



**Minutes of the General Assembly  
of the International Society for Ethnology and Folklore (SIEF)  
Zagreb, 23 June 2015, 19.00-20.00 hrs**

Members present: 125

**1. Opening**

Executive Vice President Peter Jan Margry welcomes the members at the General Assembly.

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

Marion Bowman is chosen as the acting chair. Sophie Elpers is chosen as the secretary.

**3. Approval of the agenda**

The agenda is approved.

**4. Approval of the minutes of SIEF's General Assembly of 12 September 2014 in Amsterdam** The minutes are approved by the GA.

**4. Report of the President on SIEF's activities over 2013-2014**

President Valdimar Hafstein reports about the activities since the Tartu congress in 2013. Before he starts looking back, VHafstein takes the opportunity to thank the hosts Jasna Capo, Nevena Škrbić Alempijević and their departments and the team of NomadIT for the organization of the congress in Zagreb with more than 900 participants from 45 countries.

- The number of members has grown from about 300 in 2008 to more than 900 in 2015. SIEF has emerged as a strong vibrant organization in its first half decennium.
- In September 2014 SIEF's jubilee symposium took place in Amsterdam. The lectures were filmed and later posted on the website. They are now published in the special issue "What's in the discipline" of Cultural Analysis.
- An extra General Assembly took place before the symposium started. The bylaws were changed and online election was made possible from then on.
- In December 2014 the first online election took place. 60% of the SIEF members voted in favour of accepting *Ethnologia Europaea* as SIEF journal (which means that every member will receive EE twice a year) and the rise in membership fees that it implied.
- SIEF has two journals now: EE is a printed journal (with board member Monique Scheer as one of the two editors) and Cultural Analysis is an open access online journal with a more global focus (with board member Sophie Elpers as one of the editors).
- Promotion activities: The publication of the film "What is European Ethnology", made in September 2014 in Amsterdam, got more than 4.000 views. Also the "Ethnological sensation" films were successful. The filmmaker produces more "sensations" in Zagreb. They will be put on SIEF's website.
- Higher education: One of the main aims of SIEF is to support higher education. This is realized by introducing the interactive online map on higher education (launched in



September 2014). The map gives an overview of where the SIEF disciplines are taught. Furthermore, a first coordination meeting of the departments has taken place in Zagreb. 40-50 people attended this first meeting. A standing committee, still to be built up, can share information about courses, PhD positions, methods etc. in the future. A summer school for doctoral students is planned for 2016 in Tübingen, Germany. It will be organized by Monique Scheer and the theme will be "Trust and resistance". The idea is that every second year (off-years) a SIEF summer school will be held.

- Working groups: The board adopted statutes for the working groups in consultation with their chairs to strengthen the contact between SIEF and the working groups. The statutes can be consulted online. Two ideas for new working groups have been worked on lately: one of them is on migration, the other is on the body, emotions and the senses.
- Building communities: SIEF would like to intensify the collaboration with its sister organizations EASA and AFS. Many SIEF members also belong to one or even both of the organizations. SIEF and the organizations have agreed to exchange logos for their website. SIEF and the organizations hope to offer a joint membership in the future. SIEF was invited by EurEthno to join their conference in 2016.

## 6. Secretariat

### a. Report of the Vice-President in charge of the Secretariat/Finances over 2013-2014

Secretariat: PJ Margry informs the GA that an agreement has been made between SIEF and the director of the Meertens Institute in Amsterdam, where the secretariat of SIEF is hosted. This agreement contains the intention that the work of SIEF can be continued at the Meertens Institute for at least another 5 years. The GA shows its approval by applauding.

Finances: PJ Margry presents the balance over the 2 years period 2013-2014. The membership, the conference in Tartu and the interest on savings brought in €88.143. The expenses (conference, admin, board, jubilee symposium, secretariat, YS prize, newsletter, banking charges, networking, YS meeting, accountants) were €100.243. The celebration of SIEF's anniversary with a jubilee symposium has brought with it extra costs. These were not unexpected, but they were not planned in the budget (as the board decided rather late to celebrate the anniversary) with the result of a deficit of approximately €12.000. At the moment this is not problematic as SIEF still has a reserve on the saving account.

Peer Meurkens, NL, asks why SIEF did not get more income through the membership fees in the concerning period. PJ Margry answers that the number of members depends on where the congress takes place. After the Tartu congress in 2013 SIEF had fewer members than it has now. Furthermore, many members had already paid in 2011 for a three-year membership.

### b. Statement of SIEF's Audit Commission

The accounts from 2013 and 2014 have been checked by SIEF's audit commission, consisting of the elected members Anders Gustavsson from Norway and Ingrid Slavec Gradišnik from Slovenia. AGustavsson presents the audit commission's report to the GA. The commission is satisfied with the presented finances and proposes to discharge the board of its financial duties.

The GA discharges the board.



## 7. SIEF Working Groups.

### a. Reports by chairs of active groups.

*Cultural Heritage and Property*, chair: Kristin Kuutma

The wg meets in the interim years. In March 2014 a meeting was held in Bergen, Norway, on transformations of culture into heritage. During the Zagreb conference the panel “Heritage as social, economic and utopian resource” took place. In 2016 the wg will probably meet in Ljubliana. The topic will be “Media inputs and mediatisation”. The co-chairs of the wg are Kristin Kuutma and Anita Vaivade.

*Ethnology of Religion*, chair: István Povedák

The wg has more than 50 members: besides the founding fathers it has attracted a lot of young scholars. The board consists of István Povedák, Marion Bowman, Anna Niedzwiedz, Clara Saraiva, and Peter Jan Margry. In 2014 the conference, held in Lisbon, was on “Making Sense of Religion: Performance, Art and Experience”. The wg organizes a conference on healing in 2016 in Amsterdam. The wg has published all its conference materials during the last few years.

*Food Research*, chair: Patricia Lysaght, represented by Violetta Krawczyk-Wasilewska

Up till 2015, 20 conferences have taken place and 20 books have been published. In 2014 a jubilee conference took place. The proceedings (25 best papers) were published within 7 months. In 2016 the wg will meet in Heidelberg, Germany. In Zagreb the panel “Culinary heritage as an island of well-being” took place, a collaboration with the wg *Historical Approaches*. 30 people participated in the business meeting.

*Historical Approaches in Cultural Analysis*, chair: Michaela Fenske

The co-chair of the wg is Pauliina Latvala. The wg is not strong enough to organize own conferences, but it organizes panels at the biannual SIEF conferences. In Zagreb a collaboration with the *Food Research* wg took place. The wg would like to draw more attention to methodological questions in the future. It has established an e-mail discussion list.

*Place wisdom*, old chair: Ullrich Kockel, new chair: Katriina Siivonen, Stella Butter

The wg differs from the other wgs in the way that it is project-orientated. Its activities do not focus on inter congress conferences, but on the development of collaborative research themes. Currently the themes are waterscapes, home and sacred places/routes. The wg has organized a number of workshops and meetings in Mannheim, Wroclaw and Edinburgh. Furthermore, it has organized several panels around these themes (ASA in 2014, EASA in 2014, SIEF congresses in 2013 and 2015). The wg is planning to have a meeting in Jerusalem in 2016. It will renew the text for the SIEF website and will update the membership list.

*The Ritual Year*, chair: Irina Sedakova

The co-chair of the wg is Terry Gunnell, Irina Stahl acts as secretary.

Since 2013 two conferences have taken place. In September 2014 the wg met at the University of Innsbruck. In 2015 it met in Kazan, Russia. The topic was “Traditions and Transformation”.



Publications: the series “The ritual year” has now 10 volumes, the last ones are: Volume 8: Migration, Volume 9: Feast, Festivals and Politics, Volume 10: Magic in Rituals and Rituals in Magic. Next year the wg will meet in Aberdeen (Jan. 2016), in 2018 it will meet in Bukarest, Romania.

*Space-lore and Place-lore*, chair: Gabor Barna

In 2014 a conference took place in Szeged, Hungary. The wg tries to publish the contributions soon. For 2016 a conference is planned in Prague. The wg will also prepare a panel for the Göttingen congress in 2017.

*Young Scholars Working Group*, chair: Jón Þór Pétursson

The wg was formed two years ago. It is a platform for sharing experiences of “young” (not biological age, but academically young) scholars. The wg has organized a workshop for Zagreb.

*Archives*, chair: Lauri Harvilahti

The wg has approximately 70 members. A seminar took place in Dublin in March 2015. Another one took place in Oslo in April 2015. The wg plans a conference in Zürich in August 2016. It decided to create a code of ethics for archives.

#### **b. New Working Groups.**

*Museums and Material Culture*, chairs: Hester Dibbits and Lizette Graden

The wg has just been established. Uta Karrer acts as secretary. More than 30 people attended the business meeting in Zagreb. The focus of the wg will be on the link between theory and practice. It will reflect on the changes museums undergo at the moment and on the need of collaboration (for instance with volunteers and PhD students).

*Migration and mobility*, chairs: Walter Leimgruber, Jasna Capo

The wg on mobilities, migration and borders will have its first meeting next year. It still has to be established officially. However, the wg has already had a meeting in Zagreb (50 participants).

#### **8. Proposals for SIEF congresses after 2017**

Santiago de Compostela is proposed as the venue for the SIEF congress in 2017.

#### **9. (Re-) election of members and presidency of the SIEF Executive Board**

The board is elected:

Valdimar Hafstein, Iceland (2nd term, President)

Sophie Elpers, The Netherlands (1st term, Executive Vice-President)

Clara Saraiva, Portugal (2nd term, Vice-President)

Pertti Anttonen, Finland (2nd term)

Tine Damsholt, Denmark (2nd term)

Laurent Fournier, France (2nd term)



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



Arzu Ozturkmen, Turkey (2nd term)  
Monique Scheer Germany, (2nd term)  
Nevena Škrbić Alempijević Croatia (1st term)

#### **10. Presentation: 2017 SIEF Congress in Göttingen**

Regina Bendix invites the SIEF members to the 2017 congress in Göttingen and shows a film to give the GA a taste of Göttingen.

#### **11. Closure**

After having asked if there is any other business MBowman closes the GA.