

**SERCIA MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 5, 2013, BORDEAUX, FRANCE**

COMMITTEE: President: Melvyn STOKES; Vice-President: Penny STARFIELD; Treasurer: Céline MURILLO; Assistant Treasurer: Marianne KAC-VERGNE; Secretary: David ROCHE; Assistant Secretary: Jean-François BAILLON; Relations with other organizations, associations and institutions: Anne-Marie PAQUET-DEYRIS; Mailing list: Stéphanie BENSON.

SESSION REPORTERS: Jean-François BAILLON et David ROCHE

36 MEMBERS PRESENT: Julie ASSOULY, Jean-François BAILLON, Zachary BAQUÉ, Stéphanie BENSON, Tiffen BRISSET, Christophe CHAMBOST, Nicole CLOAREC, Alain COHEN, Raphaëlle COSTA DE BEAUREGARD, Aurélie DAMÈME, Xavier DAVERAT, Pierre FLOQUET, Christophe GELLY, Camille GENDRAULT, Andréa GRUNERT, Marianne KAC-VERGNE, Kevin LAULAN, Hélène LAURICHESSE, Isabelle LE CORFF, Marie-Anne LIEB, Sylvain LOUET, Hervé MAYER, Gilles MENEGALDO, Jacline MORICEAU, Julie MICHOT, Céline MURILLO, Anne PAUPE, Sarah PESCE, Yann ROBLOU, David ROCHE, Zeenat SALEH, Isabelle SCHMITT, Dominique SIPIÈRE, Vincent SOULADIÉ, Penny STARFIELD, Melvyn STOKES

3 PROXIES: Elizabeth MULLEN, Patricia-Laure THIVAT, Elena VON KASSEL

1. Minutes of the 2012 SERCIA annual general meeting in Dijon, France

Melvyn Stokes opened the general meeting at 10:45 am. He asked if there were any questions concerning the minutes of the 2012 general meeting, which had been handed out to the members at the beginning of today's meeting.

The 2012 Minutes were approved unanimously by a show of hands.

2. President's report

Melvyn Stokes began by saying that SERCIA members actively represented the association in workshops at SAES and SCMS in 2012-2013, and will be doing so again at SAES in 2014 and hopefully at future SCMS meetings. Our program of publishing edited volumes from earlier SERCIA conferences is going well. Moreover, the next issue of SERCIA's peer-reviewed e-journal *Film Journal* is taking shape, but publication has been delayed because the SERCIA website was hacked last spring. The most important order of the day concerned revising the constitution. Melvyn Stokes paid homage to the founding members whose text was well thought-out, but actual practice and the advent of the internet, among other things, have made it necessary to revise a number of points. The SERCIA committee would therefore later in the meeting be making 10 propositions to modify the constitution.

3. Treasurer's report

Céline Murillo reported that the number of members who subscribe to SERCIA by direct debit has increased and she wished to thank the members concerned. She also reminded members that it is necessary to tell her as treasurer in good time if they change position (i.e., retire or are appointed to a tenured position) or bank accounts. The PayPal module has been working well and should be useful for next year's conference in Nijmegen. Membership was high in 2012-2013 following the conference in Dijon. The treasurer then presented the accounts.

The members at the meeting were asked to approve the accounts by a show of hands. The accounts were approved unanimously.

4. Revisions of the SERCIA constitution

Melvyn Stokes presented 10 proposals for changes, other modifications being exclusively stylistic. Proposals for new changes can be added in the future, but they can only be submitted to members next year

Proposals 1 to 4 (see annex) concern Article 2. They were approved unanimously by a show of hands.

Proposal 5 concerns Article 6. It was approved unanimously by a show of hands.

Proposals 6 to 8 concerning Article 9.

Trudy Bolter asked which members of the committee voted and if everyone's vote was worth as much as anybody else's within the committee. Melvyn Stokes answered that every member has just one vote. David Roche added that, in practice, the committee rarely voted, because whenever there was a disagreement, than that issue was discussed at the general meeting.

Zeenat Saleh asked whether the new posts that were created last year were actual elected members of the committee. Melvyn Stokes answered that, if the members present voted favorably for the creation of these posts, then they would immediately stand for election for a two-year term. 2012-2013 was a trial period.

Xavier Daverat noted that it was better to use the terms "committee" ("bureau" in French) and "members" ("membres" in French), rather than "officers" ("officiers" in French) and "council" ("conseil" in French) which would no doubt evokes the French term "conseil d'administration." This was agreed by the AGM.

Regarding proposal 8 (« les membres d'honneur ayant siégé au bureau font aussi partie du bureau »), a formal list should be included in the minutes but not in the constitution. Former presidents automatically become honorary members at the end of their terms. Two honorary members (Alain Cohen and Zeenat Saleh) had been nominated by the committee and approved at former general meetings.

List of honorary members: Raphaëlle Costa de Beaugard, Alain Cohen, Reynold Humphries, Gilles Menegaldo, Zeenat Saleh and Dominique Sipièrè.

The proposals were approved unanimously by a show of hands.

Proposal 9 concerns Article 10. For Melvyn Stokes, it is only necessary to indicate that the committee meets at least once a year, normally at the annual conference. The proposal was approved unanimously by a show of hands.

Proposal 10 concerns Article 11, whereby notification of the annual general meeting should be sent out to all SERCIA members at least 15 days before the date of the meeting. A clause concerning emails should be added, stating that members have to provide a valid email in order to receive these notifications. Raphaëlle Costa de Beaugard wondered whether using emails for official notifications was legal. Jean-François Baillon said it was, so long as it was mentioned in the constitution. The proposal was approved unanimously by a show of hands.

The assembly was asked to approve by secret ballot the 10 propositions. 40 people voted: 39 were for; 0 against; 1 abstained.

5. Elections for the two new posts just created

- Relations with associations and institutions

Anne-Marie Paquet-Deyris, who was standing as a candidate, explained how she has represented SERCIA interests since September 2012. As former treasurer of AFEA, she repeatedly tried to obtain funds for SERCIA, unfortunately without success. However, the Institut des Amériques is very much willing to back projects on North American film. SERCIA members are thus encouraged to submit projects to the Institute. Collaborations with CICLAHO are ongoing. Penny Starfield and Tomáš Pospíšil (Masaryk University Brno, Cz) are organizing a panel for EAAS in 2014.

Anne-Marie Paquet-Deyris was elected to the post unanimously by a show of hands.

- Mailing list.

Stéphanie Benson, who was standing as a candidate, presented herself to the members present. She was elected to the post unanimously by a show of hands.

6. Publications (Bologna, Besançon, Bath, Dijon, Bordeaux)

Gilles Menegaldo was pleased to announce the publication of the book that followed the conference in Bologna. It came out in autumn 2012.

For the book following the conference in Besançon, Zeenat Saleh explained that 45 articles have been selected and peer-reviewed. The book is about 600 pages long and should come out by the end of the year. Negotiations with Michel Houdiard had gone well.

Wendy Everett was very sorry she could not be present in Bordeaux to report on the book following the conference in Bath. Melvyn Stokes said the book, which would be published by Peter Lang, should come out in early 2014. Gilles Menegaldo noted that it would be nice to have a list of the contributors to that volume.

There will be two books following the conference in Dijon: one in English published by McFarland, one in French published by *CinémAction*. David Roche said that Isabelle Schmitt and he had had to make some tough editorial decisions, taking particularly into account the coherence of the books and the fact there was less available space in the English book than in the French one.

Jean-François Baillon said that nothing had been decided yet concerning the articles presented at the conference in Bordeaux, but that it might be possible to publish the book with the Presses Universitaires of Bordeaux in a collection supervised by Pierre Beylot, who has said he would be agreeable to such a proposal.

SERCIA members are reminded that paying membership dues is required in order to publish in a SERCIA book.

7. FILM JOURNAL

Penny Starfield, the editor-in-chief, presented the current state of SERCIA's e-journal. Publication has been delayed because of problems with SERCIA's website. Issue 2 "Youth in American Film" will be online in January 2014. Proposals for Issue 3, "The Train in English-Speaking Cinema." can still be sent to guest editor Taina Tuhkunen (tainatuhkunen@hotmail.com).

Proposals for theme issues should be sent to the editor-in-chief at filmjournal.sercia@gmail.com. These may include conference workshops (eg. from the SAES congress). *Film Journal* also publishes regular articles, interviews and reviews. Publication is in English and all articles are peer-reviewed.

8. The website

David Roche unhappily explained that the web designer and himself have, regrettably, not yet found a way to safeguard the website from hackers.

9. Relations with other associations and institutions

See President's report and Anne-Marie Paquet-Deyris's statement preceding her election.

10. Conferences

Unfortunately, Frank Mehring, who will organize the 2014 conference in Nijmegen, could not be present at the AGM. Next year's theme will be "Music and Movies" with a subtitle to be added later. Frank Mehring would like to screen a silent film with a live orchestra. The dates of the conference would be September 18th to 20th (Thursday to Saturday) 2014.

The conference in Girona, initially considered for 2015, no longer seems a possibility, while San Diego is probably too expensive for most members.

Julie Assouly and Marianne Kac-Vergne jointly proposed to organize the 2015 conference in Arras, co-organized with the University of Amiens, during the first weekend of September 2015. The theme would be "Masculine/Feminine," but would not be limited to gender studies.

The proposal for a conference in Arras in 2015 was approved unanimously by a show of hands.

11. Grants for conferences organized by members of SERCIA

SERCIA's new policy of providing grants for conferences on English-speaking cinema, organized by SERCIA members, a proposal which had been made in Dijon in 2012, was approved unanimously by a show of hands. 2012-2013 was a trial period, during which 150 euro grants were given to conferences organized by, respectively, Zachary Baqué in Toulouse and Nicole Cloarec in Rennes. Melvyn Stokes explained the process for applying for such a grant: proposals, including a call for papers, a budget and a list of potential keynote speakers, should be sent to the President and the Treasurer by November 1st, 2013. SERCIA has set aside 500 euros for 2013-2014.

Last but not least, Melvyn Stokes warmly thanked Xavier Daverat, Jean-François Baillon, Stéphanie Benson, Christophe Chambost and Pierre Floquet for the wonderful Bordeaux conference they had organized.

Annex: 10 proposals for changes in SERCIA constitution

- (1) It seems obvious, but the original Constitution did not assign the right to select both the location of the annual conference and the names of the organiser/organisers to the AG. This fills the gap. I have, however, inserted “normalement” at the beginning of the sentence since if, for example, a conference could not take place for a specific reason (the principal organiser, for example, became ill or moved to another job), then the president and bureau would need the discretion to try to organise an alternative. Otherwise, without previous approval of the AG, the constitution would make it impossible to organise such an alternative.
- (2) Equally, I think it important that ideas from the bureau about the organisation and development of our conference should be conveyed to the organisers and the natural conduit for doing this is the president. The president may also wish to seek suggestions or make suggestions of his/her own on, for example, major international scholars to be invited to give keynote talks.
- (3) In addition to referencing the web journal, this now adds the cinema workshop at the AFEA as a possible source of future publications, together with 'other organisations' (EAAS, for example). The wording, however, is very cautious. Workshops organised by SERCIA members at the conferences of other organisations *can* be published. The subsequent sentence makes it clear that this is subject to the agreement of the editorial committee. We want to use *Film Journal* as an avenue of possible publication, but it needs to be on an appropriate theme and of good academic quality.
- (4) This both justifies the new post in external relations and lays a specific duty on the bureau to cultivate good relations with French organisations (the phrase or tribute deleted later about SAES as the “mother organisation of SERCIA” is re-inserted here) but also with those outside France.
- (5) This makes it completely clear for the first time that the AG has the power to change/modify our annual membership subscription.
- (6) This is the new post we agreed at Dijon to deal with our relations with other organisations.
- (7) This is the new post we agreed at Dijon to appoint a manager of the email list and help with the website, a position separate from the job of secretary of the SERCIA.
- (8) This formalises what we have done in the past. The SERCIA tradition has been that former presidents are automatically members of the bureau by right. To these we have from time to time added other members for their particular expertise or experience.
- (9) The original requirement in the constitution was for the bureau to meet at least twice each year, normally at the two assemblies of the SAES. So far as I have been able to discover,

this has never happened (not everyone in any case goes to SAES which makes holding a bureau meeting there extremely problematic), together with announcements of the meeting in the bulletins of the SAES and AFEA. We are an independent organisation, hence the revised wording calling for at least one meeting of the bureau, that meeting to be held at the SERCIA annual conference, though the formulation does not preclude additional meetings should the president and members of the bureau decide this is appropriate. Equally, we should publicise our conferences via the websites and email lists of other organisations with whom we have good relations, but there seems no obvious need for this to be stated specifically in the constitution.

(10) The original requirement in the constitution was for the annual AG to be announced in the Bulletin of the SAES 15 days in advance. This makes no sense at all (many SERCIA members are not members of SAES). The announcement of the AG should be to all those on the SERCIA email list, which is what this amendment is designed to accomplish.