

## Minutes of the AGM of the Association for French Language Studies

université Paul Valéry, Montpellier, 13 September 1997, 9.15–10.45

Chair: Anne Judge; Secretary: Nicole McBride; 27 members present.

1 Minutes: The minutes were deemed to be a correct record.

2 President's report. (report appended)

3 Annual conferences:

Annual Conference 1998: 4–6 September at the University of East Anglia  
(Marie-Madeleine Kenning as local organiser)

Several themes were suggested (French Language: Research and Teaching in the Information Age; *Le français: quelles grammaires*; *L'Oral et l'écrit: le français à l'ère des nouvelles technologies*). The meeting agreed on:

*Français oral, français écrit à l'ère des nouvelles technologies.*

*Influences réciproques et rapports; traces de l'oral dans l'écrit.* These points could be included in the description.

Annual Conference 1999: probably 3–5 September in Swansea. Dulcie Engel will initiate the booking.

Annual Conference 2000: It was confirmed that arrangements were being made to hold the 2000 afls conference in Québec (Laval) probably in the 3rd week in August. Carol Sanders reported on the meeting she had had with the Vice-Chancellor of Laval University who is also the President of aupelf. The date is difficult to fix as Canadian University lecturers tend to group their conferences in May–June. Astrid Berrier (Université du Québec, Montreal) is willing to help.

4 Future Workshops

29<sup>th</sup> Nov 97: Spoken Language Workshop SFS/AFLS organised by D. Engel

27–28 Feb 1998: Workshop/Colloquium in Translation/Contrastive Studies, Richard Nice, Surrey

The meeting supported the organisation of a “Research methodology day” which might also involve colleagues outside the UK if the timing was appropriate (January?). A. Lodge agreed to organise it through the Research subcommittee. A member advised consulting Paul Meara (Swansea). For more updated information members are invited to consult afls-news, or the Association Website.

5 Election of officers

Thanks were expressed to the outgoing committee and subcommittee members. Nominations had been sought during the Conference and more were requested at the meeting. No voting was needed, and the new members were as follows:

Noëlle Brick (Publicity Officer), Christine Fiandino (Postgraduate Affairs).

Stephen Noreiko (*Cahiers*), Marie-Madeleine Kenning (Membership) and Kate Beeching (Research Inventory) agreed to a further term of office.

Marie-Anne Hintze agreed to chair the Project and Publication subcommittee for the coming year. The post will be for election at the next AGM (1998).

6 Reports

6.1. Treasurer (report appended)

The accounts have been audited by a chartered accountant. His conclusion is that the association is in a healthy financial situation.

Reports

6.2. Publicity Officer (report appended)

6.3.1. Membership secretary (report appended)

6.3.2. The meeting agreed to increase the annual subscription to reflect the increased price of the *JLFS*. There will only be two rates now: £20.00 for post graduates, part-time and retired lecturers and £30.00 for the others.

6.3.3. It was agreed to ask the Association treasurer to investigate whether subscription could be paid by *VISA* to facilitate money transfer in currency other than £ especially as postal orders are adding cost.

6.3.4. It was agreed to insert a flier targeted to colleagues abroad inside the subscription leaflet:

– to emphasise the advantages gained through subscription to the Association (lecturers outside *UK* who may be unlikely to come to workshops and conferences may be strongly interested in the journals included in the membership fee: *JLFS* and the *Cahiers*).

– to clarify different modes of payment.

6.4. *Cahiers*: Stephen Noreiko reported that the new editing committee had been fully occupied this year with a healthy number of articles being submitted. The dates of publication would be reviewed if necessary.

6.5. Review Editor: Calls for reviews are now made via *afls-news*.

6.7. Workshops

Two workshops were organised in 1996-97:

March 1<sup>st</sup>: Creative writing and electronic tools,

University of Brighton, E. Broady

March 3<sup>rd</sup>: « Black, Blanc, Beur: la langue des jeunes »,

University of Bradford, F. Aitsiselmi

Guidelines on “Organising a workshop” have been produced and are available from R. Birks, French Department, University of Glasgow.

6.8. IT matters

The *AFLS* Home page on the *www* is at:

<http://www.ncl.ac.uk/~nsm1/afls/aflsindex.htm>

The Association has an open discussion list for its members: *afls-news*. It is intended to facilitate the exchange of information in the areas of teaching and research in French Language Studies.

To join *afls-news* email discussion list send the following command to [mailbase@mailbase.ac.uk](mailto:mailbase@mailbase.ac.uk):

Join *afls-news* firstname(s) lastname

For any queries relating to the list, contact the owner at

[afls-news-request@mailbase.ac.uk](mailto:afls-news-request@mailbase.ac.uk)

6.9. Projects and Publications Committee

*AFLS* published its first volume of *Mélanges* this year to celebrate the achievements and the influence of Sam Taylor, recently retired from the chair in the University of St Andrews. *Ça m'inspire: New Directions in French Language Studies. Mélanges en l'honneur du Professeur S.S.B. Taylor*

Once again some members asked whether the Conference proceedings could be published. It was agreed to ask the Research subcommittee to consider the request.

6. 10. Research Committee

The committee allocated the *AFLS* bursary to Martin Howard, registered for a PhD at University College Dublin.

6.11. Research Inventory

Kate Beeching will circulate all members with the research inventory questionnaire. It will also be available on the AFLS web site. Members are all invited to supply the relevant information within the deadline.

6.12. *JFLS* Roger Hawkins reported that Jacques Durand was ending his term as General Editor and that his successor would soon be announced.

7 *RAE*

Carol Sanders summarised the argument for having a Modern Languages panel. As Schools of Languages are now the prevailing structure for teaching and administrative purposes this should also be reflected at the research level. Research groups should have the choice of submitting under Modern Languages, French, European Studies or Linguistics as most suitable to their area of work. It was agreed that the Association should lobby for the recognition of a Modern Languages panel.

Richard Towell referred to lessons to be learnt from the last exercise. It was agreed that this issue would be discussed within the research sub committee which would decide on the best way to keep members informed. A slot might be dedicated at the next AFLS annual conference and/or a workshop organised as most appropriate.

8 The meeting warmly thanked Jacques Durand for the work he had done for the Association. Further thanks were expressed to the organisers of this very successful conference, both in France (Praxiling: Paul Siblot and Rachel Pankhurst) and within AFLS (Eve-Marie Aldridge and Anne Judge).

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President's report

This has been a busy and successful year, during which we have consolidated some of our past gains, and explored some new horizons.

1. One aim this year was to broaden our appeal abroad. The point of having an international dimension is that it is both broadening and "refreshing". In Montpellier, for example, we were able to find out what kind of research is done elsewhere and what kind of methodology is used which proved to be very useful.

To achieve this aim, Victoria Korzeniowska publicised the Conference world wide (see report) and we designed new French leaflets. I personally tried to publicise the AFLS when attending conferences abroad and other colleagues did the same. These efforts proved successful since nearly half those who came to Montpellier came from abroad.

I would like to add that one of our new French colleagues, H el ene Huot, editor of *la Revue fran aise de linguistique appliqu ee*, has expressed considerable enthusiasm for AFLS and has suggested that we could possibly organise joint events such as workshops. All this seems very promising.

2. Another aim was to standardise and formalise procedure in various sectors of AFLS work. This was, originally, to make it easier for new incumbents to take up AFLS posts. The main reason now is that we are getting so large that more transparency has become necessary; we all need to know exactly who does what. This applies to the organisation of the yearly conference, the running of the workshops, publicity, the projects and publications subcommittee and the research subcommittee. In each case the responsibilities of each member are to be laid down, and indeed, in the case of the 2 subcommittees their role within the association described as a whole. An archivist has been appointed, Nicole McBride, in order to keep track of any changes.

I would like to use this opportunity to thank all those elected or co-opted who have done “loads of work” for AFLS out of the kindness of their heart! Many thanks in particular to the outgoing members. Victoria Korzeniowska’s work as Publicity Officer will have had a major impact on the way we develop internationally. She has also set out the various tasks of the Publicity Officer in such a way that any new incumbent should know exactly what to do and when. Thanks also go to Gabrielle Parker for her work as Chair of the Projects and Publications subcommittee. We all have much to thank that subcommittee for, particularly at the time of the RAE. Gabrielle, I am pleased to report, will remain for at least another year on that committee. We could not manage at present without her expertise. And thanks go to everybody involved, — whether on a committee or as active members of AFLS. Let’s make next year a good AFLS year too.

#### Treasurer’s Report

AFLS accounts for the year ending August 31st 1997. (*The 1996 figures are given between brackets for ease of comparison. The \* refers to explanatory notes in the report below.*)

Balance on 31.08.96: £16 374.65

	Income	Expenditure
*1 Membership subs/reimburs	5,126.00 (14,655.00)	153.00
*2 French government grant	1,546.90 (1,848.93)	
JFLS/CUP	750.00 (750.00)	2,445.00 (2,587.99)
*3 Royalties (CILT) & publications	2,813.47 (1,248.07)	
*4 Conferences	4,888.47 (990.00)	227.74 (50.00)
*5 AFLS workshops	793.00 (54.92)	658.60
Publications sold at Glasgow	289.00	
PG. grant & related expenses		2500.00 (3,778.77)
AFLS publicity/communication		1,019.75 (1,159.17)
*6 AFLS committee expenses		738.55 (416.44)
P&PC expenses		218.99 (131.39)
*7 Books (printing)		1,447.12 (4851.25)
UCML membership		100.00
Interest	304.67 (419.39)	
Bank charges		11.75
Balance carried forward 31.08.97		23,365.50
	<u>£32,985.92</u>	<u>£32,985.92</u>
	(31,247.73)	

The accounts have been prepared from accounting records and information supplied. These accounts are in accordance with the accounting records and reflect the transactions of the Association for the year under review.

R. Burnett FCCA

The following notes explain the differences between the figures this year and last year.

- 1 *Membership subscriptions appear to be well below last year’s but this is due to the fact that the 1996 figure also included the 1995 figure. This also explains why the interest paid into our account is lower this year. Our actual membership income is more around the £6,000.00. (See membership secretary for exact figure).*
- 2 *The variation in the French government grant (paid in French Francs) is due to the fluctuations of the pound on the exchange market.*

- 3 *CILT royalties:*
- |                                   |          |
|-----------------------------------|----------|
| The year abroad                   | £457.74  |
| Discourse varieties in C.French   | £39.38   |
| Language & the internl. Scientist | £94.09   |
| Teaching grammar                  | £710.90  |
| Teaching translation              | £1157.69 |
| Promoting learner autonomy in Uni | £852.57  |
- 4 *The conference income is higher because it includes both Montpellier (£3,382.00) and Glasgow income (£1,556.45) which was received this year.*
- 5 *There was one workshop this year at Bradford which made a profit of £135.00*
- 6 *There were two AFLS committee meetings in London this year which explain the increase in expenses*
- 7 *Only one book was printed this year: Hommage à Sam Taylor*

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Publicity Officer's report

- 1 Call for papers for the Montpellier conference sent out to around 20 journals in the UK, France, Europe and North America. Call for papers also sent to FLE departments in French and Belgian universities and to a variety of French Embassies' *services culturels* throughout Europe.
- 2 Two new membership leaflets produced — one in English and one in French and the conference poster for Montpellier. A new, simple publications leaflet produced on AFLS headed paper to avoid confusion with membership leaflets. This was further amended for the Montpellier conference.
- 3 Two mailshots sent to all UK universities. The first contained details about the postgraduate bursary. The second contained the Montpellier conference poster, booking form and conference details, publications & publicity leaflets and details of « Black, Blanc, Beur » workshop held at the University of Bradford in May.
- 4 Conference posters sent to foreign speakers' institutions as well as to a variety of embassies and French institutions.
- 5 AFLS stand and publicity material sent *Institut Français'* meeting of lecturers London, to the « Black, Blanc, Beur »' workshop organised by Farid Aitsiselmi in Bradford and to the "Second Language Writing in a Computer Environment" workshop organised by Elspeth Broady at the University of Brighton in March.
- 6 AFLS publicity material distributed in delegates' registration packages at French Studies conference, Paris, September 1997, and taken to Association of Modern Contemporary France conference, University of Liverpool, September 1997.

Membership Secretary's report

1. Current situation

Number of paid up members at 8.9.97 234

Subscriptions still outstanding for '97 28

Balance in membership account at 29.8.97           £1,534.66

2. Actions taken during the year:

A number of steps were taken to recover outstanding subscriptions for 96 including the sending of some personalised letters, resulting in 24 payments.

£5,000 was transferred to the AFLS NatWest account on 17.4.97

In agreement with the treasurer, the Business Account was closed on 21.4.97 and funds transferred to the Community Account.

The few people with standing orders for the Business Account were written to and asked to transfer them to the Community Account with a payment date of 1<sup>st</sup> January.

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and lastly, from the Editor of *Cahiers*...

With this issue we come to the end of three years of *Cahiers*. Though the founding editor is perhaps not best qualified to judge, I think it has gone rather well. In spite of distortions induced by RAES and suchlike, we have had sufficient articles of sufficiently high quality to justify abandoning the *Newsletter* concept in order to create the Association's second refereed journal. We have managed to establish an identity different from *JFLS*.. And thanks to two energetic and resourceful Reviews Editors, Marie Landick and Inès Brulard — not to mention Gertrud Aub-Buscher, who has diverted a number of titles our way — we have provided informed and incisive comment on new books. What is more, I think we have done it without losing the conviviality of the old *Newsletter*. No doubt members will tell me if I am mistaken in any or all of this.

The reason for this maudlin nostalgia, is that, while no fan of change for the sake of it, I do not want *Cahiers* to get stuck in a rut. Nor do I want the selection of articles to appear the affair of a closed circle (this issue contains articles by two members of our panel of readers: they were read and criticised anonymously like the rest).

I am therefore taking this opportunity of thanking our panel of readers publicly for their help and support. And while I shall be writing to each of them individually to ask if they wish to stay with us for a few more years, I am also asking the Association at large to suggest other names who might be invited to join the panel. No remuneration and no glory, other than the publication of their name on the first page of each issue. Readers do not necessarily have to be members, though we hope the panel will correspond fairly closely to the profile of the Association.

By the same occasion, any suggestions or candidatures for the next editor of *Cahiers* will be received gratefully.