

**Minutes of the General Assembly of the International Society
for Ethnology and Folklore (SIEF), in Tartu, Estonia
Tuesday 2 July 2013, at 18.30-19.45 hrs**

80 members present at the opening of the GA

1. Opening

President Ullrich Kockel welcomes the members present for the GA.

2. Appointment of the acting chair and the secretary of the meeting

Ülo Valk is chosen as the acting chair.

Sophie Elpers is chosen as the secretary of the GA.

3. Approval of the agenda

The agenda is approved.

4. Approval of the minutes of SIEF's General Assembly in Derry and Lisbon, 2008 and 2011

The minutes are approved.

5. Report of the president on SIEF's activities over 2011-2013 (including Publication Committee)

Ullrich Kockel presents the presidential report.

- The biggest project of the last years was the organisation of the 2013 congress. The president conveys many thanks to the local organisers.
- The membership has grown over the last few years and the finances are improving.
- Between the Derry congress in 2008 and the Lisbon congress in 2011, NomadIT took over most of the administrative functions, providing an excellent service. NomadIT works for a range of anthropological associations, which is an added bonus since it expands SIEF's horizon of institutional experience and learning.
- SIEF is affiliated to the WCCA (World Council of Anthropological Associations). The role of SIEF within this council may change in the future as the council is reviewing its relationship with IUAES (International Union of Anthropological and Ethnological Sciences).
- SIEF has adopted a two years cycle for its congresses in order to realize a shorter interval between the international congresses and realize more cohesion within the society; also because the scholarly 'turnover rate' has increased. Since many SIEF members are also in EASA, SIEF's congresses will be held in the alternating years (the uneven years) of the EASA congresses.
- The working groups of SIEF have been rejuvenated and have refocused to some extent. A student network is being constituted.
- After the Lisbon congress, a debate was initiated in the newsletter concerning the name of SIEF, the lack of participation in the debate reflected the idea that a name change was not really felt in the membership.
- Obituaries: Johannes Stoklund, Elisabeth Katschig-Fasch

Report to the GA from the Publication Committee:

New possibilities for the publishing programme

There are some practical obstacles in open access publishing. Providing articles is not free, so the committee has to focus on how to subsidise open access publishing. The subsidy can only

be given by an ongoing commitment by the members. Without donations or commercial sponsorship etc. membership fees will have to be raised.

Generate programme ideas and assess viability

- The publication of a keyword compendium 'Ethnology and Folklore' can either go with Wiley-Blackwell or as a Wiki. This needs to be integrated with the course that is taken with open access publishing.
- The offer of the Portuguese journal *Ethnographica* to publish the Lisbon keynotes will be taken up.
- The vice-president has applied for ISBN and ISSN, so that all publications can be recognised as SIEF publications. Numbers to be printed in publications can be asked for at the SIEF secretariat
- The question of a journal or other serial publications is under consideration and waiting for a decision related to SIEF's stance on open access publishing.

Structural/procedural requirements

SIEF 'house style' to be rolled out across working groups was raised but not discussed at length. This point might be discussed with the working group leaders later on. The arrangements will have to be appropriate and non-restrictive.

6. Report of the vice-president in charge of the secretariat/finances over 2008-2013; statement of SIEF's Audit Commission

The exec. vice-president sums up the changes and improvements that have taken place at the secretariat and explains the renewal of SIEF's website. The latter got a complete make-over, including a new logo for SIEF. A new members directory has been established as well. An assistant to the Amsterdam secretariat has been appointed by the board in the person of Sophie Elpers from Arnhem (the Netherlands).

A Dutch accountant in collaboration with NomadIT took care of the completion of the ledgers and the financial administration. Three financial statements (accounts of results) over three financial terms, were shown during the GA:

1. From 1 November 2001 to 31 May 2008, showing a positive balance of 9.747, 41 Euros.
2. From 1 June 2008 to 31 December 2010, showing a positive balance of 12.305, 70 Euros.
3. From 1 January 2011 to 31 December 2012, showing a positive balance of 32.069, 93 Euros.

All accounts regarding these periods have been checked by SIEF's audit commission, consisting of the elected members Anders Gustavsson from Norway and Ingrid Slavec Gradišnik from Slovenia. In their report for the membership they stated that no irregularities were found and subsequently proposed the GA to acquit the board in this regard.

SIEF is established to Dutch law as a non-profit association. The organisation therefore enjoys tax exemption for Dutch law.

7. SIEF working groups

In the past period four working groups formally or practically stopped being a SIEF working group: the Ballad Commission, the Ethno-Cartography Network, the Bildlore group and the Bibliography group.

a. Reports by chairs of active groups

Working group on Cultural Heritage and Property, chair: Kristin Kuutma

The group mostly works through yearly meetings, discussing different topics. In 2013 no special meeting took place because of the SIEF congress in Tartu. The next meeting will take

place in March 2014 in Bergen, Norway. Earlier meetings took place in Tartu, Lisbon, Pori (Finland) and Barcelona. Publications will appear if there is enough local support and initiative. New members are very welcome. They are invited to send an email to the working group.

Ethnology of Religion, chair until July 2013: Peter Jan Margry, new chair: István Postdak

The working group set up a panel of the Lisbon SIEF conference in 2011. In 2012 the working group organised an international conference in Szeged, Hungary. The next conference will be in Lisbon in May 2014. The WG-board has started a series of publications at Lit-Verlag for the conferences.

Food Research, chair: Patricia Lysaght

The working group consists of about 60 members.

Publications in 2013:

- Patricia Lysaght (ed.): *The Return of Traditional Food*. Lund Studies in Arts and Cultural Sciences: Lund 2013.,

Conferences:

- 19th International Ethnological Food Research Conference 'The Return of Traditional Food', Lund, Sweden (2013)

- 20th International Ethnological Food Research Conference 'Food and the Internet', Lodz, Poland (3-6 September 2014).

Historical Approaches in Cultural Analysis, chair: Michaela Fenske

The working group has 35 members. It organised a panel at the Lisbon congress in 2011 on the history of placemaking. Some of the contributions have been published in a special issue of the *Anthropological Journal of European Cultures*, 22 (2013). In 2012 some members of the working group contributed to the digital forum 'Standortbestimmungen im Feld historischer und europäisch ethnologischer Forschungs- und Wissenspraktiken'. A planned conference on teaching approaches in Germany in 2012 could not be realised. This topic was instead discussed at a panel in Tartu. The working group plans a panel on historical cookery books for the Zagreb congress in 2015, probably in cooperation with the Food Research working group.

The Ritual Year, chair: Emily Lyle

The working group was founded in 2004. Until now nine conferences have been organised.

After the Lisbon congress in 2011 three conferences took place in Ljubljana (Slovenia), Plovdiv (Bulgaria) and Szeged (Hungary) and another one on 'Magic in Rituals and Rituals in Magic' is planned in Innsbruck in 2014.

Up till now the working group has published nine volumes. The last ones were on 'The power of the mask', 'The inner and the outer' and 'The Interplay of Performances, Performers, Researchers, and Heritages'.

Place Wisdom, chair: Ullrich Kockel

The working group consists of about 15 members. The working group has not yet had panels on conferences, but it did organise some workshops (2012, 2013 in Tartu). The working group does not aim for smaller conferences in between the big SIEF congresses. Its plan for the future is to organise a research-training workshop for advanced undergraduate and postgraduate students. The working group is eager to welcome new members.

b. Proposals for new working groups

Working group on student affairs

Everyone is advised to mobilise his or her students for active participation in this WG. A chair has not been found yet. (In the meantime the Young Scholar Working Group has been founded, board: Mathilde Lamothe (F), Arnika Peselmann (G), Jón Þór Pétursson (chair, Iceland))

Spacelore and Placelore, chair: Gábor Barna

Gábor Barna has written a proposal for this working group. The proposal is presented here by Istvan Povedák. The working group deals with maps and spatial experience from a historical, ethnographical and anthropological view. The proposal is endorsed by the board. The question rises if the working group is too similar to the Place Wisdom working group regarding the topic 'place'. Peter Jan Margry explains that the mission statements are different and that the Place Wisdom working group has no problems with this new working group.

Working Group on Archives

Lauri Harvilahti introduces the idea of a working group on archives which arose during the panel 'The Role of Archives in the Circulation Chain of Traditions' in Tartu. The objectives of the working group would be to establish an international network of archives, to share experiences, to develop necessary standards for archive management, to discuss ethical issues and so on. (In the meantime the working group is officially established with Lauri Harvilahti as chair.)

8. Proposals for SIEF congresses after 2015

The membership is asked to think of concrete proposals for the congresses following the 2015 Zagreb congress. Ideas are very welcome!

9. Election of members and presidency of the SIEF Executive Board

The new board is elected unanimously:

Valdimar Hafstein, Iceland (1st term, President)

Peter Jan Margry, The Netherlands (4th term, Executive Vice-President)

Clara Saraiva, Portugal (1st term, Vice-President)

Pertti Anttonen, Finland (1st term)

Jasna Čapo Žmegac, Croatia (2nd term)

Tine Damsholt, Denmark (1st term)

Laurent Fournier, France (1st term)

Arzu Öztürkmen, Turkey (1st term)

Monique Scheer Germany, (1st term)

10. Address by the incoming president

The new president receives the 'hereditary' presidential baton from his predecessor. He is now the 'conductor' of SIEF. Ullrich Kockel wishes him good luck.

Valdimar Hafstein thanks the GA for the confidence given to him. He sums up some major milestones of SIEF in the last decade: the professionalisation of the secretariat, the modernisation of the newsletter, the organisation of important congresses and the outsourcing of the administration to NomanIT. SIEF has come of age – it has its 50th anniversary in September 2014. The next four years will be a period of consolidation. SIEF needs to make clear what it stands for and how it will invest its considerable strength and energy. Valdimar

Hafstein hopes to engage the SIEF board and society members to develop a forward looking agenda: e.g. deepening cooperation between societies, focusing on research collaboration (especially in higher education), writing and editing publications, building bridges between universities and archives, strengthening the disciplines.

Hafstein thanks the outgoing board members: Ulli Kockel, Kristin Kuutma, Birgitta Svensson, Marjetka Golež Kaucic, Bernhard Tschofen, Dorothy Noyes, Cristina Sánchez-Carretero and Arne Bugge Amundsen.

11. Presentation on Zagreb 2015

Jasna Čapo Žmegac shows a dvd on Croatia to give the GA a taste of the country where the next congress will take place and invites all SIEF members to participate in the 2015 International Congress.

12 Closure

The GA closes at 19.45 hrs.