

Minutes of the ASFS AGM
held at the University of Adelaide, 28 September 2012
**20th Annual Conference of the ASFS “Framing Cinema and the Visual Arts/
Cadriages: cinéma and arts visuels”)**

Present:

Executives: Françoise Grauby (President, in the chair), Sonia Wilson (Treasurer), Tess Do (Secretary)

Members:

Sara Wellman, Leslie Barnes, Bronwyn Winter, Amy Hubbell, Natalie Edwards, Kari Hanet, Raphaël Trantoul, Greg Hainge, Colin Nettelbeck, John West-Sooby, Diane de Saint-Léger, Peter Poiana, Henry Méra, Benjamin Andrée, Joe Hardwick, Paul Gibbard, Ben McCann, Caroline Sheaffer-Jones, Chris Hogarth, Véronique Duché, Michelle Royer

Non-member:

Catherine Hodeir (Attaché, Higher Education, French Embassy)

Apologies:

Barbara Hanna, Jean Fornasiero

Approval of minutes:

Copies of the minutes the 27 September 2011 AGM meeting (held at ANU) were circulated to all people present.

Motion was made by François Grauby and seconded by John West-Sooby and Bronwyn Winter to approve the minutes.

There was no business arising from the minutes.

Thanks & Recognition:

Françoise Grauby thanked the organizers Natalie Edwards, Ben McCann, Peter Poiana and John West-Sooby for their generosity in hosting the 2012 ASFS Conference and for the very stimulating conference theme.

The President's Report:

ASFS website

- Plan was made last year with Peter Cowley to make some improvements to the ASFS website and to find a way to make the archives (provided by John West-Sooby and Jean Fornasiero) available on the site. Peter, the non-official webmaster of the ASFS website, has started to look for other more attractive web platforms in January and February 2012 but had to abandon his search afterwards due to work pressures.
- A paid technician (ideally based in Sydney University in order to work closely with Françoise) is therefore needed to renovate and maintain the website. Françoise thanked Catherine Hodeir for her support in seeking financial assistance from the French Embassy to pay for the technician's fee. Françoise's task is to will find a technician, get a quote and sent it to the Embassy. Members will be informed of the outcome of this request.

Baudin Scholarships

- Françoise thanked Béatrice Chassaing and Richard de Salinelles for their work. Françoise welcomed the new attaché Catherine Hodeir and her assistant Gaaëlle Gallois.

- Françoise reported that there was a rise in the number of applications for the Baudin Scholarships in 2012 (59 in total) and the quality of the applications was excellent. The selection process was carried out in collaboration between Béatrice, Françoise and John West-Sooby. Françoise expected that the selection would be carried out in the same way next year (2013) with Catherine Hodeir.
- Catherine advised that the Baudin Scholarships recipients would have to write a report about their study experience in France after they returned to Australia.

Future ASFS Conferences

- The ASFS receives each year €2000 from the French Embassy for the travel costs of one or two speakers. There is the possibility that the Embassy will increase the fund in the future as €2000 is barely sufficient to cover the expenses for one speaker from Europe.
- It was uncertain whether the University of Newcastle would host the 2013 AFSF Conference. Françoise will follow this up with Alistair Rolls and will keep all members posted.
- Françoise noted the expression of interest from colleagues in Melbourne to host the ASFS Conference 2014. Françoise will keep all members informed.
- Thanks to Brian Nelson and Hélène Jacomard there are two publications following the 2010 AFSF Conference "Playtime" in Sydney: one in *The Australian Journal of French Studies* (2012) and the other in *Essays in French Literature and Culture* (2013).
- Françoise acknowledged the participants' need to publish their conference papers. Françoise announced that following the 2011 ASFS Conference in Canberra there will be a publication focused on translation. Marie-Laure Vuaille-Barcan and Chantal Crozet were a little behind with the conference proceeding because they were both on leave but they would contact again the presenters at the conference to invite them to resubmit their papers for publication. However, as both Marie-Laure and Chantal are absent, this arrangement will need to be reconfirmed.
- Véronique Duché inquired about the theme and the timeframe of the 2013 ASFS Conference. Françoise responded that it was too soon to have a precise answer, but if the Conference is held at the Newcastle it will be supported by the Kevin Hanley Foundation.

Treasurer's Report

- Sonia Wilson reminded members to renew their membership online and encouraged new colleagues to join the ASFS.
- Diane de Saint-Léger commented that it was difficult to renew the ASFS membership because it was not easy to remember the password and she was not sure when her membership expired. Françoise responded that she could reissue the password by email; that with the current system it was not possible to remind individuals to renew their membership, but a general reminder was usually sent out to all ASFS members at the beginning of each year (this year it was in March);

an invitation to join the ASFS was also sent out at the same time to other academics and casuals.

- Collin Nettelbeck inquired about the number of possible members. Françoise reported that last year an assistant has tried to contact all the academics and casuals in each French department in Australia but she was not sure about the exact number. It could be 100 or 120 as suggested by Collins. Another invitation could be sent out next year (2013).
- John West-Sooby suggested the invitation could be sent out on Ozfrench.

Carnet austral

- Carnet austral has a new pdf format that members can access online via the ASFS website to view, download or print.
- Barbara Hannah raises the question about what should be put in Carnet austral. The usual content of Carnet austral includes conference reports, book reviews, minutes of AFSF AGM, reports from the French departments/programs in the universities in Australia, short articles that do not count as publication in our system, research projects, a detailed list of upcoming conferences. Barbara asks whether members find this list useful as information about the upcoming conferences can be found in the internet. Barbara suggests a more condensed version of the conference list as the compilation of a detailed list is very time consuming. An assistant was paid to assist Barbara with this task last year. Françoise commented that this is a question to be discussed with the new editor of Carnet austral.
- The next issue of Carnet austral will be published before the end of year or in early 2013.
- Greg Hainge agreed that there is less need to include in Carnet austral a detailed list of upcoming conferences as we do have access to them via other websites in the internet. He reminded Françoise that because we now have an ISSN for our electronic version of Carnet austral, we are legally obliged to send a copy to all the National Libraries in Australia. In the past hard copies of Carnet austral were sent to the National Library in Canberra and to the State Library where the editor of Carnet austral is based.
- A member in the audience asked whether the pdf version of Carnet austral could be sent by email. Françoise agreed to email it to all members.
- John West-Sooby suggested that Carnet austral includes a new section where members can find information about new colleagues or retired colleagues. John suggested keeping a space in Carnet austral for the publication of articles, conference reports or other notes that were not counted for publication in our system – as it was useful to keep track of past conferences.
- Greg Hainge commented that if other academics in other countries send their articles to Carnet austral, we would publish them but we would not approach anyone for articles.

Election of Office-bearer:

- Postgraduate Coordinator : Natalie Edwards was elected to replace Peter Cowley who did not wish to continue in this role.
Duties: participate in the selection of the applicants for the travel funding; liaise with the conference organizers to assist the funding recipients with their travels; organize the postgraduate research workshops
- Treasurer : Sonia Wilson was reelected.
- Secretary : Tess Do was reelected.
- Editor of Carnet austral : Michelle Royer was elected to replace Barbara who did not wish to continue in this role.
- Vice-President : John West-Sooby was elected to replace Louise Maurer who has retired.
- President : Françoise Grauby was reelected.
Françoise indicated that she was happy to fill this position for one more year but would like to have someone else to take this role next year.

AOB:

- Collin Nettelbeck made an announcement about the *French Cultural Studies* conference held in Marseille in May 2013 to mark the 25th anniversary of the Journal. Collins informed the audience about the conference theme on the evolution of the French culture in the last 25 years and encouraged Australian scholars to participate in the conference.
- Greg Hainge asked about the raison d'être of the ASFS and the use of the membership fees now that it is no longer necessary to pay for the printing cost of Carnet austral. Greg was not against paying the fees but wanted to know exactly why one should pay for membership and what this money is used for, whether to create more scholarships for postgraduate students, or to subsidize the travel costs of a conference speaker.
- Françoise agreed that it was an important question. In the past Carnet austral was the main communication tool among members and that function has been a little lost today. Carnet austral can be put it back on its feet. One possibility as mentioned by Greg, is to contact and work along with LCNAU – an organization that is committed to the protection of languages in Australia.
- Collin Nettelbeck spoke about the possibility for the ASFS to work with the French Embassy on the commemoration project to mark the centenary of the Second World War. The ASFS could facilitate contact and create research projects among colleagues in History and French departments. For example, a research project on the representation of France in Australian newspapers can be developed now all the main Australian newspapers are now available online. A team of researchers and students in each State can work on this project. This could be one way for the ASFS to spend its money and join effort with other organizations in this commemoration project that has a 4-year funding from the French Embassy and the Australian government.
- As there was no other business, Françoise thanked the members for their comments and attendance. The AGM closed at 6:15pm.