

**SERCIA Minutes of the Annual General Meeting  
Saturday September 10, 2011, Bath, UK**

**Committee:** President: Melvyn STOKES; Vice-President: Penny STARFIELD; Treasurer: Céline MURILLO; Assistant Treasurer: Zachary BAQUÉ; Secretary: David ROCHE; Assistant Secretary: Christophe CHAMBOST

**Session reporters:** Céline MURILLO, David ROCHE and Zeenat SALEH

**26 members present at the beginning:** Julien ACHEMCHME, Julie ASSOULY, Jean-François BAILLON, Jacky COLLINS, Raphaëlle COSTA DE BEAUREGARD, Celestino DELEYTO, Claire DUTRIAUX, Wendy EVERETT, Pierre FLOQUET, Christophe GELLY, Andrea GRUNERT, Marianne KAC VERGNE, Gilles MENEGALDO, Céline MURILLO, Tal NIMROD, Anne-Marie PAQUET-DEYRIS, Nina PARISH, Clémentine THOLAS, David ROCHE, Zeenat SALEH, Isabelle SCHMITT-PITOT, Dominique SIPIÈRE, Penny STARFIELD, Melvyn STOKES, Hedwig WAGNER, Peter WAGSTAFF

**10 proxies:** Trudy BOLTER, Yves CARLET, Nicole CLOAREC, Alain COHEN, Xavier DAVERAT, Patricia KRUTH, Philippe MORICE, Jaqueline MORICEAU, Taina TUHKUNEN, Denise WARREN

**1. Minutes of the 2010 SERCIA annual general meeting in Besançon**

Melvyn Stokes opened the general meeting, introducing the minutes in French and English of the 2010 SERCIA annual general meeting in Besançon, France. The call for the general assembly was sent out exactly two weeks before the assembly, in accordance with French law.

**2. President's report**

Melvyn Stokes started by thanking Céline Murillo who worked hard to make direct debit possible for members with French bank accounts. He then reminded the assembly that the first volume of Film Journal was on line and that, as it was an open issue, it was still possible to contribute articles. He added that Zeenat Saleh and himself had sent out articles from last year's conference for peer review over the summer, an important step in order to maintain and develop the association's scholarly excellence. He thanked the reviewers for their diligent work. Melvyn Stokes was delighted to see so many new faces from countries such as Brazil, Germany, Portugal, Spain and the UK, and thanked Wendy Everett, Nina Parish and Peter Wagstaff for organizing the largest conference yet, made especially memorable by Ken Loach's plenary session on Friday afternoon.

**3. Treasurer's report**

Céline Murillo explained that she had transferred the SERCIA account from Toulouse to Paris and had managed to implement direct debit for members with French bank accounts. Direct debit remains optional, since it is still possible alternatively to pay membership dues by cheque in euros. Céline Murillo reminded the assembly that membership served to finance SERCIA conferences and publications, as well as the website. She also felt it was important that membership income reflect the actual size of SERCIA. Indeed, before the conference in Bath, only thirty members had paid their membership fee, while the SERCIA mailing list includes over one hundred emails. By September 10, 2011, however, eighty-one members had paid their fee. Ten had additionally completed the forms enabling direct debit. The

committee decided that the fee would be deducted every February 17, in honor of the birthday of Raphaëlle Costa de Beaugard, the first president of SERCIA.

Céline Murillo then presented the treasurer's financial report. 3,000 E have been set aside for each of the next conferences (Dijon, Berlin, Bordeaux IV). Zeenat Saleh stated that she had received 3,000 E, not 4,000 E, for the 2010 conference in Besançon. Gilles Menegaldo said that the publication of the Bologna volume would be financed by the conference fees of the 2006 SERCIA conference. Raphaëlle Costa de Beaugard noted that Trudy Bolter's university had given 2,000 E back to SERCIA. Wendy Everett said she believed her university would cover most of the expenses of the volume following the 2011 conference in Bath.

Jean-François Baillon then asked whether the assembly had ever voted on the exact amount to be given to conference organizers, seeing as some organisers were getting 3,000 E, others 4,000 E. Céline Murillo explained that this was a computer error: the sum should have been 3,000 E. Raphaëlle Costa de Beaugard joked that she had intentionally made a mistake so as to prove she was no longer able to be the treasurer. Celestino Deleyto noted that SERCIA had provided 3,200 E for the Jaca proceedings, and that the book cost more because of illustrations. He explained that there had been certain problems with Michel Houdiard in distributing the book. This point had been raised with the committee. Melvyn Stokes added that another problem with the bi-lingual books published with Michel Houdiard is that it is difficult to get reviews in order to promote the book. It was important to get reviews for subsequent publications.

Melvyn Stokes suggested the amount given to conference organizers would be 3,000 E with some degree of flexibility.

The SERCIA budget was **approved unanimously** by a show of hands.

Melvyn Stokes then brought up the issue of a PayPal module that could be incorporated onto the SERCIA website. David Roche said that, although two years ago, he hadn't been convinced it was entirely useful, he had changed his mind since. He now believed it was indispensable not only so that members without a French bank account could pay for membership, but also for the image of SERCIA. Jacques Lerognon, who kindly provided us with a very efficient website at a bargain price (600 E so far), agreed to install the PayPal module for 300 E. Penny Starfield claimed that SERCIA membership was tax deductible, although this point would need to be verified. Raphaëlle Costa de Beaugard asked if direct debit is possible with PayPal, but David Roche said presumably it was not. Celestino Deleyto added that it was not clear enough to conference delegates that SERCIA membership was required to attend a SERCIA conference. The committee emphasised that it was necessary to pay for membership in order to talk at a conference or be published in the books.

David Roche said that we could try to rationalize the payment for the conference fee and SERCIA membership from now on, by including the names of delegates and both fees on the same sheet at future conferences. One possibility in order to remind members to pay their subscription is to deny access to their personal form on the SERCIA website. Another possibility was making the SERCIA mailing list exclusive to members, although the committee had always thought the mailing list served just as much to promote SERCIA as to provide a service to its members.

Melvyn Stokes then proposed that the assembly vote for or against the inclusion of a PayPal module on the SERCIA website.

The assembly voted unanimously in favor.

#### **4. Publications**

Gilles Menegaldo said that he hoped the book from the Bologna conference would be published by the end of the year. It will be dedicated to Franco LaPolla. It will include forty articles written in English and French. SERCIA did not have to pay to translate articles written in Italian.

Regarding the book from the 2009 conference in Nanterre, Anne-Marie Paquet-Deyris and Dominique Sipièrè said that they had also received approximately forty articles in English and French that were now being peer reviewed. They expected it would be another three more months before they would receive all the reports. The CREA, the research group in Nanterre, would pay for publication at the Presses Universitaires de Nanterre. SERCIA also contributed 800€.

Concerning the proceedings from the conference in Besançon, Zeenat Saleh and Melvyn Stokes have sent most of the articles they have received out for peer review. Zeenat Saleh insisted that the bills have to be paid by the end of January. Hopefully, the Besançon proceedings will be out for the 2012 conference in Dijon.

As for the book that would follow the conference in Bath, Wendy Everett said that one publisher is interested but the articles needed to be in English. There would have to be a selection because no publisher will accept seventy-nine articles. Perhaps, articles in French could make up a second volume on *Film Journal*. She would, however, contact other publishers.

Penny Starfield reminded the assembly that she and Marimar Azcona were editing the second issue of *Film Journal* on the theme “Youth in the American Cinema,” following the two panels on film at the 2010 EAAS conference in Dublin. Melvyn Stokes added that it was important that one of the next issues be on British cinema. SERCIA members should thus send their proposals for themes for future issues of *Film Journal* to Melvyn Stokes to be examined by the committee.

## **5. The SERCIA website and mailing list**

David Roche showed the assembly how easy it was to fill out their form on the website. He will shortly send another email with step-by-step explanations. He reminded the assembly to use Firefox when using the database. He added that new members should email him in case he forgot to add them to the SERCIA mailing list. The assembly suggested it might be possible to include photos or footage of Ken Loach’s talk on the website.

## **6. Relations with Other Associations**

Gilles Menegaldo and Melvyn Stokes will be organizing a panel at the next EAAS conference in Izmir, Turkey, from March 30 to April 2, and would welcome contributors from SERCIA members, although they cannot accept more than two persons from the same country. Pierre Floquet is organizing a panel on TV series and would also welcome contributions.

Gilles Menegaldo and Melvyn Stokes have also proposed a panel for the next SCMS conference in Boston, March 21-25. Melvyn Stokes emphasized how important it was for SERCIA members to propose panels and papers there. He added that he hoped it would be possible to invite the new president-elect of SCMS, Barbara Klinger, as a keynote speaker to one of the upcoming SERCIA conferences.

The committee also reminded SERCIA members that the next conference of AFECCA, on “Des sources aux réseaux : tout est archive ?” at Paris-Est-Marne-la-Vallée, July 9-11, 2012. David Roche insisted that it was important that SERCIA members if possible attend as well. Jean-François Baillon reminded the assembly that several members of SERCIA are on the reading committee of the *Cahiers de l’AFECCA*.

Gilles Menegaldo also proposed a panel for the next ESSE conference in Istanbul, Turkey, which, unfortunately coincides with next year’s SERCIA conference in Dijon.

Melvyn Stokes moved on to the question of TV series that had been raised by several members of the SERCIA committee. Many members of SERCIA have also started working on TV series and, at some point, French TV scholars might want to start an association. Perhaps we could include one or two panels on TV series, or include them thematically in other panels. David Roche explained that, this past year, he often hesitated to send out CFPs dealing with TV studies and sometimes ended up doing so anyway. He felt that SERCIA could benefit from the inclusion of TV scholars who would, in exchange, benefit from the SERCIA network. Melvyn Stokes added that, in any case, SERCIA would not change its name. Anne-Marie Paquet-Deyris said that she was part of a research group called “Series” and thought most members would welcome the opportunity to work with SERCIA. Gilles Menegaldo and Penny Starfield had recently been in touch with, respectively, Sarah Hatchuel and Ariane Hudelet, who have been very active in the study of TV series, in order to discuss where we could set the line. The two seemed to be in favor of the idea that SERCIA could include TV studies. Jean-François Baillon felt that it wasn’t really an issue, seeing that made-for-TV films and documentaries had already been included in past conferences.

Melvyn Stokes said he sensed there were two positions in the assembly: one clearly in favor, one a bit more cautious. Melvyn Stokes proposed the vote that, while SERCIA is and will remain an association focusing on English-speaking cinema, we would welcome the participation of TV scholars in the association and at future conferences.

The general assembly voted **in favor** of the motion with 19 votes (plus nine proxies); three members abstained.

## **7. Conferences**

### The 17th SERCIA conference in Dijon, 2012

David Roche and Isabelle Schmitt reminded the assembly that the topic of the conference will be “Cinema of Intimacy and/or the Intimacy of Cinema.” Possible approaches include studies of the representation of intimacy (the family, the couple, the body, intimate spaces, the inner life of characters, the representation of writing letters and diaries) and the various devices (the close-up, the voice-over, music) or genres (the biopic, the documentary, the family movie) used to convey them, as well as more cultural approaches focusing on star studies (the private lives of stars) and film reception studies (fan studies, namely how do they incorporate films and stars into their own lives and practices). Keynote speakers will be Thomas Elsaesser (thanks to Gilles Menegaldo) and Marc Vernet. The conference will take place in the university’s brand new MSH (Maison des Sciences de l’Homme). Dijon can be reached by TGV from Paris and Switzerland, by plane (Eastern Airways) from Bordeaux, Nantes, Toulouse, and Southampton, UK. The call for papers will go out on the SERCIA mailing list in late October-early November. TV studies would be included.

Melvyn Stokes explained that Frank Mehring would be delighted to organise or help organise a SERCIA conference in Berlin, but that as of now, he could not absolutely guarantee this happening for 2013. The situation should be much plainer by early summer 2012. He also suggested that an obvious theme for Berlin might be music and cinema, but made it clear that other suggestions from SERCIA members could still be considered. It was agreed that Melvyn Stokes would contact Xavier Daverat to see how long in advance the conference at Bordeaux IV would need to be planned, to have a fall-back position in case Berlin could not happen until 2014.

Melvyn Stokes invited all members to make suggestions for the organisation of future conferences.