



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



Minutes of the General Assembly of the International Society for Ethnology and Folklore (SIEF) Göttingen, 28 March 2017

Members present: ~ 170

1. Opening

President Valdimar Hafstein welcomes the members at the General Assembly.

2. Appointment of acting chair and secretary of the meeting

Peter Jan Margry is the acting chair, Sophie Elpers is the secretary.

3. Approval of the agenda

Approved with the following changes:

point 10: "Any other business", point 10 becomes point 11, point 11 becomes point 12

4. Approval of the minutes of SIEF's General Assembly of 23 June 2015 in Zagreb

Approved without changes

5. Report Valdimar Hafstein on the activities of SIEF in the last two years

Valdimar Hafstein discusses how SIEF has been a platform for debate, journals, working groups, films, higher education projects and congresses. He focusses on several main points:

1. Congresses:

- SIEF 2017 in Göttingen: more than 600 presentations were programmed which is a great success. A lot of work was done behind the scenes by the organizing committees and NomadIT. Special thanks go to the host Regina Bendix and Cornelius Hantscher, the student volunteers and NomadIT.
- SIEF 2019: during the GA a paper is passed around to collect ideas about possible topics for the congress.

2. Number of members:

- The number of members is rather stable over the years. It is closely related to the number of participants of the biannual congresses. Since 2011 (Lisbon congress) the membership is around 800, with the Tartu number (540 in 2013) being an exception. With SIEF 2019 in Santiago de Compostela we hope to attract even more members.

3. Visual communication:

- SIEF's visual communication activities started with the film 'What is European Ethnology?' in 2015. It has been used widely for teaching all over Europe.
- Other visual materials are the 'Ethnology Sensations'. These videos can be found on the SIEF website. They appear to be very popular considering the number of viewings.
- The 'Zagreb Congress Sensation' can also be viewed on the website. It is film portrait of the 2015 congress.
- SIEF will continue its visual communication activities with new 'Ethnological Sensations'.

4. Publications:

SIEF has two journals, *Ethnologia Europaea* and *Cultural Analysis*. Whereas EE (established in 1967) explores ethnological topics, CA (established in 2000) is aimed at Folklore. EE has been with SIEF since 2015, CA since 2011. Both journals publish two issues a year, CA is an online open access journal, EE is printed.

- SIEF cooperates with national journals of the country which hosts the congress in a particular year. The cooperation started with *Narodna umjetnost*, flagship journal of Croatia, that published the contributions from SIEF2015 in Zagreb. The journal was distributed in Göttingen. The idea behind this cooperation is that the national journals from the host countries form a bridge from one congress to the next. A selection of papers presented at SIEF2017 in Göttingen will be published in a special issue of the German *Zeitschrift für Volkskunde / Journal for European Ethnology and Cultural Analysis* (JEECA). The issue will be handed to all delegates at the congress in Santiago de Compostela in 2019.
- In Göttingen, 20 journal editors came together to share best experiences and challenges. They discussed the formation of a Standing Committee on Journal Questions, such as journal ranking, double blind peer review system, open access. SIEF wants to provide a floor for sharing experiences, organizing a network of editors, discussing agendas for cooperation and so on. The next meeting will take place in Santiago de Compostela.

5. Higher Educations in E&F:

- SIEF has got a Standing Committee on Higher Educations in E&F. It is chaired by Nevena Škrbić Alempijević. After a preliminary informal meeting in Zagreb in 2015, the first formal meeting took place in Göttingen.
- In the summer of 2016, the first SIEF Summer School (on trust and resistance) took place in Tübingen, Germany. Monique Scheer was the host. This pilot was so successful that SIEF has decided to make it a regular event, with the next one in Aberdeen in 2018. Tom McKean will organize it.
- A map of University Departments and Programs in European Ethnology, Folklore Studies and (Europeanist) Anthropology is provided on the SIEF website. It is meant to give information on higher education to (future) students and others.
- SIEF's Young Scholars Working Group had its first conference. It took place in Göttingen the day before SIEF2017 started. The theme was 'Coming of Age'.

6. SIEF Working Groups

- At the moment, SIEF has 14 working groups. The new ones are Migration & Mobility, a Francophone Working Group, Material Culture and Museums, Archives, Digital Ethnology, Body, Affects, Senses and Emotions (BASE).
- A 15th working group might start soon. It will be on narrative research. A first explorative meeting took place the day before the GA.

6. Finances

Valdimar Hafstein presents an overview of the financial balance of the years 2015 and 2016. SIEF's reserve has grown to 16.114. Most of the membership fees go towards the EE journal. There were no questions from the GA about the accounts.

SIEF's audit commission, consisting of elected members Anders Gustavsson from Norway and Ingrid Slavec Gradisnik from Slovenia, has checked the accounts. Ingrid Slavec Gradisnik presents the audit commission's report to the GA. The balance is approved by the commission. The commission proposes to discharge the board of its financial duties. The GA discharges the board.

7. Bylaw changes

Nine propositions for bylaw changes were handed in some weeks before SIEF2017. The GA has no questions or comments on the changes. The nine propositions are accepted by a show of hands of the GA. Full details of the proposals can be found at:

http://www.siefhome.org/downloads/ga/SIEF_GA_2017_Proposed_revision_Bylaws.pdf

Normally a time slot with presentations of SIEF's Working Groups was scheduled during the GA. This time, however, it is decided to cancel those presentations. Instead, the working groups present posters during the conference program. This is done to improve the time management of the GA meeting.

8.A. SIEF mission statement

A new mission statement, written by the board, was circulated to reference groups of highly active SIEF members (such as the chairs of the working groups and the members of old boards). Their comments and feedback were included in the concept that was sent to the GA. It concerns a living document. The GA does not have to vote on it, but feedback is very welcome. SIEF members can send their thoughts and comments to sief@meertens.knaw.nl

The mission statement consists of two parts: the first part is about 'who we are' and the second is about 'what we do [and what we would like to do]' (goals and strategies). Both parts refer to scientific cooperation, communications, and higher education.

8.B. Proposals for SIEF2021

Hanna Snellman of University of Helsinki would like to organize SIEF2021 in Finland. The congress would take place in Helsinki, but other Finish universities would be involved as well.

9.A. Election of SIEF's Executive Board

Major changes take place in the board since most members step down. The election of the new members is done by a show of hands. A majority votes for the new members: Nevena Škrbić Alempijević (President), Sophie Elpers (Executive Vice President), Bernhard Tschofen (Vice President), Rob Howard, Cyril Isnart, Ewa Klekot, Tomas McKean, Fabio Mugnaini, Marie Sandberg.

9.B. Address by the incoming president

Nevena Škrbić Alempijević thanks the GA for their trust. She thanks the former board members and especially Valdimar Hafstein for their work and gives them goodbye presents. Valdimar hands over the president's baton to Nevena Škrbić Alempijević.

10. Any other business

None.

11. Presentation SIEF2019

Cristina Sanchez thanks SIEF for the trust and welcomes its members to Santiago de Compostela. The institute there consists of a small, but strong group of Ethnologists. Cristina Sanchez circulates a sheet of paper and invites members to write down ideas on topics for SIEF2019. To promote Santiago de Compostela a film is shown.

12. Closure

The chair thanks the board for the good cooperation and the members for their attendance.