

To Executive Committee, ASMCF Membership
From Chris Tinker, President
Agendum 3 (AGM)
For Report/Discussion
Subject Report of the President

A. EVENTS

The following highly successful events took place over the course of the last year:

- The Association's 40th Anniversary annual conference was co-organised and hosted by the University of London Institute in Paris (ULIP) and the American University of Paris (AUP) on 4-6 September 2020 on the theme of 'The Transnational City'.
- The Douglas Johnson Memorial Lecture - 'Dining Out with the Free French in Wartime London' - took place 13 Jan 2020 at the Institut Français sponsored jointly by the ASMCF and the Society for the Study of French History and was delivered by Prof. Debra Kelly (University of Westminster).
- The Postgraduate Study Day, organised jointly with the Society for the Study of French History was held at Queens University Belfast on Saturday 7 March on the theme of 'Silences' with keynote speaker Dr Hannah Grayson (Stirling).

Although a number of events to be supported by the Initiative Fund were either cancelled or moved online due the COVID19 pandemic, the following physical events were sponsored and took place between September 2019 and September 2020:

Clare Siviter (Bristol), Theatre on the Move in Times of Conflict, 1750-1850, Magdalen College Oxford 18-19 Sep 2019 (£492)

Kari Mereau (TCD) 'The Freak and its Discontents: A Conference in Interdisciplinary Studies', 29-30 October 2019 (£289)

Fransiska Louwagie (Leicester) one-day international symposium on the legacy of traditional Franco-Belgian bande dessinée, 13 March 2020 (£480)

The Schools' Liaison and Outreach Activities Fund sponsored the following event in the year September 2019-September 2020:

Brian Sudlow (Aston) Online CLIL summer school 13-17 July 2020 (£500)

The Peter Morris Memorial Prize was awarded to Sky Herington from the University of Warwick.

B. PEOPLE

1. We welcomed a number of colleagues to the Executive Committee this year as new members or in new roles: Elizabeth Benjamin (Coventry) as Prizes Officer; Martin Goodman (Leeds) as Ordinary Member; Megan Ison as Postgraduate Representative; David Lees (Warwick) as Web Officer; and Helen McKelvey (QUB) as Postgraduate Representative. We have also been working closely with the University of Leeds conference team – particularly Sarah Waters – on the Executive Committee and thank her and her colleagues for all the hard work, commitment, resourcefulness and imagination that they have put into organising the conference as an Online Event during the particularly challenging circumstances of the COVID19 pandemic.
2. We also say farewell and many thanks to colleagues who are stepping down this year: Megan Ison as Postgraduate representative; Camille Jacob (Portsmouth) as Schools Liaison and Outreach Officer; and Timo Obergöker (Chester) as Membership Secretary.
3. Don't forget that we have a 'People' page on the website to introduce you to our committee members each year: <https://asmcf.org/contact-people/>

C. INITIATIVES

1. We launched the first of our virtual special issues of the journal *Modern and Contemporary France* on the theme of 'Teaching Kassovitz's *La Haine*'. The Virtual Special Issue is ideal for teachers of A-Level and their students (free until 31 December 2020). We will be launching further virtual special issues, exclusively for our members, on teaching Culture and Heritage; French Cinema; Music; France 1940-1950; and Camus' *L'Étranger*.
2. In the light of ongoing challenges facing Modern Languages in the UK, ASMCF continues to work with other subject associations towards joint initiatives to coordinate, promote and better fund the development of French-related Schools' Liaison and Outreach activities.
3. As the situation around COVID19 continues to evolve, the Association continues to run its funding schemes and other forms of support for members and the wider community as far as possible, while aiming to adapt its provision in response to the feedback and suggestions that it has been requesting of members.

Chris Tinker, President, 28 August 2020.

To Executive Committee, ASMCF Membership
From Fiona Barclay, Honorary Secretary
Agendum AGM
For Report/Discussion
Subject Report of the Honorary Secretary

In this as in other years, the Executive Committee of the Association has worked in pursuit of the Association's aims and objectives, progressing issues raised at the AGM and subsequently, and representing the views of members through engagement with relevant external bodies. The Executive met four times in the last twelve months, in November 2019, and in March, and virtually in May, and September 2020. Urgent business at other times was dispatched through e-mail and telephone conversations.

As well as these activities, the Association liaises with AUPHF, UCML, UKCASA and other professional bodies/subject associations to ensure that the broad range of interests in French and Area Studies is given an appropriate profile with government and funding bodies. We also engage with individual institutions and bodies where appropriate or necessary, and this year have with other learned societies made joint representation in favour of languages departments under threat.

The Honorary Secretary works to administer the Initiative Fund scheme, with applications received four times a year in advance of the Executive Committee meetings, and continues to administer the applications to the Editorial Board of Modern and Contemporary France, which is renewed on a rolling basis every November.

I would again like to take this opportunity to thank the President, Officers and members of the Executive for their support, and for their willingness to continue the constructive exchange of wide-ranging views which enable the continued development of the Association.

Fiona Barclay
Honorary Secretary
7 September 2020

ASSOCIATION FOR THE STUDY OF MODERN AND
 CONTEMPORARY FRANCE
 (Registered Charity Number 1014382)

Hon President: Chris Tinker
 Hon Secretary: Fiona Barclay
 Hon Vice Presidents:
 Jan Windebank
 Máire Cross
 David Hanley
 Siân Reynolds
 Hon Vice Secretary: Steve Wharton

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, SEPT. 2020
STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS for the period 01 August 2019 to 31 July 2020

CURRENT ACCOUNT

INCOME	2013/14	2014/15	2015/2016	2016/2017	2017/2018	2018/2019	2019/2020
Balance brought forward	708.95	1213.20	598.29	-613.87	-429.80	310.66	-166.44
Standing Orders	35.00	35.00	35.00	35.00	35.00	25.00	25.00
PG/Newsletter Subscriptions/Membership subscriptions	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Transfer from deposit	11000.00	15000.00	10000	20000	13586.41	14000.00	14800.00
Conference income	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Miscellaneous	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	145.00	
Income totals	11743.95	16248.20	10633.29	19421.13	13621.41	14170.00	14825.00
EXPENDITURE	2013/14	2014/15	2015/82016	2016/2017	2017/2018	2018/2019	2019/20
Editorial expenses (assistant)	3840.00	3840.00	3840.00	3840.00	3840.00	4848.00	4224.00
Editorial Board expenses	935.49	1604.54	1624.40	2044.30	1187.34	1577.07	1252.82
Association expenses	835.63	00.00	91.04	0.00	62.30	402.30	104.90
Website	55.00	25.00	30.00	65.88	30.00	181.40	30.00 (in misc.)
Executive Committee expenses	2707.75	2794.72	2788.31	3565.93	2252.51	2643.15	2527.16
Initiative Fund	900.00	1678.00	1217.00	725	770.79	2051.09	992.50
Conference subsidies	0.00	3729.86	0.00	5900.50	2786.41	350	1491.34
PG Journal subsidies	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
PG Conference subsidies	656.88	677.79	706.41	884.32	591.40	253.43	132.00
Brian Darling, Douglas Johnson and Peter Morris Prizes (£250 each)	500.00	750.00	750.00	500	1000.00	750.00	500.00
Subscriptions to Associations	100.00	550.00	200.00	0.00	0.00	200.00	0.00

Transfer to Deposit Account	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Visiting scholars	N/A	N/A	N/A	2325.00	0.00	0.00	2227.42
Post-graduate essay prize	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	115.00	100.00	100.00
Early career prize	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	250.00	0.00	765.00
Outreach	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	350.00	980.00	950.00
Bank fees	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	75.00	0.00	0.00
Expenditure totals	10530.75	15649.91	11247.16	19850.93	13310.75	14336.44	15297.14
Surplus/(deficit) of income over expenditure (balance to carry forward)	1213.20	598.29	-613.87	-429.80	310.66	-166.44	-472.14

DEPOSIT ACCOUNT

	2013/14	2014/15	2015/2016	2016/2017	2017/2018	2018/2019	2019/2020
Balance brought forward	27575.44	31044.43	30405.10	36010.07	32725.80	39,940.06	49,609.64
Conference income (Bangor)						1,736.74	0.00
T&F payments (advance on royalties)	2500.00	2500.00	2500.00	0.00	3,000.00	3,000.00	3000.00
T&F editorial expenses	6242.00	6304.00	6336.00	6614.22	8,000.00	8,000.00	8000.00
T&F Royalties	5351.45	5382.70	6411.06	8868.00	6,842.92	9,824.36	8582.87
Informa royalties for 60 Years of France and Europe	0.00	159.27	0.00	606.98		85.48	
Interest	15.18	13.47	16.91	16.53	17.84	23.00	24.96
Institut Francais sponsor			341.00	0.00			
Membership (Informa)				290	190.00		
Travel Fund (informa)					163.50		
Transfer from Current a/c					1000.00	1,000.00	
Transfer from Current a/c	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00			
Sub-total	42044.43			16395.73	19214.26	23,669.58	19607.83
Transfers to Current a/c	11000.00	15000.00	10000.00	19600	12000	14,000.00	14800.00

Transfers to Conference a/c				80			
Balance carried forward	31044.43	30405.10	36010.07	32725.80	39,940.06	49,609.64	54417.47

Conference account: balance of £10, this account is dormant since 2018.

REPORT of the Treasurer to the Annual General Meeting of the Association, September 2020

The figures presented in the attached statement of accounts are for the period 1st August 2019 to July 31st 2020.

The financial situation of the ASMCF is very good. The balance for our deposit account (31st July) is £54417.47 compare to £49,609.64 last year. On 31st July our current effective balance on the current account is £620.88 compare to £1093.02 last year.

Overall, the Association's finances are in a good shape and our ongoing healthy position should encourage us to provide equal funding next year to events organized by its members that share the Association's aims.

In these times of economic uncertainty, I am thus extremely pleased to provide another positive report. Our current financial situation and our commitment to work efficiently while doing our best for our members should allow the ASMCF to pursue and improve its engagement in French studies.

Dr Aude Campmas
Honorary Treasurer
August 2020

Hon President: Chris Tinker
Hon Secretary: Fiona Barclay
Hon Vice Presidents: Máire Cross
David Hanley
Siân Reynolds
Jan Windebank
Hon Vice Secretary: Steve Wharton

To: Executive Committee

Report on the Membership

The current membership figures for the Association are as follows

Sept 2018

- **117 members**
- 66 standard members, 39 student members, 13 unwaged/retired members
- 27 new, 91 renewed, 37 lapsed, 9 cancelled

Sept 2019

- **114 members**
- 42 standard members, student members, 14 unwaged/retired members
- 33 new, 81 renewed, 33 lapsed, 2 cancelled

Sept 2020

- **116 members**
- 59 standard members, 42 student members, 16 unwaged/retired members
- 44 new, 72 renewed, 42 lapsed, 6 cancelled

The membership figures over the last three years reveal a stable position that, coming after a period of consistent decline, is welcome. In terms of geographical location, most of our members continue to be based in the UK and Ireland. There has been a slight raise in the number of overseas members, of whom there are currently 18, compared with 17 in 2019, 10 in 2016 in 2016 and 26 in 2015. The majority of these are in France, Canada and the USA.

All lapsed members have been contacted to invite them to reconsider their decision.

Delegates registered for the Leeds conference who are not currently members of the Association have been contacted to ask them to join.

05/09/2020

ASSOCIATION FOR THE STUDY OF MODERN AND CONTEMPORARY FRANCE

ASMCF

(Registered Charity Number 1014382)

From Helen McKelvey, Megan Ison

To ASMCF Executive Committee

For AGM Report

Subject Postgraduate Representatives Report, September 2020

The main event in the year for the Postgraduate Representatives is the annual ASMCF-SSFH Postgraduate Study Day, held this year on 7th March in the Graduate School at Queen's University, Belfast. We were thrilled with the interest that the event garnered. The theme for this year was 'Breaking Silences', and we had a total of 11 postgraduate participants from across the UK, as well as a number of local postgraduate students of French who attended. Despite the challenging conditions of the emerging pandemic, and the last-minute shift to a blended programme, we were delighted with the success of the Study Day. We were extremely impressed by the calibre of the research on display throughout the day. Due to uncertainty regarding COVID-19, we will be prepared in advance for either a face-to-face, blended-approach or a fully online PG Study Day in March 2021.

We were particularly grateful to Dr Hannah Grayson (Stirling) for her excellent keynote presentation, 'Breaking Silence? The Slow Work of Testimony', and for its interdisciplinary scope. We also wish to express our gratitude once again to Camille Jacob, our outgoing outreach officer, for her intervention, encouraging us to take our research out of the Academy and into schools, giving us clear, practical pointers on how we can be more outward looking; and to Mathew Rickard (QUB) for his helpful presentation on the practicalities of transforming work from a Masters or Doctoral thesis into a publishable article. We would like to reiterate our thanks to the rest of the ASMCF Executive Committee and to our colleagues at SSFH, especially Dan Baker, for their active help and support.

In addition to the Study Day, and in light of the continuing COVID-19 pandemic with its accompanying restrictions, the Postgraduate Representatives have been involved in the planning and delivery of a range of online resources, tools and content, aimed at supporting the wider ASMCF community, including its postgraduate members. In conjunction with the web officers, this is exciting work that will continue throughout the year to come.

In 2019, the Postgraduate Essay Prize was awarded to Fraser McQueen, for an essay on the novels of Michel Houellebecq, the geographer Christophe Guilluy, and the Far Right in France. We extend our congratulations to this year's prize winner and look forward to the entries from this year's postgraduate conferees.

Finally, as she reaches the end of her tenure, we would like to thank Megan Ison for her enthusiasm, her commitment and the many skills she has brought to the role of Postgraduate Representative over the past year, and hope to work with her again in the future. We are looking forward to the election of a new representative, and to working with them over the course of the academic year 2020/21.

From Camille Jacob, Outreach Officer
To ASMCF Executive Committee
For Report
Subject Outreach Officer Report, September 2020

Schools Outreach and Liaison Initiative Fund

Dominique Carlini Versini (Durham University) was awarded £400 for a teachers' workshop on inclusive language.

A project around Mariama Bâ's *Une si longue lettre* will be awarded £500 subject to clarifications on costings.

Virtual Special issues

Six Virtual Special Issues (VSIs) of *Modern & Contemporary France* were created on topics related to the curriculum in England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. They will be available in the members' area of the website.

- Camus' *L'étranger*
- Heritage, culture and citizenship
- France 1940-1950
- French cinema
- Kassovitz's *La Haine*
- Francophone music

The aim of these VSIs is to support teachers in their delivery of the curriculum, showcase the usefulness of research articles for teaching, and increase the visibility of the association and its journal. The Virtual Special Issue for teachers on *La Haine* is available as a webpage with articles [free access](#) for all until the end of the December 2020. A PDF version has also been uploaded to [TES](#), the most popular teachers' resources website. As of the end of August it had had 44 views and 18 downloads. Many thanks to colleagues on the committee who have helped review the VSIs and suggested content, and to Hannah White (T&F) who created the online and PDF versions.

Blog

Blog posts were published monthly or bi-monthly showcasing members' outreach activities, funded projects as well as tips from members and students on transitioning between studying French at A-Level/Advanced and studying French at university. Many thanks to colleagues and students at Bath, Bristol, Nottingham Trent, Oxford, Portsmouth, Queen's University Belfast and Stirling for their contributions.

To Executive Committee, ASMCF Membership
From David Lees and Chris O'Neill, Web Officers
Agendum 3 (AGM)
For Report/Discussion
Subject Report of the Web Officers

Activities in the past year

We have continued to maintain the website routinely, updating with new events, Association news and other initiatives. We have faced some occasional technical challenges with aspects of the webpage and are grateful to our colleagues at Taylor and Francis for their support in this regard.

Social media

We continue to be active on social media, with a particular emphasis on Twitter. We posted out a call for ideas for our activities for the membership in May and this met with a positive response. The two principal suggestions were to develop a more formal mentoring scheme for the Association and to use appropriate research hashtags when tweeting our news or events.

Future plans

We have been in discussion with the current PG Representatives to plan for future initiatives including using the website and social media to host podcasts and interviews with members of the executive committee and wider Association. We hope to continue these discussions in the coming year.

To Executive Committee, ASMCF
Membership
From Elizabeth Benjamin, Prizes Officer
Agendum 3 (AGM)
For Report/Discussion
Subject Report of the Prizes Officers

This year Elizabeth Benjamin has taken over from Abigail Taylor as Prizes Officer. The handover has been smooth, and prizes have continued to be awarded, despite the pandemic (and Elizabeth being on maternity leave!), with some changes to numbers of submissions. January to May was unsurprisingly a bit of a slow quarter for submissions!

Deadlines for prizes have been streamlined with committee meetings for ease and logic – this has worked out well so far. Standard wording has been created by Elizabeth and Fiona, approved by the Committee and added to the ASMCF mailing list messages to promote membership when advertising prizes and initiatives. Subscribers to Francofil and H-France may have noticed that emails now contain a number of compelling reasons to sign up for membership.

Elizabeth has been working with the Media Officers David and Chris to push social media visibility of prizes and funds. We have trialled coordinated advertising on Francofil/H-France and Twitter/Facebook, and it seems to be working very nicely. Our application rate has benefited from this process. The website also now sends automatic responses so that prizes and funding applications are acknowledged.

Prizes allocated this year are as follows:

The Postgraduate Essay Prize following our 2019 conference in Paris was awarded to Fraser McQueen of Stirling University for his essay on the novels of Michel Houellebecq, the geographer Christophe Guilluy, and the Far Right in France. Fraser has since been invited to submit his essay to *Modern and Contemporary France*. PG speakers from this year's conference will be invited to submit their papers following the event.

The Brian Darling Prize has been awarded to Alexandra Wootton, University of Leeds, for her essay “‘Le Vietnam a constitué, pour toute une génération, la rampe d'accès à l'action militante’”. Comment la guerre du Vietnam a-t-elle provoqué une radicalisation des étudiants en France?’ Reviewers commented that the essay was well-written and well-researched, with extensive referencing and some interesting analysis. Both felt the use of French rather than English for this essay was to be commended.

The Postgraduate Travel Prize has been awarded to Benjamin Dalton.

Congratulations all!

To Executive Committee, ASMCF Membership
From Nicole Fayard, Conference Officer
Agendum AGM
For Report/Discussion
Subject Report of the Conference Officer, September 2020

Activities since the last meeting

This year our annual conference was disrupted by Covid-19 in unprecedented ways. Following national lockdown and the uncertainty over summer travel plans, it was decided to move to a virtual conference based on live online presentations using Blackboard Collaborate as the best platform for web conferencing.

Response from participants and keynote speakers to the new digital format, including to the need to redraft the programme into a tighter schedule, has been very positive. Response to the booking system enabling participants to be registered in advance on Collaborate / Teams has also been good.

It was decided to make the conference free to attend on condition that delegates are members of the Association by the start of the conference. Expenditure for technical support for the conference (£401.33) has been provided out of the ASMCF budget, as sponsors withdrew their support following financial constraints caused by the pandemic.

I would like to thank and congratulate the Leeds conference organisers for their flexibility and hard work in reorganising the conference at short notice at a particularly busy time of year. They have worked extremely hard to put into place a very exciting and diverse conference programme and a robust hosting environment.

Future plans

The 2020-21 Annual Conference will take place at the University of Chester. Call for Papers to follow.

We are currently anticipating the conference to take place face-to-face, but this will be contingent on the pandemic.

The AGM may like to consider the implications arising from the experience of this year's virtual conference. Some of these include:

1. The benefits of a virtual conference:
 - 1.1 Clear ecological benefits
 - 1.2 Financial benefits for institutions as well as participants with no access to funding
 - 1.3 Time-related and efficiency: the ability to dip in and out of sessions whilst carrying out other activities.

2. The limitations of a virtual conference:
 - 2.1 Reduced networking

2.2 One significant benefit of the ASCMF in general and of our annual conference in particular is the mentoring opportunities it provides for younger colleagues. This is less likely to take place online.

The way forward may be to combine both formats in future, although this would add to the complexity of conference organisation.

To Executive Committee, ASMCF Membership
From Gill Allwood, Editor, Modern & Contemporary France
Agendum 3 (AGM)
For Report/Discussion
Subject Report of the Journal Editors

The March Editorial Board meeting was postponed and was held via MS Teams on 12 May 2020. Attendance was outstanding, with only one member of the board unable to make it. Feedback was excellent, with board members highlighting the inclusiveness of the online format, which enabled full participation by board members in North America, as well as the reduction in flights from Ireland and Scotland, and the saving of travel time for everyone. The October meeting will also take place remotely, and the organisation of future meetings will then be reviewed. There are, of course, some arguments in favour of meeting in person, and it was suggested that this should continue to happen at least once a year, but the positive experience of the MS Teams meeting has raised the possibility of rethinking the way we organise future meetings.

Patrick Young came to the end of his term as North American editor. He did some great work attracting Special Issue proposals, supervising the issues themselves and more generally raising the profile of the journal in North America. The board expressed their warm collective thanks to him. Stephen Toth has taken over as Patrick's replacement. He will look to build on Patrick's efforts to raise the journal's North American profile and will especially be looking to attract articles and special issue proposals relating to his own interests as a historian and especially around crime and punishment and the French colonial world.

Taylor and Francis – we continue to liaise with Taylor and Francis about production issues. We had a very productive meeting with T and F and agreed, in particular, about the need for specialised French copy editing and uniform presentation of book reviews. We also agreed to keep a watching brief on copy quality. The publication of 28.3 has been held up by a series of problems with the quality of the copy-editing and type setting. We have just received a revised set of proofs and sent them back highlighting some serious errors so we will be working with T and F to solve these.

The journal's circulation continues to be very healthy with continued growth in downloads, from the UK, North America, Europe, Australia and other countries such as China. Copy flow also continues to be healthy and articles and special issues continue to speak to the range of interests of ASMCF members and subscribing departments. Recent special issues include; Industrial Food and its Critics; Zazie@60, Consécration Culturelle; Beyond Gay Liberation, France's Other Sexual Minorities; La France, ce n'est pas Michel Houellebecq. The board are enormously grateful to the special issue editors for the work they do. We are tremendously indebted to the anonymous reviewers who give freely of their time and the book reviewers who dedicate time to evaluating new publications. After briefly stepping down, Chris Reynolds is now reviews editor again and is building the book review section back up to its previous level. Natalya Vince has stepped down after a productive period as social media editor. Rachel Douglas has very kindly agreed to take on the role.

By our calculation, this year is the journal's 40th anniversary. With the very willing and precious support of Tony Chafer who has retained or got hold of some of the very first journal issues, we were looking forward to putting on an event at Leeds to mark the event. COVID put this on hold.

Upcoming issues:

28.3 Aug 2020	Non-thematic		Publication imminent
28.4 Nov 2020	Medical Humanities	Steven Wilson	In production
29.1 Feb 2021	Environmental Humanities	Daniel Finch-Race	Articles in peer review
29.2 May 2021	Non-thematic		
29.3 Aug 2021	French Food and Literature	Jennifer Boum Make and Elizabeth Collins	Articles coming in

Editorial Team

The current editors – Gill Allwood, Martin O'Shaughnessy and Chris Reynolds – are coming to the end of their second 5-year term, so a new team needs to be appointed.