

ASSOCIATION FOR THE STUDY OF
MODERN AND CONTEMPORARY
FRANCE



Newsletter

October 2013

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Honorary President: Jan Windebank
(j.windebank@sheffield.ac.uk)

Website:

Honorary Vice-Presidents: Dave Hanley, Siân Reynolds, Máire Cross

www.asmcf.org

Honorary Secretary: Steve Wharton (S.Wharton@bath.ac.uk)

ASSOCIATION NEWS

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2013/2014

Hon Vice Presidents: David Hanley; Siân Reynolds, Máire Cross

Hon Secretary: Steve Wharton

Officers

President: Jan Windebank (Sheffield)

Vice-Presidents: David Hanley (Portsmouth); Siân Reynolds (Stirling), Máire Cross (Newcastle)

Secretary: Steve Wharton (Bath)

Treasurer (Acting): Aurélien Mondon (Bath)

Membership Secretary: Fiona Barclay (Stirling)

Editorial Board Representative: Gill Allwood / Martin O'Shaughnessy (Editors, M&CF; Nottingham Trent)

PG Representative: Abigail Taylor (Sheffield)

Ordinary members

Nicole Fayard (Leicester)

David Lees (Web Officer) (Warwick)

Co-opted member

Marion Demossier (Conference organiser 2014) (Southampton)

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

It gives me great pleasure to write this first President's report for the newsletter since my election to the post at the AGM in Leicester.

This report will take the form of a number of thank yous – first and foremost to our outgoing President, Professor Maïre Cross. In her eight years as President, Maïre has made numerous contributions to the life and development of the Association. To name but a few of these:

- Stronger links have been forged with other organisations through Maïre's presence in activities organised by the French Institute in London (study days, commemorations and publications [with the British Academy])
- Innovative collaborations have been undertaken with the Society for the Study of French History in the form of the joint annual lecture event and the postgraduate day which was initiated in Sheffield in 2012 and repeated in Warwick in 2013
- Exciting themed annual conferences have taken place at the universities of Nottingham Trent, Manchester, Portsmouth, Stirling, Bath and most recently Leicester, all attracting a healthy cohort of young attenders – many for the first time. These conferences have resulted in a number of publications
- Excellent relations with the publishers of *Modern and Contemporary France* have been maintained and a very smooth transition of editorial teams from Southampton to Nottingham Trent was ensured
- Postgraduate membership has flourished.
- Commemorative events for our senior and illustrious scholars have been organised: in 2009 Maïre co-organised the Siân Reynolds day on *Gender and History* at the French Institute some of the papers from which were published in 2012; in 2011 the Association sponsored a similar event for Alex Hargreaves on *Post-colonialism* and one for Keith Reader in 2011.
- The Douglas Johnson Memorial Lecture was inaugurated in collaboration with the Society for the Study of French History; the first invited speaker was Julian Jackson on De Gaulle with the second being Ruth Harris on Roman Rolland and Gandhi
- Connections between the Association and the *Women in French (WIF)* and *French Media Research Group* have been consolidated.

I would also like to thank our officers who have stepped down from the committee this year – Jonathan Ervine who has served us so well as our Treasurer and Scott Soo who has done an excellent job as our first Web Officer. David Lees has come to the end of his one-year term as Postgraduate Officer during which post he has been a very dynamic presence. Helena Chadderton has also stepped down as a long-standing committee member and I would like to thank her for all her contributions over the years. We welcome a new member to the committee this year: Abigail Taylor as incoming Postgraduate Officer; and we welcome back in different guises two colleagues: David Lees as Web Officer, and Nicole Fayard as committee member after her co-opted presence on the committee as Conference organiser. I would also like to thank Aurélien Mondon, who has been an Executive Committee member since 2012, for agreeing to take up the role of Acting Treasurer for 2013-14.

The last thank you is to the team at Leicester for the fantastic conference this year. It was an intellectually stimulating but extraordinarily fun and supportive event in a lovely

setting. I hope to see many of you at our next annual conference in Southampton in September 2014.

ASMCF ANNUAL CONFERENCES

- The ASMCF Annual conference 2013 took place at the University of Leicester from 5-7th September on the theme: **RENEGOTIATING SOCIAL DIVISIONS IN FRANCE AND THE FRANCOPHONE WORLD**.
The conference offered a wide range of papers, with contributors from the UK, France, the USA and Australia with high-profile keynote speakers Catherine Withol de Wenden from Sciences Po, author François Bon and Guy Austin who gave the Peter Morris Memorial Lecture.
- The ASMCF Annual conference 2014 will be held at The University of Southampton on 9 – 11 September 2014 on the theme of 'Language, culture and power in France'. The call for papers will be coming soon. Organiser: Professor Marion Demossier (M.Demoissier@soton.ac.uk)
- The Executive committee welcomes expressions of interest to host the Annual Conference in 2015. Please contact the Secretary, Steve Wharton at: S.Wharton@bath.ac.uk by **8th November 2013** with your proposals which will be considered at the November Executive Committee meeting.

ASMCF INITIATIVE FUND

The Association's Initiative Fund provides small grants to individuals or institutions who are members of the Association to help defray the costs of day schools, seminars conferences, etc. The Association is particularly keen to encourage and support regionally based collaborative initiatives on the part of its members and to support our postgraduate community.

Please download and complete the [Initiative Fund form](#) and return it to: Steve Wharton, Department of Politics, Languages and International Studies, The University of Bath, Bath BA2 7AY.

Forthcoming deadlines for the initiative fund are:

08 November 2013
21 February 2014
09 May 2014
31 August 2014

Applicants please note:

- Applications should be accompanied by relevant supporting documentation such as a call for papers and, where possible, an outline programme

- Applicants should provide FULL financial details of the event and not just costs for which ASMCF funding is being sought.
- It is normally assumed that organisers will charge a conference fee to offset costs. If no fee is being charged, the reasons for this should be stated on the application.
- Maximum contribution that can be applied for: £300
- Successful applicants will receive funding FOLLOWING the event and AFTER SUBMISSION of a report to the Honorary Secretary. Details of these grants will then be posted on the website and reported in the Newsletter.

PRIZES AWARDED BY THE ASSOCIATION

All three prizes are now set at £250

Brian Darling Memorial Essay Prize

The Brian Darling Memorial Essay Prize was established in memory of Brian Darling, the first Honorary Secretary of the Association.

The prize, **to the value of £250** is awarded for an undergraduate essay or dissertation which may treat a theme relevant to the Association's concerns, in aspects of Modern French history, politics, society and culture, as well as the relationships between France and other countries, including those in the French-speaking world. The work may be written in either French or English and should not normally exceed ten thousand words.

Essays or dissertations must be accompanied by a supporting statement from a member of the Association at a UK or other university.

Prize-winner 2013: H. Silver, University of Birmingham

The Douglas Johnson Memorial Essay Prize

This prize was established in memory of the late Douglas Johnson, the first Honorary President of the Association.

The prize, **to the value of £250**, is awarded for an undergraduate essay or dissertation which may treat a theme relevant to the Association's concerns, in aspects of Modern French history, politics, society and culture, as well as the relationships between France and other countries, including those in the French-speaking world. The work may be written in either French or English, should be over five thousand words, but not exceed ten thousand words.

Essays or dissertations must be accompanied by a supporting statement from a member of the Association at a UK or other university.

Prize-winner 2013: Christopher Leffler, University of Sheffield

Peter Morris Postgraduate Travel Prize

This prize was established in memory of the late Peter Morris, a founding member of the Association.

The prize, **to the value of £250**, is awarded to a postgraduate students whose project is deemed worthy of support. Applications should include an outline of the intended

travel, its relevance to the underlying research project, and a statement of support from a supervisor, who should normally be a member of the Association.

A three-person sub-committee of the Executive will be invited by the Secretary to consider the submissions and determine the award of the prize. Prize winners will be notified directly and their names announced both on the website and at the Association's Annual General Meeting.

Prize-winner 2013: Ellen Crabtree, Newcastle University

Submissions for any or all of the above prizes should be made by **31st July of the year in question** to the Honorary Secretary of the Association: **Dr Steve Wharton, Department of European Studies and Modern Languages, University of Bath, Bath BA2 7AY.**

Further enquiries may be made of the Secretary at: **S.Wharton@bath.ac.uk**

Exceptionally a further prize - the "**ASMCF Prize for Outstanding Academic Achievement**" - was awarded this year to **Helen Dove, University of Birmingham.**

POSTGRADUATE NEWS

The Annual postgraduate poster competition took place on Friday 6th September at the Annual conference in Leicester. Four entries of a very high standard were received and the winner was **Ellen Crabtree from the University of Newcastle** who won £100 worth of book tokens kindly sponsored by Intellect Books.

Advance notice: A third joint postgraduate study day with the Society for the Study of French History will be held in March 2014, venue and theme to be announced. For more information please contact either Abigail Taylor (Abigail.taylor@sheffield.ac.uk) or Ellen Crabtree (e.crabtree@newcastle.ac.uk)

AFFILIATED EVENTS

Conference: 'Memory and nostalgia in French and Francophone media II', French Media Research Group, to be held on Friday 25th October in Newcastle-upon-Tyne (Literary and Philosophical Society). For details visit: [www.http://research.ncl.ac.uk/fmrg/](http://research.ncl.ac.uk/fmrg/) and document circulated with this newsletter.

Conference: Women in French (UK) at King's College London 30th May 2014 'Les femmes et les milieus urbains / Women and urban environments'. The call for papers is out now. Please contact Siobhan McIlvanney (Siobhan.mcilvanney@kcl.ac.uk) or Gillian Nicheallaigh (gilliannicheallaigh@gmail.com) for details. Closing date: 20th January 2014

WEBSITE

The executive committee has been exploring ways of improving the website and in particular ensuring that everyone has access to the members' area. Henceforth all new members will be sent login details to the members' area of the website by Taylor and Francis by letter. Existing members will also be reminded of their login details along with their annual renewal letter. In the meantime members can also request their login details via an email to societies@informa.com with your name and email address.

The Association's Facebook and Twitter accounts have now been running for a year and members are encouraged to follow and comment on ASMCF activities via these channels.

Please keep sending items for the news and publications sections of the website to our new Web Officer – David Lees (d.lees@warwick.ac.uk)

FORTHCOMING ASMCF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

The next Executive Committee meeting will be held on Saturday 16th November.

Items for the next Executive Committee agenda, and any Initiative fund bids, should be submitted by 8th November 2013 to the Honorary Secretary, Dr Steve Wharton at: S.Wharton@bath.ac.uk
