

Report of the Provisional Committee of the International Society for Cultural History
Prepared in connection with the Founding General Meeting of the Society, 30 August 2008

The committee originated at a general meeting at the end of the ‘Varieties of Cultural History’ conference at the University of Aberdeen, 5-8 July 2007, and was initially made up of the following:

Rainer Brömer, Peter Burke, Marjo Kaartinen, Peter McCaffery, Jürgen Pieters, Diederick Raven, Crosbie Smith, David Smith (Convenor), Patricia Soley-Beltran, Mike Spiller, Anna Tijsseling

Others at the general meeting agreed to become founding members of the Society on payment of 5GBP.

At the meeting of the committee immediately following the conference it was agreed to approach some additional persons with a view to increasing the range of countries covered by the committee, to consider the possibility of a founding conference in Ghent, that Marjo Kaartinen would pursue the question of the establishment of a journal, and that founding members would be offered membership of the Culthist email list, of which Rainer Brömer is a listowner.

During the weeks that followed, the following agreed to join the committee: Anne Eriksen, Lynn Hunt, Pascal Ory, Philippe Poirrier.

Jürgen Pieters and Alexander Roose agreed to organise the 2008 conference and the call for papers ‘Orientations’ was the subject of discussion between Jürgen and Alexander, Peter McCaffery and Pascal Ory at a meeting in Paris in September 2007.

A Society website was established on the University of Aberdeen server, and membership offered via an application form or online store. At the time of writing the Society has 200 founding members from over 30 countries.

A meeting of the Provisional committee was held in Edinburgh on 13 June 2008, and was attended by Anne Eriksen, Marjo Kaartinen, Peter McCaffery, Jürgen Pieters, David Smith, Michael Spiller. Preparations for the Ghent conference, the founding general meeting, and a draft constitution were discussed. The constitution was much amended and it was agreed to make it available to members, along with a minute of the meeting, via the Society’s website, and to create a blog for discussion of it. Further discussion covered future conferences, membership, Marjo’s efforts in recruiting a prospective editorial board, and her negotiations with potential journal publishers. In addition, the committee met with a representative of Pickering & Chatto, and discussed a contract for the establishment of a monograph / edited collection series. Several members agreed to contact potential series editors. All those attending the meeting covered their own expenses but the lunch was paid for from the Society’s funds. The meeting room was provided free of charge by the ESRC Genomics Forum at the University of Edinburgh, to whom thanks are due.

In the light of the discussion at the committee meeting and subsequent email discussion between members of the committee, and discussion with some other members of the Society, the provisional committee recommends to the Society and the new committee to be elected in Ghent.

1. That the 2009 conference be held in July in Brisbane, Australia (as proposed by Chris Dixon, University of Queensland), that the 2010 conference should be held in Turku (as proposed by Marjo Kaartinen), and that the 2011 conference be held in early August in Oslo (as proposed by Anne Eriksen)
2. That Marjo Kaartinen pursues and completes the negotiations that she has been engaged in regarding the establishment of a journal.
3. That Birgitta Svensson (Stockholm), Anu Korhonen (Helsinki), and Jürgen Pieters (Ghent), pursue negotiations with Pickering & Chatto on behalf of the Society, as prospective editors of the new monograph / edited collection series, with a view to agreeing a contract at an early date.
4. That in the immediate future, while expenditure is minimal and the main priority is to expand the membership, recruitment to the Society continue in the same way: 5GBP for membership for an indefinite period, those joining before the end of the Ghent conference being designated ‘founding members’ in the members list.