

## Report of the Committee for the year 2008

To be presented at the Annual General Meeting in Brisbane 2009

The International Society for Cultural History had its inaugural conference at the University of Ghent, Belgium, on 28–31 August 2008. The initiative to prepare for the formal launch of the Society had been made already at the *Varieties of Cultural History* conference at the University of Aberdeen in July 2007, where a Provisional Committee was founded to draft the constitution, to arrange a founding conference, to develop the membership, and to explore the establishment of a Journal and a publication series. The Founding General Meeting of the Society was finally arranged in Ghent on 30 August 2008, where the constitution, prepared by the provisional committee, was approved.

The first ISCH Committee was elected at the Founding General Meeting. There were fourteen candidates, and because there can only be twelve elected members in the committee, election had to be organised. The voting took place via the show of hands, and the following members were elected to the first Committee of the Society:

- Rainer Brömer (University of Mainz, Germany)
- Chris Dixon (University of Queensland, Brisbane, Australia)
- Anne Eriksen (University of Oslo, Norway)
- Didier Francfort (Nancy Université, France )
- Patrick Hutton (University of Vermont, USA)
- Kate Macdonald (University of Ghent, Belgium )
- Pascal Ory (Sorbonne Université Paris, France)
- Andrea Pető (Central European University, Budapest, Hungary)
- Jörg Rogge (Mainz University, Germany)
- Hannu Salmi (University of Turku, Finland)
- David Smith (University of Aberdeen, Scotland)
- Gillian Swanson (University of the West of England, England)

In its recommendations the provisional committee had also named the prospective editors of the journal and the publication series who would become *ex officio* members of the Committee. The prospective editor of the journal was Marjo Kaartinen (University of Turku, Finland) and the editors of the publication series Anu Korhonen (Renvall Institute, University of Helsinki, Finland), Birgitta Svensson (Nordiska Museet, Stockholm, Sweden) and Jürgen Pieters (University of Ghent, Belgium).

The Committee of the International Society for Cultural History had its first meeting already in Ghent, on 31 August 2008. First, the Committee elected its officers for the period of three years. Rainer Brömer was elected unanimously as Secretary, Hannu Salmi as Chair, and David Smith as Treasurer of ISCH. It was agreed that Chris Dixon, organiser of the 2009 conference, would act as the President of ISCH for 2008/2009. The Committee also confirmed the recommendations of the Provisional Committee. It confirmed that the 2009 conference will be held in Brisbane, Australia, on 20–24 July, the 2010 conference in Turku, Finland, and the 2011 conference in Oslo, Norway. The committee also confirmed the suggestions for the editors of the Journal and the publication series.

The second meeting of the Committee was an email meeting, which took place 11–19 September 2008. It approved the minutes of the first regular committee meeting, and continued the journal

plans by electing an editorial board. According to the constitution, “The Editorial Board shall consist of (a) the Chair of the Committee *ex officio* (b) one of the elected members of the Committee chosen by the Committee to represent the Society (c) at least two joint Editors and a Reviews Editor.” The Committee decided on the following editorial board:

- Marjo Kaartinen, editor-in-chief
- David Smith, editor
- Hannu Salmi, chair of the Committee, member *ex officio*
- Patrick Hutton, member of the Committee to represent the Society
- Anna Tijsseling, reviews editor
- Kristine Steenbergh, reviews editor

The Committee did not have other official meetings during the year 2008, but the Committee continued discussions on the development of the Society by discussing on the membership recruitment, on the profile of the Journal and the publication series, on the launch of a suggested cultural history prize and a postgraduate network, and the outlines of the forthcoming ISCH conferences. The present state of these plans will be reported separately.

The first Committee meeting of the year 2009 took place as an email meeting on 19–30 January 2009.