

# Society for French Studies

The Society for French Studies is charity no. 1078038 and is a company, limited by guarantee, registered in England and Wales, no. 3801778, whose registered office is The Taylor Institution, Oxford OX1 3NA.

**The 52<sup>nd</sup> Annual General Meeting of the Society will be held 9am Tuesday 5 July 2011 at Queen Mary, University of London (Mason Lecture Theatre, Francis Bancroft Building).**

## AGENDA

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of the 51<sup>st</sup> AGM, 6 July 2010 (attached)
3. Matters arising from the Minutes
4. Report of the Directors for 2010 (attached)
5. Report of the Honorary Treasurer (attached)
6. Report of the Editors, *French Studies* (attached)
7. Report of the Editor, *French Studies Bulletin* (attached)
8. Report of the General Editor, *Legenda* Research Monographs in French Studies (attached)
9. Report of the IT Officer (attached)
10. Report of the Membership Secretary (attached)
11. Report of the Publicity Officer (attached)
12. R.H. Gapper Prizes and Malcolm Bowie Prize (report attached)
13. Report of the Conference Officer (attached)
14. Conference and Seminar Grants (attached)
15. Report of the Postgraduate Officer (attached)
16. Election of President-elect, Honorary Secretary, and Conference Officer; Election and Re-election of Members of the Executive Committee; Election to the Consultative Panel of *French Studies Bulletin*; Re-election of Officers of the Society; Appointment of General Editor and Co-Editors of *French Studies*.
17. Any Other Business

## NOTIFICATION

Elections (item 16 on the Agenda)

The Executive Committee gives notice of the following vacancies: President-elect; Honorary Secretary; Conference Officer.

The Executive Committee proposes to put the following nominations to the AGM:

President-elect	Professor Charles Forsdick, University of Liverpool
Honorary Secretary	Dr Emma Campbell, University of Warwick
Conference Officer	Dr David Evans, University of St Andrews
Elected Member	Dr Fiona Cox, University of Exeter
Re-elected Members	Professor Diana Holmes, University of Leeds Professor Michael Syrotinski, University of Aberdeen
Consultative Panel <i>French Studies Bulletin</i>	Dr Maeve McCusker, Queens University Belfast Dr Julia Prest, University of St Andrews

Any further nominations, together with notice of the nominees' willingness to serve, should be sent to the Honorary Secretary by 17 June 2011 (Dr Stephen Forcer, Department of French Studies, University of Birmingham, B15 2TT [s.m.forcer@bham.ac.uk](mailto:s.m.forcer@bham.ac.uk) +44 (0)121 414 5985).

## APPOINTMENTS

Professor Tim Unwin, General Editor of *French Studies* (from January 2012)

Professor Russell Goulbourne, Co-Editor of *French Studies* (from January 2012)

Dr Sophie Marnette, Co-Editor of *French Studies* (from July 2012)

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## **Minutes of the 51<sup>st</sup> Annual General Meeting of the Society held 9am Tuesday 6 July 2010 at the University of Swansea.**

### **AGENDA**

#### **1. Apologies**

Apologies had been received from Professor Gaunt, Professor Holmes, Professor Jefferson, Professor Johnson, Dr Michallat and Dr Tidd.

#### **2. Minutes of the 50<sup>th</sup> AGM**

The Minutes of the 50<sup>th</sup> AGM, held 30 June 2009 at the University of Oxford, were approved.

#### **3. Matters arising from the Minutes**

None.

#### **4. Report of the Directors for 2009**

The Report was received.

#### **5. Report of the Honorary Treasurer**

Dr Roberts spoke to his Finance and Budget reports, which had been circulated previously.

Dr Roberts was pleased to confirm that the *Society* had maintained a very solid financial position over 2009-2010. There has been some recovery in investments, and royalties on the sale of the journal *French Studies* have almost doubled on last year's figure. Revenue from the sale of the journal's digital archive will decrease over time but has been a particular source of income this year. In order to address a considerable fall in the interest paid on certain accounts, the *Society* has shifted £50,000 into a new account with Birmingham Midshires. The *Society* ended the year with a surplus of over £26,000.

In response to a question from Professor O'Brien about copy-editing costs related to *French Studies*, Dr Roberts reported that the *Society* had been obliged to employ a copy editor in order to ensure that the quality of the journal be maintained. Professor Duffy underlined that the employment of a copy editor is essential and represents an excellent investment for the *Society*. The meeting agreed that the use of a copy editor frees the Editors of the journal from burdensome extra work. Professor Hughes added that any Officer of the *Society* may seek financial assistance to cover admin support in critical areas or during periods of particular pressure.

#### **6. Report of the Editors, *French Studies***

Professor Duffy drew out the key points from the Editors' report, which had been circulated previously.

The Editors were pleased to report a rise in the number of articles submitted to *French Studies*, including from overseas. Internationalisation of the Editorial and Advisory Boards, increased publicity and the use of overseas peer reviewers have all helped to raise interest in the journal. The *French Studies* section of the OUP journals website has been overhauled, along with the guidelines for authors. In 2009-2010 each issue of the journal appeared slightly ahead of schedule. Professor Duffy also updated the meeting about moves to address the practice of defaulting on book reviews, and invited Members to submit suggestions for new reviewers. For the time being reviews will not move to Manuscript Central, the web-based submissions facility.

Dr Woollen stated the view that some book reviews contain unduly negative remarks about issues that are essentially secondary, such as typographical errors, and asked for the Editors to ensure that reviewers focus their judgement on matters of substance and content. Professor Duffy noted that drawing attention to typographical errors is a part of the review process and that reviewing techniques will vary from one writer to the next. Professor Duffy added that all reviews are read by the Editors and that reviewers are sometimes asked to make revisions to their reports, but agreed to look again for any part of the guidelines that might need to be reformulated.

Professor Duffy thanked Professor Davis, Dr Kenny and Ms Skalka for their continued hard work and support. Professor Duffy also paid tribute to Professor Elizabeth Fallaize, who been a Co-Editor of *French Studies* and a member of the journal's Editorial Board.

## **7. Report of the Editor, *French Studies Bulletin***

Professor Orr presented her previously circulated report and noted that the major challenge in her first year as Editor had been to ensure an adequate volume and quality of submissions. Professor Orr was pleased to report that the latest issue of *FSB* had been ready ahead of schedule and that the flow of suitable copy had been helped by promotion of the journal by members of the *Society*, as well as by new initiatives such as the Postgraduate Bulletin Board. Professor Orr encouraged all Members, including Postgraduates, to consider submitting articles to *FSB*, and noted that the word-limit for submissions has been raised from 1,200 to 2,000.

The meeting was pleased to accept Professor Orr's proposal that Professor Michael Finn (Ryerson University) and Dr Barbara Hanna (University of Queensland) be nominated as Advisors to help the international promotion of *FSB*.

Professor Orr expressed her particular gratitude to Dr Susan Bainbrigge, Professor Anne Green and Dr Gill Rye for their work on the Consultative Panel, and to Ms Crimp for her help in setting up the Postgraduate Bulletin Board. Professor Orr also thanked Professor Hughes, Professor Harrow, the Executive Committee and OUP for their support over the year, and asked Members of the *Society* to continue promoting *French Studies Bulletin* among their own institutions and contacts.

## **8. Report of the General Editor, *Legenda Research Monographs in French Studies***

Dr Kenny spoke to Professor Jefferson's report, which had been distributed previously, and circulated among the meeting hard copies of the 4 titles produced in the 2009-2010 cycle. Dr Kenny added that this session's output represented the largest yearly total to date, and that a further 4 titles over 2010-2011 was a realistic hope. Members of the *Society* are encouraged to consider *Legenda* if preparing a book proposal.

Dr Kenny reported that the Legenda Board wished to record its thanks to Maney, Dr Graham Nelson, and all those who have acted as readers for proposals. The meeting joined with Dr Kenny in thanking Professor Jefferson for her considerable work in this important area of scholarly activity.

### **9. Report of the IT Officer**

Dr Tinker spoke to Dr Michallat's previously circulated report, and noted that he was working with Dr Michallat to move membership data onto the *Society's* new database.

### **10. Report of the Membership Secretary**

Dr Tinker discussed his report, which had been circulated previously. Membership of the *Society* remains buoyant, and Dr Tinker emphasised his gratitude to long-serving members who have remained loyal to the *Society*. Dr Tinker also thanked Ms Crimp for her tremendous work promoting the *Society* among the Postgraduate community.

In response to a question from Professor O'Brien, Dr Tinker noted that Members had already been informed about the option of using Gift Aid, but agreed that further messages could be sent out in order to maximise this source of income.

Professor Walker noted that many members of the new database seemed to have registered as users without completing their entries, and that over 200 further Members had yet to register. Dr Tinker agreed that there is further work to do on the promotion of the database, but added that the new facility will allow the *Society* to consolidate payment records and communicate effectively with Members via up-to-date email records.

The meeting joined with Professor Hughes in thanking Dr Tinker for his excellent work as Membership Secretary, which has included a considerable increase in membership numbers.

### **11. Report of the Publicity Officer**

Dr Griffiths spoke to her previously circulated report and noted the Forthcoming Events section of *French Studies Bulletin*, to which Members of the *Society* are invited to submit material. Dr Griffiths also asked colleagues to send on to her information regarding Postgraduate funding offered in members' home institutions, which she will collate for distribution.

### **12. R.H. Gapper Prizes and Malcolm Bowie Prize**

Professor Syrotinski tabled his report on the R. G. Gapper Undergraduate Essay Prize. The meeting was pleased to note that the number and spread of entries remained healthy, and that the winner of the Prize was in attendance at the current conference.

Professor Harrow reported on the Malcolm Bowie Prize. 22 entries (against 20 in the previous round) had been received. After two rounds of judging, Dorian Bell (UC Irvine) emerged as the winner of the Prize, with Tim Chesters (Royal Holloway) as runner-up. Three other entrants had received Commendations. Professor Harrow thanked readers for their hard work, especially Professor Compagnon and Professor Moi, both of whom were now stepping down having served as panel members since the inception of the Prize.

### **13. Report of the Conference Officer**

Dr Watt spoke to his previously circulated report, and thanked Dr Griffiths for all her invaluable assistance in helping to organise the current conference.

Professor Hughes thanked Dr Watt warmly for all his hard work as Conference Officer.

#### **14. Conference and Seminar Grants**

Professor Forsdick discussed his report, which had been circulated previously, and underscored the necessity of the scheme within the *Society's* support of research culture. 15 events had received grants this year. Professor Forsdick was pleased to note that the budget for the scheme would rise next year from £3,000 to £4,000.

#### **15. Report of the Postgraduate Officer**

Ms Crimp spoke to her previously circulated report, and was delighted to note that, in addition to the Postgraduate poster session, the current conference featured 11 papers by Postgraduates.

Attending her last AGM as Postgraduate Officer, Ms Crimp expressed her gratitude to all members of the Executive Committee for their help and support during her term of office.

Professor Hughes thanked Ms Crimp for her excellent work as an ambassador for the Postgraduate community and for the *Society*. The meeting applauded Ms Crimp warmly.

#### **16. Election and Re-election of Members of the Executive Committee, Election to the Editorial Board of *French Studies*, Election to the Advisory Board of *French Studies*, Election to the Consultative Panel of *French Studies Bulletin*, Re-election of Officers of the Society**

- a. The following person, having been duly nominated to a vacancy on the Executive Committee, was elected for a term of three years: Dr Mark Orme, University of Central Lancashire.
- b. The following persons were re-elected for a term of three years as Members of the Executive Committee: Professor Christopher Johnson, University of Nottingham; Dr Mary Noonan, University College Cork; Dr Ursula Tidd, University of Manchester.
- c. The following person, having been duly nominated to a vacancy on the Executive Committee, was elected as Postgraduate Officer: Ms Claire Peters, University of Birmingham.
- d. The following person, having been duly nominated to a vacancy on the Advisory Board of *French Studies*, was elected for a term of five years: Professor Frank Lestringant, Université de Paris IV-Sorbonne.
- e. The following persons, having been duly nominated to vacancies on the Consultative Panel of *French Studies Bulletin*, were elected for a term of four years: Dr Kay Chadwick, University of Liverpool; Dr Mari Jones, University of Cambridge.
- f. The Elected Officers of the *Society* were re-elected for a further year.

#### **17. Any Other Business**

Professor Hughes reported that a conference would be held 2 October 2011 at the IGRS in honour of Professor Elizabeth Fallaize. The meeting was pleased to note that the *Society* would be supporting this event by funding the *vin d'honneur*. The meeting also welcomed news that the *Society* plans to make a financial contribution to the Michael Freeman Prize run at the University of Bristol.

On behalf of the Executive Committee and Members of the *Society*, Professor Harrow paid tribute to the superb contribution Professor Hughes had made as President of the *Society*. Professor Harrow drew particular attention to the principled commitment and wisdom with which Professor Hughes had promoted the *Society's* interests, and to the care and support that he had extended to each and every colleague. The meeting applauded Professor Hughes very warmly indeed.

Professor Hughes thanked colleagues and wished Professor Harrow well as the new President of the *Society*.

The meeting ended at 10.30am.

## SOCIETY FOR FRENCH STUDIES: REPORT OF THE DIRECTORS FOR 2010

The *Society's* 51<sup>st</sup> Annual Conference saw a return to Swansea University in Wales, the venue of the *Society's* conference in 1989. There were 101 delegates, of whom 18 were postgraduate students. These figures represent a decrease on the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary conference held at St Anne's Oxford in 2009, but are broadly in line with the pre-2009 figures. Highlights of the conference included plenary lectures by Professor Emma Wilson (Cambridge) on the concept of palliative art in the recent work of filmmaker Agnès Varda, by Professor John Lyons (University of Virginia) on the shift from fortune to randomness in seventeenth-century France, by Stanley Péan (Quebec) on memory, origins and the creative writer, and by Professor Agnès Spiquel (Université de Valenciennes) on continuities and fractures in Camus's work. Delegates enjoyed an afternoon excursion to Llangland Bay on the Gower Peninsula, and a concert by the Gwalia Singers. The Directors record the intellectual, social, and material success of the Annual Conference, and thank Dr Adam Watt for his dynamic organisation of the event. The 2011 Conference takes place at Queen Mary, University of London, from 4-6 July. The Directors are grateful to the University, the School of Languages, Linguistics and Film, and colleagues in French at Queen Mary for their generous support and assistance in hosting this year's conference. Arrangements are well underway for conferences at the University of Exeter (2012), the University of Nottingham (2013), and the University of Aberdeen (2014).

The Executive Committee has held its regular set of four meetings for the year and has been involved in various policy consultations and in lobbying for French and Francophone studies, for modern languages, and for the Arts and Humanities more generally. In summer 2010 HEFCE launched the first stage of its process to appoint Sub-Panel members and a Chair of the Sub-Panel in Modern Languages for the 2014 Research Excellence Framework (REF). Following HEFCE's call to scholarly societies to nominate Sub-Panel members for its consideration, the *Society* made its formal submission to HEFCE in October 2010. The Directors were pleased to note that the *Society's* recommendations were strongly represented in HEFCE's appointment of members of the Modern Languages Sub-Panel, published in February 2011. The Executive Committee invited Professor Kersti Börjars, Chair of the Modern Languages Sub-Panel, to address its May 2011 meeting on the developing REF 2014 process.

The *Society* broadly welcomed the 'Languages Matter' report and the follow-up 'Languages Matter More and More' Report (launched in February 2011), and the recent HECSU report 'What Do Graduates Do?' (2010). At the same time, the Directors continue to underscore the difference between training in language skills and the disciplinary, research-led field that the *Society* represents. This year has seen an expansion of our concerns in response to the threats to the sustainability of the Arts and Humanities. In particular, the Directors expressed their acute concern at the proposals for the withdrawal of public funding from the teaching of the Humanities and Social Sciences. Whilst the protection proposed for strategically important Modern Languages is welcomed, the Directors have protested to the Rt. Hon. David Willetts, Minister for Universities and Science, at the drastic cuts planned for our subject and sister subjects (with which we share research and teaching interests and whose students are often also students of Modern Languages). The Directors wrote to the Rt. Hon. Michael Gove to express the grave concern of colleagues throughout the UK and in Europe at the suspension of the British Council Language Teaching Assistantship scheme. We welcomed the reprieve of the scheme, but remain alert to threats. Still in the context of study abroad, letters were written to the Rt. Hon. David Willetts and to Sir Alan Langlands, Chief Executive of HEFCE, urging the retention of the fee waiver for study abroad *beyond* 2012. The *Society* has continued to be concerned at the real and threatened contraction of modern language provision in UK and overseas universities. Letters of protest about threats to degrees in French and other modern languages were sent to the Vice-Chancellors of Swansea University, the University of Glasgow and the State University of New York at Albany, and about the threatened withdrawal of all

undergraduate and postgraduate programmes in Philosophy at Middlesex University. The Directors noted with relief the reprieve of languages at Swansea University and at the University of Glasgow, but continue to monitor the situation in languages at other affected universities. The Directors have been in correspondence with AUPHF on matters to do with the Research Excellence Framework exercise and the contraction of British Academy funding schemes. The *Society* has expressed its support for initiatives from the British Universities Transatlantic Exchange Association (BUTEX) (regarding the fee waiver), from Arts and Humanities Users Group (A-HUG) (over the termination of British Academy 'Small Grants'), and from other associations and scholarly lobbies over 'Impact' and over the politicisation of the AHRC's Delivery Plan (SFS was signatory to a collective letter published in the *Times Higher Education*, 21 April 2011). In May, the Directors responded to the Green Paper '*From Challenges to Opportunities: Towards a Common Strategic Framework for EU Research and Innovation Funding*'.

In response to the HEFCE circular on the REF calendar and assessment criteria, the Directors had expressed their strong opposition to Impact as outlined in the Second Consultation document. Like other scholarly associations in the Arts and Humanities, they argued that the criteria for defining Impact and the proposed method of measuring Impact were at odds with the nature and the scope of the work of researchers in the broad field of French Studies. Furthermore, they stressed that the measurement of Impact needed to take account of the international arena in which the discipline of French Studies is necessarily positioned (not just the UK but also France, North America and Francophone countries including some in the southern hemisphere). The Directors urged an extension of the timeframe to December 2013 (rather than the 2012 as was initially proposed) and the inclusion of Linguistics and European Area Studies in the proposed European Languages and Studies Panel.

The Executive has been represented in the past year at one-day events organised by HEFCE, the British Academy, the Institut Français du Royaume-Uni, and the AUPHF. The *Society* and its Executive were strongly represented at the Conference held in London in October 2010 in memory of Professor Elizabeth Fallaize, a distinguished scholar and a former Co-Editor of *French Studies*.

Liverpool University Press is launching a volume of essays that explores the landscape of French and Francophone studies today. The volume, edited by Professor Philippe Lane and Professor Michael Worton, is the fruit of a one-day event held at the British Academy in Spring 2010. The Embassy offered to give a complimentary copy of the volume to each member of the *Society*, and was warmly thanked by the Directors for this generous gift.

Turning to the *Society's* publications, the Directors report on the activities for the year now ending and look ahead. *French Studies*, under General Editor Jean Duffy and Co-Editors Colin Davis and Neil Kenny, has enjoyed another very productive year. In the course of 2010-11 there has been a significant increase in the number of submissions from both UK and overseas contributors (representing a 27% increase on 2009-10). The quality of submissions remains high. One special number appeared in 2010. The *états présents* continue to attract a high readership and review coverage remains very wide. *French Studies* has appeared on time or ahead of schedule throughout the year. The journal moved to electronic submission (ScholarOne) for articles in October 2010 and the buoyancy in articles submissions, as well as feedback, indicates that authors have embraced this significant development. 128 articles in total were received between 1 May 2010 and 30 April 2011, of which 97 were submitted through ScholarOne from 1 October. As in 2009-10, the journal has been promoted at a wide range of international conferences. In summer 2011 the Oxford office of the journal moves from its accommodation in the Taylor Institute to rented premises in Wellington Square. The Directors are most grateful to Liz Skalka for overseeing the move, and to the Faculty of Medieval and Modern Languages at Oxford for its generous support of the journal and the *Society*. In 2012, Jean Duffy, as General Editor of *French Studies*, together with Colin Davis and Neil Kenny, the Co-Editors, will reach the end of their highly successful five-year period of office. The process to

appoint a new General Editor and, in turn, two Co-Editors, involved a Sub-Committee of the Executive Committee and the members of the journal's Editorial Board. Following consideration of all expressions of interest and an interviewing process, the next General Editor, Professor Timothy Unwin, was appointed with effect from January 2012. There followed the appointment of the new Co-Editors, Professor Russell Goulbourne (from January 2012) and Dr Sophie Marnette (from July 2012).

The *Society* also supports the *Research Monographs in French Studies Series* (Legenda). Under the direction of Professor Ann Jefferson, the Series has been consolidating its position as a key outlet for high-quality work. Four titles were published in 2010 with a further two scheduled for 2011. New titles are publicised via subject-specific mailing lists and websites and are receiving positive reviews; sales for recent titles appear to be at the top end of the norms for the series. The range of specialisms giving rise to proposals, especially in the Early Modern and broad Modern periods, is pleasing. Professor Jefferson will step down as General Editor of the Series in July 2012. The Executive Committee and the entire *Society* are deeply grateful to Professor Jefferson for her distinguished direction of the Series. The *Society* will be seeking to appoint a new General Editor with effect from summer 2012. The introduction of terms of office for Ordinary members of the Editorial Board extends to RMFS the broad policy of the *Society's* publications, enabling the Board to combine continuity with the introduction to key editorial experience of emerging strong researchers.

*French Studies Bulletin*, under the editorship of Professor Mary Orr, has seen a substantial increase in submissions, with medieval and broad modern areas strongly represented. A range of exciting initiatives is bearing fruit: double peer reviewing as established policy; more generous word length for articles; PhD awards listing, *inter alia*. International members of the Consultative Panel have been active in publicising *FSB* overseas. Dr Maeve McCusker and Dr Julia Prest have agreed to be nominated to serve on the Consultative Panel of *FSB*. The Directors express their warm thanks to the outgoing members of the Consultative Panel: Dr Susie Bainbrigge and Dr Joseph Harris.

The running of the *Society's* annual prizes has continued to be undertaken by members of the Executive and provides an excellent way of responding to work in French Studies at all levels, from the undergraduate essay through to the prize-winning book. In the fourth year of the Malcolm Bowie Prize, Professor Edward Hughes as the *Society's* Vice-President chaired the jury. The jury has seen the appointment of two new members, Professor Sarah Kay (Princeton) and Professor Michel Jeanneret (Geneva), both international authorities in their field. Professor Alison Finch gave a fourth distinguished year of service. The *Society's* Vice-President and President are *ex officio* members of the jury. The quality of the work presented was again conspicuously high. For the funding of the R.H. Gapper Undergraduate and Postgraduate prizes and the Gapper Book Prize, the *Society* continues to be generously sponsored by the R.H. Gapper Charitable Trust. The now long-established support of the Trust has brought enormous benefit to the *Society* and the Directors wish to record their continuing gratitude to Mr Richard Gapper and the Trust. Each of the three R.H. Gapper Prizes this year again drew excellent submissions. Dr Mary Noonan and Professor Michael Syrotinski coordinated the work of the Postgraduate and Undergraduate Prizes respectively. For the R.H. Gapper Book Prize, a six-person jury (Professor Diana Holmes (chair), Professor Adrian Armstrong, Professor Jennifer Birkett, Professor Christopher Johnson, Professor Noël Peacock, and Professor Eric Robertson) assessed the submitted material, which produced a very strong field. The winner is Ardis Butterfield for her book *The Familiar Enemy: Chaucer, Language and Nation in the Hundred Years War* (OUP). The Executive Committee is grateful to Professor Holmes for her major contribution as Chair of the Jury, and thanks all the jury members for their insight and their hard work.

The Executive Committee has continued to receive the helpful guidance and support of its Finance Sub-Committee, which meets annually, and especially of Mr Richard Gapper. Under the direction of its Honorary Treasurer Dr Hugh Roberts, the *Society* maintained its sound

financial position in 2010. The *Society's* surplus for the year's activities was £27,361, a slight increase on the figure of £25,902 for 2009 (and compared to the figure of £23,563 in 2008). Income received from investments increased, though less strongly than in 2009, and income from bank interest continued low. The surplus for the year, including unrealised gains in the value of investments, is £35,928 (compared to £38,586 in 2009). The *Society's* annual income comes from two main sources: members' subscriptions and royalties on sales of our publications. The Directors are most grateful to Mr Richard Gapper for his support and advice. For all his sustained and significant work in this crucial area of the *Society's* operation, the Directors express their gratitude to Dr Hugh Roberts.

The *Society* was able to maintain its commitment to the activities it supports: these include subsidies for postgraduate students attending the Annual Conference and for the support of other conferences or symposia in French studies via the Conference Fund, administered expertly by Professor Charles Forsdick. The level of the *Society's* financial support remained constant in 2010 for these budget headings, and a subsidy was provided for seven scholarly events in the French studies field.

Under the direction of Dr Wendy Michallat, the *Society's* database incorporating Current Research data for both established academics and postgraduates, launched in 2009, is maintained. The database has been made available to non-members and members alike and allows researchers to provide up-to-date information about their current research. Dr Michallat has worked to link the *Society's* electronic Membership page to our CAF Bank facility, thus enabling members and others to make payments to the *Society*. Dr Kate Griffiths, as Publicity Officer, has done much throughout 2010-11 to ensure that information about the *Society's* events and awards circulates to the profession through electronic and print media.

Dr Chris Tinker continues his invaluable work as Membership Secretary, achieving very buoyant membership levels despite the current pressured economic context. The *Society* is indebted to Dr Tinker for his pro-active work in this crucial area. Ms Claire Peters, in her first year as Postgraduate Officer, has been imaginative and energetic in promoting the *Society*, its activities and its publications to doctoral students, and is currently planning a dedicated postgraduate event.

The roles of a number of members of the Executive Committee change with the 2011 AGM. Professor Edward Hughes steps down, having served with great distinction, vision and commitment as Vice-President (2007-08, 2010-11) and as President (2008-10). Professor Charles Forsdick is the Executive Committee's nominee for Vice-President. Professor Di Holmes is now succeeded as Chair of the Jury by Professor Chris Johnson. Dr Mark Orme takes on the role of Conference Grants Officer, replacing Professor Forsdick. Professor Michael Syrotinski has agreed to serve for a further year as co-ordinator of the R.H. Gapper Undergraduate Essay Competition. The Honorary Secretary, Dr Stephen Forcer, reaches the end of his successful tenure. The *Society's* nominee for incoming Honorary Secretary is current Executive Committee member Dr Emma Campbell.

Looking further ahead, the Honorary Treasurer, Dr Hugh Roberts, will step down in July 2012. The Executive Committee's nominee to succeed Dr Roberts is Dr Fiona Cox, and the proposal is that she shadow the outgoing Honorary Treasurer in 2011-12. The *Society's* Conference Officer, Dr Adam Watt, steps down in July 2012 and the Executive Committee's proposal is that he be succeeded by Dr David Evans, who would shadow the outgoing Conference Officer and present the Exeter 2012 conference.

Susan Harrow  
May 2011

**Treasurer's Report to AGM 2011**  
**For financial year ended 31 December 2010**

In 2010, the Society managed to maintain its sound financial foundation. The Society's surplus based on its various activities came to £27,361, an increase compared to the figure of £25,902 in 2009. Our investments also continued to gain value, although at a lower rate than in 2009, meaning that the surplus for the year, including unrealised gains in the value of our investments, came to £35,928, compared to £38,586 in 2009 and £39 in 2008 (when the value of our investments fell considerably).

The Society's annual income comes from two main sources: royalties on sales of the journal and members' subscriptions. The figures are broadly consistent between 2009 and 2010, with the royalties providing an income of £33,686 in 2010 while membership subscriptions earned the society £14,648. The surpluses the Society has made in 2009 and 2010 are primarily down to the improved, on-going contract with OUP and to the maintenance of our membership income.

In 2010, the Society was able to increase its commitment to the activities it supports: these include subsidising postgraduate students attending the annual conference, the support of other conferences or symposia in French Studies subsidies and the Research Monographs in French Studies (Legenda) publications.

I would again like to record my thanks to Mr Richard Gapper and the other members of the finance sub-committee that exists to support the work of the Treasurer.

Hugh Roberts  
Honorary Treasurer

## **FRENCH STUDIES REPORT**

Report by the Editors, *French Studies*

### **Statistics for Volume LXIV (2010)**

Articles printed	20
Medieval	1
16 <sup>th</sup> century	2
17 <sup>th</sup> century	1
18 <sup>th</sup> century	1
19 <sup>th</sup> century	2
20 <sup>th</sup> / 21 <sup>st</sup> century	13
<i>États présents</i>	4

Of the 20 articles published, 13 were from the UK, 4 were from the United States, 2 were from Ireland, 1 was from France, and 1 was from Canada. Of the *états présents* published, two were from the UK, one was from the United States, and one was from Switzerland. The relatively high number of 20<sup>th</sup>-century articles published is explained by the fact that the Special Issue had a 20<sup>th</sup>-century focus. The balance will be redressed in volume LXV in which a Special Issue focuses on 'Collections' from the 13<sup>th</sup> to the 18<sup>th</sup> century.

Books reviewed: 240

Books received: 380

### **Submissions**

Articles:

The journal continues to attract articles from across the discipline and from many different countries. At the last AGM, the Editors reported an increase in submissions of 43% for 2009-2010 (with an increase of around 64% in the period from November to end of April). We are pleased to report a further increase of 27% between 1 May 2010 and 30 April 2011. As in previous years, the standard of articles submitted to *French Studies* has been, in general, very high. The steady increase in high-quality articles has inevitably resulted in an increase in the number of acceptances. From January 2011, before sending out new articles for peer-review, we wrote to authors to inform them that the publication queue was longer than usual. Response to this approach has been very positive: very few authors withdrew and those who did welcomed the journal's openness. We would expect some reduction in submissions from UK authors in the period immediately preceding and following the REF. However, since such a significant proportion of submissions currently come from abroad, we would not expect the drop to be as steep as in the equivalent RAE2008 period.

128 articles were submitted between 1 May 2010 and 30 April 2011 from a wide range of countries including: Great Britain and Ireland, the United States, Canada, France, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, Belgium, Austria, Czech Republic, Germany, Greece, Italy,

Netherlands, Spain, Poland, India, Israel, Jordan, Turkey, Japan. The following table provides a detailed breakdown:

Country of Submitting Author	Articles submitted from 1 May until 1 October via Taylor Office or directly (not including articles revised and resubmitted through ScholarOne)	Total submitted via ScholarOne from October until 21 March	<b>Total</b>
Australia		2	<b>2</b>
Austria		1	<b>1</b>
Belgium		1	<b>1</b>
Canada	1	8	<b>9</b>
Czech Republic		1	<b>1</b>
France	1	3	<b>4</b>
Germany	2	2	<b>4</b>
Greece	1	0	<b>1</b>
India	1	0	<b>1</b>
Ireland		4	<b>4</b>
Israel	1	1	<b>2</b>
Italy		4	<b>4</b>
Japan		2	<b>2</b>
Jordan	1	1	<b>2</b>
Netherlands		2	<b>2</b>
New Zealand		1	<b>1</b>
Poland		1	<b>1</b>
South Africa		1	<b>1</b>
Spain		2	<b>2</b>
Turkey	2	3	<b>5</b>
United Kingdom	10	28	<b>38</b>
United States	11	28	<b>39</b>
unknown		1	<b>1</b>
	<b>31</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>128</b>

## Reviews:

The range and number of reviews remain unrivalled within the discipline. At a time of mounting pressure on colleagues, securing reviewers remains a challenge, but we have taken a number of measures to reduce review defaulting, conduct regular stocktaking exercises and continue to widen our overseas reviewer database. We currently have a good stock of reviews.

## *États présents:*

The *états présents*, which are freely available on the *French Studies* web site, continue to attract a large readership. Volume LXIV included four *états présents* on the following topics: Renaissance Travel Writing, Molière, Balzac, Gracq.

## Special Issues:

A special issue, entitled 'New Ekphrastic Poetics', edited by Susan Harrow, was published in July 2010 and another one, entitled 'Collections' and edited by Wendy Ayres-Bennett and Catherine Volpilhac-Auger, will appear in July 2011.

## **ScholarOne and Office**

In early October 2010, the journal moved all its article business to ScholarOne Manuscripts (formerly Manuscript Central). In order to reduce pressure on the Taylor Office, to ensure as smooth a transition as possible between the old and new systems and to give contributors advance notice, a moratorium on article submissions was imposed in September and the new arrangements were publicised on the Oxford Journals website. The submission of manuscripts began on 4 October, three days ahead of the official launch date. We are very pleased to report that the system has to date worked very well and that contributors and readers have reported positively. The very healthy submission rate offers good evidence that the move to electronic submission has not discouraged authors; on the contrary, it appears to have encouraged them. ScholarOne offers a number of practical benefits, the most important of which is the centralisation of activities and information which allows close tracking of articles and reports through the peer-review process.

The volume of journal business has increased to such an extent in the course of the last few years that it was found necessary, with effect from the launch of ScholarOne Manuscripts, to split the role of editorial assistant into two. Mrs Skalka continues to run the *French Studies* Oxford office and to deal with all business relating to reviews, while administrative matters relating to articles are being handled through OUP's Virtual Editorial Office by our new Editorial Assistant, Paula Potter. Thanks to the efficiency and commitment of Mrs Skalka and Ms Potter, this new administrative arrangement has worked very well from the outset and has provided a neat solution to the office workload problem. Michael Wood continues to provide excellent copy-editing services to the journal.

In March the President and Editors were informed that the Society and journal would have to move out of their current premises in the Taylor Institution because of essential building work. Alternative premises have been found in Wellington Square at a charge of £3000 per annum (including utilities). After consultation undertaken by the President with the SFS Finance committee and, in particular, Richard Gapper, regarding the terms of the new arrangement, the move was approved by the Executive Committee on 7 May. Although this move means an

increase in costs, the Editors welcome it because of the security and stability which a more formal arrangement will bring. It has also been accepted by all concerned that, after 60+ years of 'gratis' accommodation for which we are immensely grateful to the Taylor Institution and the University of Oxford, we must now 'pay our way'. This is a modest rent and it has been agreed that it is a fair one given our operation.

### **Production and Publicity**

As in past years, the Editors have worked closely with colleagues in production and in publicity at Oxford University Press to ensure timeliness of publication and to maximise impact within the international scholarly community. In 2010 and 2011 the journal has appeared on or ahead of schedule. *French Studies* continues to be represented at an agreed list of international conferences which is reviewed annually.

### **Conclusion and thanks**

The increased submission rate, the quality of the submissions received and the very wide geographical distribution of authors and reviewers offer strong evidence of the journal's international standing and its impact within and beyond the discipline. The move to ScholarOne has brought tangible benefits and, in particular, has helped the Editors to cope with the increase in submissions. Sales of the journal remain strong.

The Editorial Board, Advisory Board and Executive Committee provided strong support throughout the year. The Editors thank the members of both Boards and of the Executive for their invaluable contribution to the journal. The Editors would like to thank Mrs Skalka, Ms Potter and Mr Wood for their support and their expertise. Thanks are also due to the following colleagues at OUP: Clare Morton, George Root, Colleen Cusworth, Simone Larché and Rachel Mill. Finally, the Editors thank the authors who have submitted work in the course of the last year and the many colleagues who have acted as readers and reviewers.

Jean Duffy, Colin Davis, Neil Kenny  
May 2011

# SOCIETY FOR FRENCH STUDIES

## ***French Studies Bulletin***

Report for AGM, July 2011

### **A. Issues 116-119 (Autumn 2010-Summer 2011) Articles received May 2010-April 2011**

**Articles published (issues 112-115 in brackets) (May 2009-April 2010 in brackets)**

<b>Medieval 5 (1)</b>	<b>6 (3)</b>
<b>16<sup>th</sup> Century 1 (2)</b>	<b>3 (2)</b>
<b>17<sup>th</sup> Century 2 (1)</b>	<b>2 (1)</b>
<b>18<sup>th</sup> Century 1 (0)</b>	<b>2 (1)</b>
<b>19<sup>th</sup> Century 3 (7)</b>	<b>8 (8)</b>
<b>20<sup>th</sup>/21<sup>st</sup> Centuries 3 (3)</b>	<b>8 (6)</b>
<b>Theory/Philosophy 1 (0)</b>	<b>2 (2)</b>
<b>Language * (1)</b>	<b>3 (1)</b>
<b>History/Politics 0* (1)</b>	<b>1 (1)</b>
<b>Film 0 (0)</b>	<b>1 (0)</b>
<b>Francophone + politics 1 (1)</b>	<b>1 (1)</b>
<b>Total 18 (17)</b>	<b>37* (26)</b>

Of the 17 items published (excluding the Gapper Undergraduate Essay prize article), no 'comment' pieces were published (although one has been received and is with panel readers). 7 conference reports were published (3 the previous year) and 2 PG conference reports.

\*Of the articles rejected, 3 were withdrawn by their authors at the stage when panel readers required revisions to be made before final acceptance. In the 37 are counted: 2 articles which have already been accepted for *FSB120*, and 4 which have been accepted subject to further revisions being made.

### **B. Consultative Panel**

As reported at the AGM 2010, The Editor of *FSB* invited two international members to join the Consultative Panel, Dr Michael Finn (Ryerson, Canada) and Dr Barbara Hanna (University of Queensland). Both colleagues were involved in proactive publicity on behalf of *FSB* and the Editor would like to thank both international panel members for this work as well as for their active participation in reading articles submitted. Dr Finn circulated a publicity flier from the *FSB* Editor and he composed in November 2010 to all heads of French in the US/Canada; Dr Hanna included publicity in the *Carnet Austral*. A small but increasing number of contributions are now being submitted from US/Canada/RoW.

The two UK/Ireland members of the consultative panel who have come to the end of their period of service are Drs. Susan Bainbrigge (20/21c) and Joseph Harris (17c). The Editor of *FSB* would like to thank them most warmly for their work for the journal. The Executive Committee nomination to replace Dr Bainbrigge is [Dr Maeve McCusker (Queen's, Belfast)] and [Dr Julia Prest (St Andrews)] to replace Dr Harris. The remaining panel members for 2011-12 are Dr James Simpson (Medieval); Prof. David Cowling (16<sup>th</sup> Century); Dr Caroline Warman (18<sup>th</sup> Century); Prof Anne Green (19<sup>th</sup> Century) Dr Mari Jones (Language) and Dr Kay Chadwick (history/politics).

### **C. Report on the New Developments announced in the Editor's AGM statement (July 2010)**

1. Articles with accompanying image/sound files (see *FSB* 113):  
Although the Editor has actively been seeking further contributions with accompanying links, none has been submitted in 2010-11. Potential contributors are warmly invited to consider *FSB* as a suitable outlet for such material.
2. Postgraduate Bulletin Board (see *FSB* 115):  
The listing of doctoral awards in French/Francophone studies from Institutions in the UK and Ireland (since Jan. 2008) has been much appreciated in the sector, among postgraduates and Heads of French Departments. Ms Catherine Crimp (Cambridge), the SFS Postgraduate rep., stepped down in Autumn 2010 and was replaced by Ms Claire Peters (Birmingham). Both are to be thanked for their proactive work as contact points/collators of information on PhDs awarded and for encouraging submission of PGR conference reports.
3. The OUP *FSB* Homepage was revamped to include a revised short mission statement for the journal.  
The Editor was also able to announce that the old word limit (1200-1500 words) was being increased to a maximum of 2000 words (including reference matter). It is to be noted that ALL the articles published in issues 116-119 (the Gapper Undergraduate Essay Prize excepted) have a word count of this new upper limit.

### **D. New Initiatives introduced by the Editor of *FSB* in 2010-11**

- \*Double\* peer review is now firmly embedded, to bring *FSB* firmly in line with *French Studies*. The Editor has also approached a third reader and/or specialists outside the Panel several occasions in 2010-11. This procedure has resolved anonymity worries of a couple of panel members. While double peer review can cause delays in turning round articles in 4-6 weeks (the average turn-round time is closer to two months due to the workload pressures of all Panel members), no contributor has complained. Increased copy flow, length of copy, numbers of articles requiring revisions have meant that all panel members, and the *FSB* Editor, have more work. However the result is that overall copy quality has been driven up.
- In line with *French Studies* a new inside front cover was introduced in *FSB*118: Panel Membership details and the Editor's Note giving submission information have been moved to this more visible position.
- *FSB* Postgraduate Bulletin Board: inclusion of Annual SFS Conference PG Posters. Copyright issues proved too complex for 'publication' of the posters to go forward. From 2011, however, the posters will be given a proper platform and space in *FSB* through a report dedicated to them, produced by the *FSB* PG rep. to appear in the WINTER issue.

Prof. Mary Orr, May/June 2011

## Report on Research Monographs in French Studies (Legenda) May 2010 - May 2011

*Editorial Board:* Adrian Armstrong, Janice Carruthers, Nick Harrison, Ann Jefferson (General Editor), Neil Kenny and Bill Marshall

After last year's bumper crop of 4 titles, this year has seen a slightly more modest two:

Anna KEMP (KCL/ Oxford/ Southampton), *Voices and Veils: Feminism and Islam in French Women's Writing and Activism* RMFS 29 (published September 2010);

Mairi MCLAUGHLIN (Berkeley - ex Cambridge), *Syntactic Borrowing in Contemporary French* RMFS 30 (published May 2011).

There are currently four titles in preparation with publication dates planned for 2012.

The number of proposals received this year is the largest ever and they have spanned the field of French studies from the C16th to the present day, and a good many of them have an interdisciplinary flavour to include music, the visual arts and film. Interest has come from overseas as well as the UK and appears to be growing. Academic standards remain high and the work published under the RMFS/ Legenda imprint is testimony in these beleaguered times to the quality of work being produced in French studies.

Thanks go as ever to the members of the Editorial Board, to the external readers whose expertise we call upon and to Graham Nelson, managing editor at Legenda all of whom contribute to making the work we publish as good as it possibly can be.

The terms of office for the members of the Editorial Board and for the General Editor have been reviewed by the Executive Committee of the SFS and it has been agreed that henceforth they should be: 3 years (for a maximum of 8) for members of the Board, and 5 years (renewable for 5) for the General Editor. This will retain the benefits of accumulated experience and long-term commitment while allowing for the periodic introduction of fresh talent.

**New proposals received:** 11 (10) (8) (*figures for previous years in brackets*)

Proposals accepted: 3 (4) (2)

Proposals rejected: 6 (3) (3)

Proposals still under consideration: (2) 3 (4)

### **Breakdown of proposals by area:**

*Linguistics:* (0) 1 (0)

*Medieval:* (0) 3 (0)

*Early-Modern:* 3 (0) (0)

*C19th:* 3 (0) (2)

*C20th/ 21<sup>st</sup>:* 2 (2) (2)

*Theory/ Cultural Studies:* (0) 1 (1)

*Film:* 0 (0) (1)

*Francophone:* 3 (3) (2)

Ann Jefferson  
General Editor  
RMFS/ Legenda

26 April 2011

## **Society for French Studies AGM 2011**

### **Report of the IT Officer**

It has been a relatively quiet year on the IT front with activity mainly limited to ensuring regular updating of the Society's web site with news relating principally to the Conference and Gapper and Malcolm Bowie Prize awards. A Charities Aid Foundation (CAF) link has been set up to enable membership payments. This replaces the Paypal option which was proving difficult and costly to administer. The Current Research database has had a number of entries but not as many as one would have hoped (80!) two years after its launch. Another PR 'campaign' is evidently needed and I shall take this in hand over the summer. Meantime, members who have not yet done so are strongly encouraged to register on the database and enter their details: <http://www.hri.shef.ac.uk/frenchstudies/>

The web site and database are hosted by the University of Sheffield. The Humanities Research Institute has ironed out a number of database glitches and compatibility issues over the course of the last year for which the Society records its thanks.

Suggestions for improvements/additions to the website and database are always welcome and I would encourage members to e-mail me with suggestions.

Dr W Michallat  
w.michallat@sheffield.ac.uk

## **Membership Secretary's report to 2011 SFS AGM**

At the start of 2011 the Society had 510 members. At 7 May 2011, membership stood at 514 with 185 members paying at the reduced rate. 16 new members have joined the Society since January 2011. The reduced rate continues to be appreciated by low- and non-waged members. Those members who have resigned from the Society have done so mainly for the following reasons: change in financial circumstances; change in professional circumstances; consultation of *French Studies* at home institution library.

From January 2011 I have been recording payments on our new membership database with assistance from Mrs Sheila Hodder (Heriot-Watt). Thanks to our IT Officer Wendy Michallat and colleagues at the HRI (Sheffield) for their assistance with the database. Throughout the year, I have also been liaising with Paula Thomson, Renewals and Society Executive at OUP, and with our Postgraduate Officer Claire Peters.

### **2011 Membership Fees**

In 2008 membership fees were raised for the first time in nearly ten years, and no change is currently envisaged. The following rates apply:

Payment by Standing Order or Bank Transfer: £50 with a reduced rate of £25.

Payment by Cheque: £55 (70 euro) with a reduced rate of £27.50 (35 euro).

Online Payment - Credit/Debit Card: £55 (70 euro) with a reduced rate of £27.50 (35 euro) using our new online donation service with CAF Bank. Thanks to our Treasurer Hugh Roberts and Wendy Michallat for their work on introducing this service, which will facilitate development of the Society's membership beyond the UK.

I am very grateful to the Executive and the Society's members for their continued support, and look forward to working with colleagues in the coming year on developing the Society's membership further.

Chris Tinker  
Membership Secretary  
3.6.11

## **SFS 2011 AGM: Report of the Publicity Officer**

- **Gapper Essay Prizes**

Posters for the undergraduate and postgraduate R.H. Gapper Essay Prizes were sent to Heads of Department in the UK and Ireland. To maintain the range of institutions submitting entries for both prize competitions, letters were again sent to all external examiners of departments in the UK and Ireland encouraging them to identify potential entries. The prizes were also announced on a series of electronic mailing lists. Last year's prize winners were publicised via *French Studies Bulletin*, the SFS website and a variety of electronic mailing lists.

- **Gapper Book Prize**

Publicity for the Gapper Book Prize was sent to Heads of Department in the UK and Ireland. The call for submissions was also announced on a series of electronic mailing lists. Publicity for the winners of the previous competition was disseminated via electronic mailing lists, various websites and *French Studies Bulletin*. I have also contacted Oxford University Press, the press publishing this year's winning monograph, and arranged for SFS publicity to appear on the web page for this book.

- **Malcolm Bowie Prize**

Posters for the Malcolm Bowie prize were sent to all UK and Irish Heads of Department in addition to being advertised via electronic mailing lists and the SFS website. They were also sent to US, Australian, and New Zealand French departments electronically and to a series of key journals. The winners of the prizes, once decisions have been finalised, will be publicised shortly via electronic mailing lists, *French Studies Bulletin* and the SFS website.

- **Annual Conference**

The call for papers, programme details and registration procedures for the annual conference were publicised via a mail shot, a series of electronic mailing lists and various websites.

- **SFS News**

The 'SFS News' section of *French Studies Bulletin* was used to keep members up to date with the society's events and activities throughout the year. The recently-reinstated section entitled 'Forthcoming Events' continues to thrive and I would welcome any short announcements from members wishing to publicise activities in the sphere of French and Francophone studies. Please send such announcements to [k.s.griffiths@swansea.ac.uk](mailto:k.s.griffiths@swansea.ac.uk)

- **Postgraduate Funding Opportunities**

Repeating the exercise initiated last year to compile a list of AHRC postgraduate funding available in the area of French and Francophone studies, I sent a request for information to Heads of Department in the UK and Ireland. A specific form was designed and used this year to gather more detailed information. I also included a call for such information in *French Studies Bulletin*. As happened last year, the provisional list will shortly be made available.

- **Membership Drive**

The Membership Secretary and I will, once the Society's international payment mechanisms have been reviewed, shortly plan a membership drive targeting specifically France and North America.

Kate Griffiths  
Swansea University  
SFS Publicity Officer

## Report on Gapper UG Essay prize for Society for French Studies 2011 AGM

### Entries

There was once again a large number of entries for the Gapper UG Essay prize this year (43, almost matching the 46 in 2009), and once again it was pleasing to note the wide diversity of topics. The number of different institutions putting forward the work of their students to the competition was down on last year (20, as opposed to 25 in 2009), and there were no post-1992 universities represented this year, and no entries from outside Great Britain. Entries were received from Lancaster (2), Reading (1), Leeds (2), Cambridge (1), Swansea (3), Glasgow (3), Stirling (3), Aberdeen (3), Edinburgh (1), St. Andrew's (1), Durham (1), Nottingham (2), ULIP (2), UCL (3), King's (3), QMUL (2), Warwick (3), Bristol (2), Sussex (2), and Birmingham (3).

Of the topics covered, the biggest group was literary in some form or another (27), but this meant that half of the entries were on non-literary topics, including film and media, philosophy, francophone (post)colonial studies, French society and politics, and cross-cultural/comparative in scope. In terms of historical spread, there was a marked preponderance on entries on 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> century topics (30), but most periods were represented, including Medieval (6), Renaissance (1), 18<sup>th</sup> century (1), and 19<sup>th</sup> century (5).

### The evaluation process

As was the case last year, for the first round assessments I had to approach many more reviewers outside of the Executive Committee than in the past in order to get two independent specialist evaluations for each of the essays. Almost without exception, however, everyone we approached was very happy to assist in the process. Readers provided numerical grades alongside the letter grades, and this greatly facilitated the process of arriving at a shortlist of the 6 essays with the highest aggregate scores (all 80 or over on the grading scale). The shortlisted essays were then all read and evaluated by a second round panel comprising Susan Harrow (President), Eddie Hughes (Vice-President), Mary Orr (Editor of *French Studies Bulletin*), Mary Noonan (Gapper Postgraduate Essay Prize coordinator), and Michael Syrotinski (Gapper Undergraduate Essay prize coordinator).

The panel selected as a clear winner of this year's prize the essay by Claire Strickett, a student at Glasgow University, for her essay on the following topic: "*Femmes-démons* or victims? Reconsidering the source of the malevolent in Maupassant's *contes fantastiques*."

The runner-up in this year's competition was Aimee Linekar, from St. Andrew's University, for an essay answering the question: "'Dis-moi ce que tu manges, je te dirai ce que tu es.'" (Jean Anthelme Brillat-Savarin, *Aphorisme IV*.) Examine the roles of food, drink and intoxication in Jean-Claude Izzo's *Chourmo* in light of this quotation. Do ingestion and digestion carry particular significance for the genre of crime fiction in particular, and for literature as a whole?"

The winner and runner-up were approved by Richard Gapper.

I would also like to thank all the many readers, both on and off the Executive committee, for taking the time to read and comment upon the essays so carefully, and for sharing their expert judgements so willingly and cheerfully.

Michael Syrotinski, May 2011

## REPORT OF THE SFS CONFERENCE OFFICER

### **Queen Mary, University of London, 4–6 July 2011**

A total of 123 delegates will be attending the 52<sup>nd</sup> annual conference. This includes 26 post-graduate students (these figures are up from 96 and 18 respectively at Swansea last year). There will be delegates from the UK and Ireland, Austria, Belgium, Finland, France, Italy and Romania, as well as ten delegates from North America. A little under half of this year's delegates will be residential at Queen Mary. This year registration fees have been paid by delegates by cheque or direct bank transfer; this has worked very efficiently and without the difficulties encountered previously with the PayPal facility. The organisation of the conference has gone well and the programme is as rich and varied as ever, including plenary lectures from four high-profile speakers, Anne Simon, Richard Terdiman, Marie Darrieussecq and Richard Parish. The volume *French Studies in and for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*, edited by Philippe Lane and Michael Worton, and published by Liverpool University Press, will be launched at the conference, in the presence of the Editors. A visit is planned to the Huguenot silk weaver's house and synagogue at 19 Princelet Street, Spitalfields on the afternoon of Tuesday 5 July. A jazz ensemble, the Tony Woods Project, will play for delegates on the evening of Tuesday 5 July and I am delighted that Liverpool University Press is sponsoring this musical interlude in the conference programme. For the first time this year the plenary sessions will be digitally recorded and made available for free download from the Society's website after the conference.

### **University of Exeter, 2–4 July 2012**

In a new move the call for papers for next year's conference is to be circulated via Francofil, Fabula and other usual information routes *before* the 2011 conference (normally it is first circulated in delegates' packs at the event). This is in an effort to increase the length of time would-be panel speakers have to consider possible contributions; it might also permit fuller discussion of the next event at this year's conference. Preparations are underway for the Exeter conference: provisional bookings for conference rooms and accommodation have been made and an initial deposit paid. Plenary speakers are yet to be confirmed.

### Other Future Conferences

Summary:

2013 Nottingham Mon 1 to Weds 3 July

2014 Aberdeen Mon 7 to Weds 9 July

The Society welcomes bids to host future conferences: interested parties should contact the conference officer and the President of the Society.

Adam Watt, 31 May 2011

## Conference and seminar grants 2010-11

There were again three deadlines for grant applications in the course of the year (see 'Application schedule' below). The following seven applicants were awarded a subvention:

- 'Art in French Fiction since 1900', University of Nottingham, 11-12 April 2011: **£300**
- 'Minorités en vue', Lancaster University, 6 May 2011: **£250**
- 'Writing Upon the Limit: Writing in the Philosophy of Jean-Luc Nancy', University of Dundee, 13 May 2011: **£150**
- 'Technology: Between Progress and Conflict'/annual postgraduate workshop of the Society for Francophone Postcolonial, University of Oxford, 7 June 2011: **£140**
- 'States of Crime: The State in Crime Fiction', QUB, 17-18 June 2011: **£250**
- 'Continuities and Discontinuities'/Annual conference of ASMCF, University of Stirling, 1-3 September 2011: **£300**
- London French Postgraduate Conference 2011/'The Many Faces of Madness: Representations of Madness in French Literature from the Middle Ages to the present', 14 November 2011: **£300**

The annual total awarded was **£1,690**. An additional **£200** was retained for an event postponed from March 2010 and rescheduled in September 2010. A refund was also received from an event which took place in September 2009; the Society originally awarded a grant of £300, but the conference made a profit.

The Society's criteria were addressed and met in all cases above, and the Executive bore in mind the desirability in particular of grants being put towards aims for which other monies were not available (travel costs of distinguished speakers, bursaries for graduate students etc), and of a range of topics and geographical locations being represented. Given the wish to spread subsidies over as many eligible events as possible, the maximum guideline was not exceeded; and, wherever a bid was lower than the maximum, no more than the sum requested was paid. The Executive continue to monitor the appropriateness of the annual budget allocation to the conference grant scheme. There has been a reduction in the number of applications for support received this session (8 in total for 2010/11, compared to 15 in 2009/10, when a sum of **£2,795** was awarded). This reduction may reflect patterns of research activity given the stage at which we find ourselves in the REF cycle. In the light of declining sources of alternative funding, both institutional and external, the Executive recommends nevertheless that the *Society* maintain the level of funding for grants in support of conferences held in the UK or Ireland at £4,000 for 2011/12.

I am pleased to report that again this year punctuality in the arrival of applications no longer appears to be an issue. The modified schedule of deadlines suggested three years ago appears to be working, and new guidelines approved last year – providing a clearer statement of eligibility and eligible costs – have assisted in the preparation and assessment of applications.

Application schedule:

- 1 April deadline for events taking place 1 Sept to 30 April
- 1 Sept deadline for events taking place 1 Jan to 31 August
- 1 Dec deadline for events taking place 1 May to 1 Jan

Charles Forsdick  
1 June 2011

## Report of the Postgraduate Officer, 2011 AGM

In my first year as postgraduate officer for SFS I have been warmly welcomed by the executive committee, and made keenly aware of the scope for postgraduates within the Society. So far this year, I have been working to find the best ways to communicate with the wider postgraduate community about the types of opportunities and support offered by the society. I am keen to continue to work with members of the team to plan more postgraduate events and 'spaces' for networking, training and dissemination.

- I have worked with Adam Watt, with IT support from Wendy Michallat, in preparation for the SFS Annual Conference, sending out a call for posters, and continuing to liaise with students regarding posters at the event, the PG Travel Grant and the broader possibilities for postgraduates at SFS. The posters will be displayed throughout the conference as an integral part of the event offering a chance for the postgraduates to discuss their projects and get valuable feedback as they develop their research. Members of the executive committee have stressed that this event is integral to the conference, and to the society's commitment to its postgraduate community. There will be a targeted postgraduate training event, the thematic focus of which, at the time of writing, is to be confirmed.
- I have continued the work that Catherine Crimp started with Professor Mary Orr on *FSB*, creating and developing an online space for postgraduates to network with each other and the professional academic world. Duties have included the announcement of successful PhDs, creating a database that lists awards and research interests. I aim to continue to work with Professor Orr to fulfil the potential of this type of online community, including a reassessment of the most successful ways to communicate to the postgraduate community about SFS and *FSB*.
- I intend to use the networking opportunities at the annual conference to get feedback about existing events, in order to plan some postgraduate specific workshops and training days in the coming year. I will also use this opportunity to liaise about the ongoing opportunities and spaces for publication in the form of book reviews and conference reports for *FSB*.
- I have liaised with Chris Tinker in relation to membership matters.

Claire Peters  
University of Birmingham