

SIEF 2021 Congress: Helsinki, Finland

19-24 June, 2021

WG on Archives meeting, Friday, June 18, 2021

Chair: Maryna Chernyavska

Secretary: Tom Fogel

Board members present: Theo Meder, Kelly Fitzgerald, Sanita Reinsone, Emese Ilyefalvi

Total members present: 18

Meeting started at 17:00.

1. Approval of agenda
2. Introductions
3. WGA at SIEF 2021

There are two panels at the SIEF 2021 convened by the Working Group on Archives: **“Archives, access, ethics and fraud”** (June 24) and **“Being bold in the archives: innovative folklore archival practices”** (June 21). There are also two other folklore archives related panels: “Breaking the rules: repurposing dictionaries as ethnographic data” (June 22) and “Working Group Archives: Now what? Documenting transnational crises” (June 23).

There will be a meeting with Working Group leaders at 10:30 on June 20, Ave will attend. At 12:15 on June 24, there will be another meeting that will provide the opportunity for the congress attendees to meet with the WG leaders, view the WG posters, and ask questions about their work.

4. WGA poster

Maryna and Kelly prepared a poster that highlights folklore archive projects that document COVID 19 related folklore, as well as other folklore archive projects. Many thanks to everyone for their submissions. The poster is available here: <https://sites.google.com/ualberta.ca/sief2021-wga/poster>, and is also available as a PDF from the poster site home page.

Emese asked if it is possible to add to this page, as it would be good to continue gathering information about such projects. Yes, it is possible. This format was selected specifically because of the flexibility to add new projects.

5. Co-chairs and Board (re-)elections

Ave Goršič is stepping down due to other commitments. Theo, Maryna, Kelly, Tom, and Emese are willing to continue to serve. Sanita is willing to stay or can step down if new people are willing to join. Nicolas Le Bigre was nominated to the Board. Others need some time to think. Maryna will send an email to everyone present to inquire about any other candidates shortly after the meeting.

6. Past events / publications

* Unfortunately, we did not meet at the WGA conference in 2020 in Amsterdam that was supposed to be hosted by Theo Meder, after considerable efforts by him, due to COVID-19. Kelly thanked Theo for all his work.

* Theo Meder presented his project '**ISEBEL**' - **Intelligent Search Engine for Belief Legends** that was built as an international search engine that is able to harvest data from several folktale databases: <https://isebel.eu>

* Theo presented another project www.verhalenbank.nl that he published an article about: 'Online coping with the First Wave. **COVID Humor and Rumor on Dutch Social Media** (March – July 2020)', in: Folklore 82 (2021), pp. 135-158. <http://folklore.ee/folklore/vol82/meder.pdf>

* Audun informed about the quite large folklore archive digitizing project **SAMLA** they are doing in Norway. Joining ISEBEL is part of the plan: <https://samla.w.uib.no/about-samla/>

* Sanita suggested that Theo takes a look at this **folk legend database in Latvian and German**. They could contribute to ISEBEL with <http://pasakas.lfk.lv/>

* Emese said that joining ISEBEL is their plan too with the **Hungarian Folklore Database**. Currently they are working on the English interface and the translation of keywords: <https://hiedelemszovegek.boszorkanykorok.hu/>

* Discussion about the **folklore archive map**. There are two websites:

1. The local one Sanita made: <http://traditionarchives.mozello.com/>
2. SIEF website: <https://www.siefhome.org/map/>

Maryna will contact SIEF to clarify the procedure of adding new folklore archives to the map.

Other folklore archives related projects:

* Barbara Hillers shared information about In October 2020 the **Irish National Folklore Collection at University College Dublin** launched an online Arne-Thompson index for a significant part of its archival collection, the so-called **Schools' Collection**. The index is fully publicly accessible and can be found on the NFC's website (dúchas.ie): <https://www.duchas.ie/en/aath>

Users can click on the tale type of their choice to see the visual images of the original manuscript submission, and in many cases also a textual transcription. The digital index provides links to over 7,744 texts belonging to 370 individual Aarne Thompson types. A large proportion of the texts are in English; the remainder in the Irish (Gaelic) language. For more information about the index and its background, see [https://ucdculturalheritagecollections.com/2020/11/26/organising-folktales/.](https://ucdculturalheritagecollections.com/2020/11/26/organising-folktales/)”

7. Planned events / publications

*Audun: with SAMLA we (Audun and Kyrre Kverndokk) are planning a webinar series about folklore archives topics. These are online webinars, that could potentially be organized jointly with the WGA.

Maryna suggested a roundtable about large scale projects, big data, such as ISEBEL, SAMLA.

Dani Schrire suggested a topic 'how to teach courses on folklore archives'.

8. Meeting adjourned at 18:18.

After the meeting, two individuals volunteered to serve on the board: Susanne Österlund-Pötzsch and Cliona O’Carroll. After an online vote, the newly elected board consists of the following members:

Maryna Chernyavska (Co-Chair), Kule Folklore Centre, University of Alberta
Emese Ilyefalvi (Co-Chair), Etövös Loránd University (Budapest), University of Pécs
Tom Fogel (Secretary), Hebrew University
Theo Meder, Meertens Institute
Kelly Fitzgerald, University College Dublin
Sanita Reinsons, Institute of Literature, Folklore and Art, University of Latvia
Nicolas Le Bigre, Elphinstone Institute, University of Aberdeen
Cliona O’Carroll, Cork Folklore Project, University College Cork
Susanne Österlund-Pötzsch, Swedish Literature Society in Finland