

Current Activities

The General Assembly of SIEF in Bergen, Norway, 23rd June 1990

At the close of the 4th SIEF congress, the assembly met with the departing president, Reimund Kvideland, in the chair. After brief reports from the treasurer, Birgitta Frykman, and from the commissions, the new executive committee was elected by acclaim: Konrad Köstlin (Germany) as president, Nils-Arvid Bringéus (Sweden), Dorota Simonides (Poland) and Dunja Rihtman-Augustin (Yugoslavia) as vice-presidents, and Alexander Fenton (Scotland) as ordinary member. The appointment of a treasurer and a general secretary was left to the president.

During the election of national representatives to the council of administration, there was some debate over the admission of delegates from non-European countries. The executive wanted the question to be postponed, but the meeting decisively supported a proposal, moved by Rudolf Schenda, in favour of admitting guest representatives from countries with cultural links with Europe, especially as the USA is already represented. It was also decided that in view of current events, Germany should have only one representative, and the Baltic republics three. The following representatives and guest representatives were elected:

Austria: Edith Hörander
Belgium (Flemish): Jozef Van Haver
(French):
Belorussia: Vasily K. Bondarchik
Brazil: Esther S.A. de A. Karwinsky
Bulgaria: Todor I. Zhivkov
Canada: Gerald Thomas
Czechoslovakia: Richard Jerabek
Denmark: Bjarne Stoklund
Estonia: Pille Kipper
Finland: Timo J. Virtanen

France: Martine Segalen
Germany: Hermann Bausinger
GB: England: Venetia Newall
Scotland: Alan Bruford
Wales: Robin Gwyndaf
Greece: Anna Papamichael
Hungary: Vilmos Voigt
Iceland: Hallfredur Örn Eiriksson
India: Jawaharlal Handoo
Ireland: Patricia Lysaght
Israel: Olga Mulkiewics-Goldberg
Italy: Carla Bianco
Latvia: Saulvedis Cimermanis
Lithuania: Leonarda Sauka
Malta: Josef Cassar Pullicini
Netherlands: Jeremy Boissevain
Norway: Bente Alver
Poland: Bronislawa Kopszynska-Jaworaska
Portugal: Joaquim Pais de Brito
Rumania: Eygenia-Zamfira Mihail
Spain: Julio Caro Baroja
Sweden: Anders Gustavsson
Ukraine: Vsevolod I. Naulko
USA: Richard Bauman
USSR: Valery Tishkov
Yugoslavia: Olga Supek

Two honorary members were also elected by acclaim: Jean Cuisenier (France), and Linda Dégh (USA).

The chair announced some revisions to the statutes, mostly just cosmetic, but including a formalisation of membership. Two members' nominations are now necessary (except for those present at the meeting, who were issued with application forms), and dues of \$ 12 (or equivalent in other currency) will be payable for the period between each congress. Decisions on admittance rest with the executive committee. The members were allowed a pe-

riod of one month to comment on the proposed statutes.

The meeting gratefully accepted an invitation from Olaf Bockhorn and Klaus Beitzl to host the next congress in Vienna (12th–16th September 1994). This will coincide with the 100th anniversary of the Verein für Volkskunde. Gerald Thomas withdrew an invitation to St John's, Canada, but hoped that SIEF would cross the Atlantic before the next century.

At Edith Hörander's proposal, a commission for folk religion/piety/religiosity (Kommission für Volksfrömmigkeit) was established, with

Anders Gustavsson as president. At the last minute, Claus-Dieter Rath (Berlin) called for the creation of an informal working group on some disturbing current developments in the area of political mentality in Europe, especially new racism and the construction of public enemies.

On behalf of delegates from Eastern Europe, Vilmos Voigt gave special thanks to the congress organisers for their support; and Reimund Kvideland declared the meeting closed.

Tom Cheesman