



International Society for Ethnology and Folklore  
Internationale Gesellschaft für Ethnologie und Folklore  
Société Internationale d'Ethnologie et de Folklore



Secretariat SIEF, Meertens Institute  
Amsterdam, The Netherlands

**Minutes of the General Assembly of the  
International Society for Ethnology and Folklore (SIEF) in Amsterdam  
Friday 12 September, at 13.00-13.20 hrs**

**1. *Opening***

Peter Jan Margry, Exec. Vice President of SIEF, welcomes the members at the General Assembly (GA) and stresses that this meeting is a regular GA, however not connected to the biennial congress. Some filming will be done in order to provide those members who cannot attend with information about the topics of the meeting. There is only a short agenda, with a major issue on it: making it possible to reach more members for voting issues. The limited amount of members present at GA's shows the urgency of this issue.

**2. *Approval of the agenda***

The agenda is approved.

**3. *Approval of the minutes of SIEF's General Assembly in Tartu, 2 July 2013***

The minutes are approved by the GA. One email is received with a correction for the publications of the Food Working Group: no special issue of Folklore was made.

**4. *Communications by the president of SIEF***

Valdimar Hafstein welcomes the members at the GA and the following Jubilee Symposium. SIEF turns fifty and has no midlife crisis. Two substantive items are up today: the upcoming congress in Zagreb in June 2015 and a vote on the change of the bylaws necessary for the online voting system which is an important step in the process of further democratization of SIEF. This will also lead to a more balanced and more representative voting of members.

**5. *International SIEF Congresses***

Jasna Capo reveals the title of the next SIEF congress, being held in Zagreb from June 20-25, 2015. The title is 'Utopias, Realities, Heritages. Ethnographies for the 21<sup>st</sup> century'. The call for panels is then set open live during the GA by Rohan Jackson of NomadIT.

Regina Bendix announces the 2017 congress to be held in Göttingen, which will probably take place in the first week of April. The theme is under development.



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The members of SIEF are invited to think about possible places and themes for the 2019 congress and to send their ideas to the board.

#### **6. *Change of article 9 of the SIEF Bylaws***

Online voting is proposed to have a more democratic way of voting.

The members are invited to ask questions and give comments:

Member Marion Bowman:

- What is the relation between voting during a GA and online voting?  
Answer: The online voting has the same standing as decisions at the GA.
- Will major decisions also be voted on online?  
Answer: Yes.

Member Ad de Jong:

- Is it essential that a minimum number of members vote?  
Answer: The number of members who will vote will increase by the new system; but as for now the bylaws do not require a minimum, but such a provision can be discussed.

Member Marion Bowman:

- Is a simple majority of online votes sufficient to decide on an issue?  
Answer: according to the present bylaws, yes indeed.

The proposal for the change of the bylaws is then put on vote and approved by the assembly (23 members), unanimously.

#### **7. *Closure***

Peter Jan Margry closes the meeting at 13:20 hrs.