

**SERCIA MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 20, 2014, NIJMEGEN, NETHERLANDS**

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

SESSION REPORTERS: Jean-François BAILLON and David ROCHE

33¹ MEMBERS PRESENT: Carolina ABELLO ONOFRE, Bruno AGAR, Raymond ARSENAULT, Julie ASSOULY, Hannah BAYLEY, Christophe CHAMBOST, Fatima CHINITA, Alain J.-J. COHEN, Raphaëlle COSTA DE BEAUREGARD, Christof DECKER, Andrea DEL CASTELLO, Wendy EVERETT, Christophe GELLY, Andréa GRUNERT, Juana HUERTAS, Bernard LAFAYETTE, Jr., Fabrice LYCZBA, Frank MEHRING, Gilles MENEGALDO, Julie MICHOT, Elisa PAOLICELLI, Nils Daniel PEILER, Emmanuel PLASSERAUD, Isabelle SCHMITT, Dominique SIPIÈRE, Marie VENTURA

30² PROXIES: Zachary BAQUÉ, Trudy BOLTER, Roland CARRÉE, Serge CHAUVIN, Anne Nicole CLOAREC, Anne COMBARNOUS, Anne CRÉMIEUX, Xavier DAVERAT, Charles DRAZIN, Nathalie DUPONT, Claire DUTRIAUX, Pierre FLOQUET, Grégoire HALBOUT, Karine HILDENBRAND, Marianne KAC-VERGNE, Isabelle LE CORFF, Jean-Marie LECOMTE, Delphine LETORT, Marie LIENARD, Philippe MORICE, Elizabeth MULLEN, Anne PAUPE, Yann ROBLOU, Zeenat SALEH, Vincent SOULADIÉ, Suzette TANIS-PLANT, Clémentine THOLAS-DISSET, Taïna TUHKUNEN, Elena VON KASSEL, Denise WARREN

1. Matters arising from the 2013 SERCIA annual general meeting in Bordeaux, France

Melvyn Stokes opened the general meeting at 9:10am and reminded those present that SERCIA was a bilingual association, but that the meeting would be mainly in English. He asked if there were any questions concerning the minutes of the 2013 general meeting, which had been included in the conference folders.

There being no questions arising, the 2013 minutes were approved unanimously by a show of hands.

2. President's report

Melvyn Stokes talked about his three terms as President of SERCIA. He thanked Céline Murillo for the excellent work she has accomplished as Treasurer. Thanks to increasing membership, SERCIA now has a steady source of income so that it can contribute to finance not only its own conferences, but also other events organized by SERCIA members. Conferences abroad can also apply for this grant, the only condition being that one of the conference organizers be a member of SERCIA when the application and the conference take place. This year SERCIA will be allocating 800€ for such grants.

¹ 5 members present chose not to take part in the secret ballot. Hence only 57 votes were cast.

² Only 29 votes because one member had 3 proxies (the maximum number for any member is 2).

SERCIA now has its own on-line journal with an international advisory board. The first issue was published in 2011 by Melvyn Stokes on the University College London website. The second issue, edited by Penny Starfield on the UCL website, was published in 2014. Melvyn Stokes thanked Penny Starfield for her work as Chief Editor since 2012.

In 2013, the constitution of SERCIA was revised in order to adapt to the 2010s. The new constitution would be posted shortly in both English and French on the SERCIA website.

The minutes of the annual general assembly have been written in both English and French in the past six years. Melvyn Stokes thanked David Roche for his work as secretary and for having supervised the creation of the new SERCIA website.

Melvyn Stokes had the pleasure of co-editing two SERCIA books, co-organising two SERCIA conferences, and presiding over four more. He wished warmly to thank the organizers: Dominique Sipièrè, Anne Crémieux and Anne-Marie Paquet-Deyris for Nanterre in 2009; Zeenat Saleh for Besançon in 2010; Wendy Everett for Bath in 2011; David Roche and Isabelle Schmitt for Dijon in 2012; Xavier Daverat, Jean-François Baillon, Stephanie Benson, Pierre Floquet and Christophe Chambost for Bordeaux in 2013; and Frank Mehring for Nijmegen in 2014. Melvyn congratulated Frank Mehring for the brilliance and energy he put in organizing this wonderful conference on Music and Movies. SERCIA has not always succeeded in maintaining the preferred pattern of alternating one conference in France / one conference abroad, and Melvyn Stokes regretted that the conference in Greece never happened. Fortunately, Zeenat Saleh managed to organize a conference in Besançon in under a year.

The 2015 conference will take place in Arras; its theme is Masculine and Feminine. The 2016 conference might take place in Bologna, Italy or Girona, Spain. Melvyn Stokes emphasized how important it was to maintain the preferred pattern of one conference abroad every two years, as French membership is thriving but membership outside of France needs to be encouraged. It is thus imperative that SERCIA continue to develop on the international scene, notably through ties with SCMS and EAAS.

On a more personal note, Melvyn Stokes said that SERCIA was like a second family for him, and that he was happy to have been adopted by French colleagues at a time when he was the only non-French member. However, SERCIA has become increasingly international and it will thrive only if it continues to expand on the international level. English should, then, be the preferred language of the association. Hence, *Film Journal* accepts proposals exclusively in English. To attract and retain foreign members, the principal language of SERCIA conferences should be English, although there will always space for a few workshops in French for those who do not speak English at all. This makes sense from a French perspective as well, since the French academic world is increasingly frowning upon those whose work is too “hexagonal,” so to speak.

Melvyn Stokes concluded by thanking all SERCIA members for the wonderful six years during which he served as President. Looking back, he would not change a thing.

3. Treasurer's report

Overall, the balance of accounts is fairly positive, thanks to increased SERCIA membership.

An additional eleven members have subscribed to direct debit in 2014. The direct debit form has to be filled in and sent to Céline Murillo by February 1, 2015, if you would like to pay in future by automatic bank transfer. Payment via PayPal is a longer process, but had been very useful for the Nijmegen conference, considering the number of participants from outside France.

The main expense this year went to repairing the website, but this was counterbalanced by the little SERCIA now spends on printing and mail, thanks notably to direct debit and PayPal.

SERCIA has also awarded Claire Dutriaux and Anne-Marie Paquet-Deyris a 200€ grant for the conference they are organizing in December 2014 on the Western Southern.

The budget was approved unanimously by a show of hands.

Given the way university administrations function today, promising an amount (3,000€) for a conference, as we have done in the past, is no longer a viable solution. If SERCIA had actually given that much money for every SERCIA conference, the association would have gone bankrupt. Administrators these days will be checking whether the money promised by SERCIA and included in conference budgets has actually been transferred to the university concerned. This means that SERCIA must now be ready really to allocate the money that has been promised. The committee thus recommended that SERCIA be ready to contribute up to 1,000€ per SERCIA conference and up to 1,000€ per SERCIA publication. SERCIA conference organizers will have to apply for a precise amount, keeping in mind that SERCIA is a non-profit organization with very little leeway.

This proposal was accepted by a unanimous show of hands.

SERCIA would also like to increase its support for conferences and symposiums organized by SERCIA members in 2015. Thus, 800€ have been set aside for grants to conferences and symposiums. Any member interested should send an application to the President, Vice-president and Treasurer by November 1, 2014, but later applications will also be considered. Applications are reviewed by the SERCIA committee. SERCIA asks in exchange for an offer of financial support that the SERCIA logo be featured and due acknowledgement of the support offered on conference posters, programs and websites, and that at least one member of SERCIA should be on the advisory board.

This proposal was accepted by a unanimous show of hands.

4. Publications

Besançon: Melvyn Stokes emphasized that there had been many complications working with Michel Houdiard on the *Memory in/of Cinema* book. That said, it is ultimately a very pleasingly-produced book, as Raphaëlle Costa de Beauregard pointed out.

Bath: Wendy Everett was sorry that the book following the conference in Bath had been delayed, but much of this was due to painstaking editorial work. The book should come out in late 2014 or early 2015 and Wendy Everett said she was convinced it was a very good book indeed. Peter Lang is open to future proposals and is offering 30% off of various publications to those present at the conference. Peter Lang is also considering submissions for its European Cinema collection.

Dijon: Isabelle Schmitt-Pitiot announced the publication of the two books comprising a selection of articles presented in Dijon in 2012: *Intimacy in Cinema* (McFarland, 2014) and *CinémAction* 154 « De l'intime dans le cinéma anglophone » (early 2015).

Bordeaux: Jean-François Baillon explained that the organizers had received all the articles, which were now being peer-reviewed. Excetionally, the book will entirely be in French because it will be published by the Presses Universitaires de Bordeaux.

5. Film Journal

Penny Starfield, Chief Editor of *Film Journal*, explained that, for now, SERCIA's on-line peer-reviewed journal is hosted on the UCL website at the following address: <http://www.ucl.ac.uk/filmjournal>. It should be transferred onto the following website by early 2015: <http://www.filmjournal.org>. The next two issues are on "Trains in English Language Cinema" (guest editor: Taïna Tuhkunen) and "Naming and Labelling" (guest editors: Jean-François Baillon, Gilles Menegaldo and David Roche). Jacques Lerognon, David Roche and Penny Starfield are working on the new website. Penny Starfield is now

working on obtaining an ISSN for the journal. Members are encouraged to propose themes for future issues.

Film Journal will also be accepting book reviews and spontaneous submissions of academic articles. All articles are peer-reviewed twice anonymously. Proposals must be sent to Penny Starfield at this address: penny.starfield@unicaen.fr

Moreover, Penny Starfield felt that it was now necessary to have an Assistant Editor as well. This will require a minor constitutional amendment at the 2015 Annual General Meeting in Arras. Both positions—Chief Editor and Assistant Editor—will come up for election if the constitutional amendment is approved, but the committee suggested that given how crucial and specialist these positions are, all candidates be pre-approved by the Advisory Board consisting of present and former presidents of the association before being permitted to stand for election. Since both positions require stability and continuity, there is a strong case to be made for their terms of office being longer than the two years for other members of the committee.

Candidates to the position of Assistant Editor are warmly encouraged.

6. The SERCIA website

David Roche was happy to say that the website (<http://www.sercia.net>) was fully operational again.

7. Relations with other organisations (SAES, AFEA, AFECCAV, CICLAHO, SCMS, EAAS)

Anne-Marie Paquet-Deyris said that, although both our workshop proposals had been turned down for the 2014 SCMS conference in Seattle, two new proposals (Anne-Marie Paquet-Deyris and David Roche, and Nicole Cloarec and Isabelle Le Corff) had been made for the 2015 conference in Montreal. Melvyn Stokes noted that SERCIA is listed on the SCMS website, but that we should no doubt include a line stating we specialize in English-language cinema. Anne-Marie Paquet-Deyris and Gilles Menegaldo are organizing a conference on Hammer films in June 2015. The University of Girona has expressed interest in organizing a SERCIA conference in the next couple of years. The EAAS workshop recently organized in Le Hague by Tomas Popsil and Penny Starfield was probably going to be published in book form by Cambridge Scholars. Jean-François Baillon is going to be on the organizing committee of the 2016 AFECCAV conference in Bordeaux.

8. Committee elections

Six posts were up for election (candidates are in parentheses): President (Penny Starfield and Jean-François Baillon); Vice-President (David Roche); Treasurer (Céline Murillo); Assistant Treasurer (Nicole Cloarec); Secretary (Isabelle Schmitt); Assistant Secretary (Zachary Baqué).

Jean-François Baillon, who had earlier served as Secretary and was currently Assistant Secretary, was elected President by secret ballot, with 40 votes, 17 votes for Penny Starfield, who had served three terms as Vice-President.

David Roche, who had served three terms as Secretary, was elected Vice-president by secret ballot, with 56 votes (one abstained).

Céline Murillo, who was standing for a third term as Treasurer, was subsequently re-elected Treasurer by a unanimous show of hands.

Isabelle Schmitt-Pitiot, Zachary Baqué and Nicole Cloarec were elected, respectively, Secretary, Assistant Secretary and Assistant Treasurer by a unanimous show of hands.

Melvyn Stokes suggested that, as Chief Editor of *Film Journal*, Penny Starfield should be co-opted onto the SERCIA committee. This suggestion was approved by the assembly.

The following positions will come up for election in 2015: Chief Editor and Assistant Editor of *Film Journal* (if these new posts are approved by the AGM); Committee member responsible for relations with other organizations; and committee member responsible for the mailing list.

9. Future conferences

The 2015 conference will take place at the Université d'Artois, Arras, France, from September 3-5. The theme is "Masculine and Feminine." It will be organized by Julie Assouly and Marianne Kac-Vergne. The keynotes will be given by Jacqueline Nacache (Université Paris 7) and Yvonne Tasker (University of East Anglia).

Melvyn Stokes explained that there had not been any firm proposals for 2016 at this point. Sara Pesce has expressed interest in organizing a second SERCIA conference in Bologna, Italy, as have colleagues from the University of Girona, as Anne-Marie Paquet-Deyris explained earlier on. A conference at UC San Diego, kindly organized by Alain Cohen and his colleagues, remains an option, but raises questions of costs and timing.

A second possibility, which was brought to David Roche's attention only this week, would be a conference organized by Ariane Hudelet at the Université Paris 7, in collaboration with the GUEST Normandie project who specialize in TV series. The theme could be either "Cinema/TV" or "Cinema/Series." Melvyn Stokes expressed concern that (1) some members of SERCIA are not interested in television, and (2) SERCIA has always endeavored to have a conference abroad every two years. David Roche explained that the conference would be on the relationship between cinema and television and that there would not be any workshops exclusively devoted to one medium or the other.

Jean-François Baillon suggested that all three options be further explored by the committee in the forthcoming weeks in order to opt for the most attractive but also the most practical solution. The assembly agreed.

10. Any other business

None.

Melvyn Stokes closed the general assembly at 11:10pm, thanking once again Frank Mehring and Radboud University for a great conference.