

Minutes of the SIEF Assembly General Meeting in Marseille, 29 April 2004

28 members present.

Opening

Jonas Frykman, acting as the President of the Assembly, proposes the Agenda, which is accepted by the Assembly.

Joao Leal is elected secretary of the meeting.

1. Report from the President

Regina Bendix presents the report from the President, with detailed information on the following issues: SIEF Web page and annual newsletter; organization of the Marseilles 2004 Congress; board meetings and online discussions of the board members – main topics discussed.

2. Report from the Secretariat

The report is presented by Herman Roodenburg. Main topics addressed: the installation of the secretariat at the Meertens Institute; payment of SIEF fees by credit card; funds available; contacts with publishers for discounts to SIEF members. Herman Roodenburg also informs the Assembly that SIEF has now 145 paying members.

Following Herman Roodenburg's report, some members stress the necessity of a more active recruiting of SIEF members.

3. Report from WIPO

Valdimar Hafstein presents the report from his participation, as a SIEF observer, at the WIPO meetings, which have been discussing issues related to the intellectual property of "traditional knowledge and folklore". After discussing the report, the Assembly decides that SIEF should continue with its observer status at the WIPO meetings, and that the SIEF board should further discuss the possibility of issuing a statement on the topics being raised at WIPO meetings

4. Proposal for a "Commission on the Ritual Year"

Regina Bendix presents the proposal for the creation of a Commission on the Ritual Year submitted by Emily Lyle and other five SIEF members. Some reservations are voiced by members of the Assembly concerning the narrow scope of the commission and the terminology used in the proposal.

The Assembly decides to express enthusiasm for the proposal, but recommends that the group should work a little more on a final version of the proposal.

5. *Proposals for the next SIEF Conference*

Some possible locations for the next SIEF Conference (2007) are suggested. Ullrich Kockel raises the possibility of a joint organization of the Conference with the University of West of England in 2008. The joint organization of a Conference with the American Folklore Association in Montréal (Québec) is also raised. The Assembly decides that the next SIEF board meeting should take a decision on this issue, based on written proposals.

6. *Proposals for by law changes.*

The two proposals for by law changes, concerning the composition of the Executive Board, from six to eight members (articles 9 and 12), are approved by the Assembly.

7. *Election of the new members of the SIEF board*

The results of the vote for the Presidency are the following: Regina Bendix (President): 35 yes; 2 no; Bjarne Rogan (Vice-President): 34 yes, 2 no, 1 nothing; Peter Jan Margry: 33 yes; 2 no; 2 nothing. The Assembly also elects the following members at large of the Executive Board: Reg Byron, Luisa Del Giudice, Marjetka Golež Kaučič, Ullrich Kockel, João Leal, Caterina Pasqualino, Birgitta Svensson.

8. *Other business*

Announcements on the Journal of American Folklore, and on a Monograph series on European Ethnology are made.

Minutes submitted by João Leal, 7 June 2004