

Minutes of the SIEF Assembly General Meeting in Derry, June 18, 2008

112 members present

1 Opening

Regina Bendix welcomes at 17.30 hrs the members present for the General Assembly.

2 Bjarne Rogan is chosen as Acting Chair, Sophie Elpers is chosen as secretary of the meeting.

3 The agenda is accepted by the Assembly.

4 The minutes of SIEF's General Assembly in Marseille, April 29, 2004 are accepted by the Assembly.

5 Presidential report over 2004-2007/8

The report is presented by Regina Bendix after having asked for a moment of silence to commemorate the following deceased colleagues:

Anders Salomonsson (1946-2004)

Borut Brumen (1963-2005)

Alan Dundes (1935-2005)

Reimund Kvideland (1935-2006)

Georg Mifsud-Chircop (1951-2007)

Ilmar Talve (1919-2007)

Marianne Gullestad (1946-2008)

Bendix brings up detailed information on the following issues:

- two board meetings in December 2005 and November 2007 in Amsterdam,
- congress aftermath Marseille Congress (a booklet with a selection of the plenary addresses and a CD with brief summaries of all the panels were finished in 2007),
- congress planning Derry,
- efforts to strengthen the tie between working groups and the umbrella organization (which has resulted in proposals for bylaw amendments),
- the increase in members and
- the portfolios of the board members.
- Discussions over having an own journal have thus far not yielded a tenable result; but the board has succeeded in getting a number of rebates with various publishers.
- Bendix asks the members and in particular the working group leadership to provide records of their activities to the SIEF archive which is housed at the Meertens Institute.
- She also asks for photographs of congresses for the picture archive, preferably with a written report of who can be seen on the picture.

Finishing her report Bendix thanks the executive board, and especially Bjarne Rogan and Peter Jan Margry.

6 Report of the Vice President in charge of the Secretariat/Finances over 2004-2007/8

Peter Jan Margry presents his report. The secretariat has been working on several issues:

- The newsletter got a new design; but due to a more or less structural lack of input of copy it can practically be brought out only once a year.
- A new flyer will be designed in autumn.
- The website is renewed in 2007.
- For all publications and the website a new housestyle was created with a new SIEF logo.
- The secretariat is setting up the records of SIEF; Margry also asks the members for material: visuals and publications.
- After having imposed a strict policy on paying the yearly dues the quantity of members increased from ca. 140 in 2004 to 180 in 2007; including the congress participants there are approx. 350 members in June 2008.
- Finances: at the moment SIEF has 8500 euro at its disposal, the money is mainly used for the newsletter and postal expenses, new flyers, board meetings, an incidental subvention and for membership administration and payments.
- It is not clear how long and to what extent the support of the Meertens Institute can be guaranteed. Therefore a reserve must be kept.
- Margry investigates if a professional membership management system would be useful for SIEF. That would cost extra money.

Margry finishes his report with the conclusion that the basis of the organization has become considerably sounder.

7 Reports of the chairs of the Working Groups

- a.* 'Ethnology of Religion': The proceedings of the conference in Edinburgh (2002) will be published in 2008, the papers of the conference 'Senses and Religion' in 2005 in Slovenia have been published in 2006 [Ulrika Wolf-Knuts].
- b.* 'Bildlore', no member present.
- c.* 'The Ritual Year': newly established in 2004, conferences have been held in Malta (2005), Gothenburg, Sweden (2006), Straznice, Czech Republic (2007); the fourth conference will be held in Cork, Ireland, in July 2008. A call for papers is published for the fifth annual conference 'The Power of Mask' in Kaunas, Lithuania (2009). Until now there are two volumes of conference proceedings, another one is expected in 2008 [Irina Sedakova]
- d.* 'International Ethnography Network', an upcoming conference next year in Hungary will be announced at the website [Thomas Schippers].
- e.* 'International Folklore Bibliography', no member present.
- f.* 'International Ballad Commission', President: Sabine Wienker-Piepho, Vice-President: Marjetka Golež Kaučič, Isabelle Peere. Estimates the commission on 200 members of which 40-50 are active members; conferences have been held in Riga (2004), Kiev (2005), Freiburg (2006), Kyle of Lochalsh, Scotland (2007). The next conference will take place in the end of July (2008) in Cardiff, Wales. The new publications are volumes of BASIS – Ballads and Songs – International Studies [Marjetka Golež Kaučič].
- g.* 'Food Research', there have been two major conferences: 'Mediterranean Food and its Influences Abroad' (Dubrovnik 2004, proceedings published in 2006) and 'Sanitas Per Aquas (SPA). Foodways and Lifestyles in the Search for Health and Beauty' (Innsbruck and Merano 2006, proceedings will be published in August 2008). The next conference will be held in September 2008 in Oslo: 'Cultural Crossroads. Food and Meals at Cultural Crossroads' (email message by Patricia Lysaght, presented by Margry)
- h.* 'Intercultural Communication', a conference in Ankara was scheduled, but has been cancelled. Due to an insufficient amount of members, a lack of activities and his retirement Klaus Roth wants to close down this Working Group. This is accepted. Its research field will

be looked after by the working group of the same name of the DGV, the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Volkskunde (emailmessage by K. Roth, presented by Margry)

8 Proposals for two new SIEF Working Groups

a. Kristin Kuutma presents the proposal for the new SIEF Working Group on 'Cultural Heritage and Property'. The text of the proposal will be put on the internet site of SIEF. Proposal is endorsed.

b. Herman Roodenburg presents the proposal for the new SIEF Working Group on 'Historical Approaches in Cultural Analysis'. Roodenburg points out that the group is meant as a platform for reflection on historical research, within the discipline of Ethnology. The text of the proposal will be put on the internet site of SIEF. Proposal is endorsed.

The exchange of point 9 and point 10 of the Agenda is accepted by the Assembly.

9 Proposals for Bylaw changes

The proposals for bylaw changes are approved by the Assembly. Changes: preamble, articles 5, 7, 9 (the new article 8), 10 (9), 12 (11), 13 (12), 19 (20); deleted: article 8, new: articles 13 and 16. Because of one deleted and two completely new articles the numbers of most articles have changed.

The major changes regard:

- a correction on the historical names in the preamble;
- cancelling the qualification of honorary members (art. 5);
- membership dues are obligatory for regular members and also for all working group members (art. 7);
- the quantity of board members is expanded from 8 to 9 (art. 8);
- one of the vice-presidents has become executive vice-president and can serve for more than two terms (art. 11);
- working groups must have a recognisable structure, with a board including a liaison person to the SIEF Board, regulations, periodical assemblies, yearly report to the Board, a membership list and keep their records (art. 13).

¹

10 Election of the new members of the SIEF Board

The results of the vote, after counting the secret ballots, are as follows: Ullrich Kockel (President): 102 yes, 5 no, 5 void; Peter Jan Margry (Executive Vice-President): 108 yes, 2 no, 2 void; Birgitta Svensson (Vice-President): 104 yes, 4 no, 4 void. The Assembly also elects the following members at large of the Executive Board: Arne Bugge Amundsen, Marjetka Golež Kaučič, Valdimar Hafstein, Kristin Kuutma, Dorothy Noyes, Cristina Sánchez-Carretero, Clara Saraiva, Bernhard Tschofen (Amundsen and Noyes not present; excused).

11 Proposals for the next SIEF congress in 2011

Clara Saraiva presents Lisbon (Portugal) as location for the next SIEF congress in 2011. The organizer will be the inter-institutional Portuguese anthropological research center CRIA (Centro em Rede de Investigação em Antropologia). The executive board will discuss and decide on location and conceivable topics.

¹ For the complete new Bylaws see:

http://www.siefhome.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=15&Itemid=34

12 Other Business

- New president Ullrich Kockel expresses on behalf of board and membership his gratitude to Regina Bendix for her great work as president and her success in revitalizing SIEF. She hands the presidential baton over to the new president.
- For his enduring historiographical research on CIAP and SIEF, Bjarne Rogan is decorated with the title 'SIEF's Historian'

13 Closing at 19.30 hrs.