI on the theme of Myth was a timely edition to collection. These include the possibility of podcasts e.g. Tony Chafer's successful contribution on La Françafrique. Members were encouraged to get in touch with ideas for future VSIs. The Editor expressed his gratitude the Editorial Board for its hard work and to referees, books reviewers, and members for encouraging students to read the journal. Jackie Clarke reminded members using articles for teaching purposes to link them directly to institutional VLEs so that number of hits/readers would be recorded.

The President expressed the Association's thanks to the Editorial Team and Editorial Board.

AGM15.6.2 Report from the Web Officer

The Web Officer spoke to his report highlighting website developments (refreshed People and PG sections; a proposed new blog section). The increasing presence of the Association on social media was noted. The Web Officer thanked colleagues at the SSFH for their continued Twitter and Facebook 'twinning' and encouraged members to get in touch directly with news of research projects/monographs. He welcomed suggestions from members on how to develop the webpage and social media presence.

The President also thanked the Newsletter and Publicity Officer for her work over the year.

AGM15.7 Elections to the Executive Committee

The Honorary Secretary reminded members of the current vacancies.

The nomination of Aude Campmas as Honorary Treasurer was reported, and she was elected.

The nomination of Abigail Taylor as Ordinary Member was reported, and she was elected.

It was further reported that Graeme Hayes, Jim Shields and Brian Sudlow would be joining the Executive as the 2016 Conference Representatives.

AGM15.8 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. The initial Call for Papers for the 2016 Conference at Aston University, one of the founding departments of ASMCF/applied languages, would be circulated very soon.

AGM14.9 Any Other Business

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 17h10.