SOCIETY OF ANTIQUARIES OF LONDON

COUNCIL

Thursday, 09 October 2025
At Burlington House and Online (via Zoom), 1.30 pm

Prof. Martin Millett, President, in the chair

Present:
Prof Martin Millett, President (MM)
Dr Sam Lucy, Director (SL)
Dr Carol Bell, Treasurer (CB)
Ms Shahina Farid, Hon. Secretary (SF)
Prof. Jenny Alexander (JA)
Dr Kenneth Brophy (KB)
Dr Stewart Bryant (SB)
Dr Dustin Frazier Wood (DFW)
Dr Elizabeth Hallam Smith (EHM)
Mr Timothy Loughton (TL)
Prof Anthony Musson, Vice President (AM)
Dr Andy Seaman (AS)
Dr Tom Williams (TW)

In attendance:
Ms Natasha McEnroe, General Secretary (NM)
Dr Alexandra Ault, Head of Collections (AA)
Dr Sophia Collingwood, Finance Director (SC)
Ms Marta Naumova, Governance and Grants Officer (MN)
Mr Dominic Wallis, Development Director (DW)

Apologies: N/A

43/25 Welcome and apologies

i. No apologies reported.

44/25 Minutes from the 10 July Council Meeting

Papers having previously been circulated:

i. The minutes of the Meeting of Council on 10 July 2025 and from the Meeting of Council on 13 March were approved and signed, subject to the removal of the name of Dr Tim Schroder from the attendance list (done post meeting).

45/25 Matters arising

[28/25ii] Circulate to the Council the information about the 6 November fundraising event Past Matters: Drawn to Discovery – resolved.

[35/25i] Honorary Fellowship elections – see item 9.

[33/25ii] Honorary Fellowship 2026 nominations (ALL) – see item 10.

[33/25iii] Honorary Fellowship 'job description' (MM and NM) – see item 9.

[33/25iv] Circulate the Risk Documents to the staff (NM) – resolved.

[42/25i] Skills Audit (NM and MN) – see item 6 and 7.

46/25 General Secretary's Report

A paper having previously been circulated:

i. The General Secretary presented the report, drawing particular attention to the following points:
    a. Although Magna Carta exhibition is closed, the wider project continues and an online exhibition is scheduled.
    b. Since the time of writing the report, SAL has appointed the building contractors for the Tapestry Room project at Kelmscott.

ii. Fundraising update was provided:
    a. SAL received over £473,000 in donations from 310 donors (approx. 10% of Fellowship) with many choosing regular payment of £20 per month.
    b. During the Magna Carta exhibition SAL also received public donations which came to nearly £20,000.
    c. A series of fundraising events for Past Matters is scheduled, for which nearly 300 tickets are sold to date.

iii. The Council formally thanked SAL staff and volunteers from other Courtyard societies who acted promptly and effectively and helped to protect the Collection from the library flood.

47/25 Finance

Papers having previously been circulated:

i. The President highlighted two following points:
    a. Subscription rates are scheduled to go up from the 1st of January 2026. This matter will need to go to the Finance Committee, and then Council would need to approve it by circulation. **ACTION: NM and MN to arrange.**
    b. The work of the Finance Department towards the signing of the Accounts is ongoing, however, it is unlikely to finish before the December Council. Because of that, there will be a need for an Extraordinary Council meeting (online) in January 2026. **ACTION: MM, NM, and MN to arrange.**

ii. The report from Treasurer was presented, and the following points were highlighted:
    a. [Redacted]
    b. There is currently work being done by the Finance Department to improve SAL's processes.
    c. SAL's Finance Director now oversees the finances of Kelmscott Manor.
    d. [Redacted]

iii. Policy changes at Sarasin were briefly explained to the Council. It was agreed that Finance Committee will discuss them in more detail and return with a recommendation to the Council.

iv. [Redacted]

v. An update about the preparation of the 2025 Accounts and Audit was provided:
    a. There was a need to build all the numbers from 2024-25.
    b. The audit for SAL, Lampada and Lucerna is scheduled for the coming weeks.
    c. Council thanked the Finance Director.

vi. The Council approved the bank mandate. It was agreed that the people on the mandates should only be the current Officers of the Society. These four Officers will also oversee control of issuing credit cards.

48/25 Committee Review & skills audit

A paper having previously been circulated:

i. The results of the Skills Audit were presented, revealing that digital [Redacted] skills within Council could be improved.

49/25 Future of Policy and Kelmscott Committees

i. The Council agreed to keep the Policy Committee as *ad hoc* committee, to be convened when needed.

ii. Future changes of the Kelmscott Committee will be discussed at the upcoming Kelmscott Committee meeting.

50/25 Honorary Fellowship update

i. It was reported to Council that the work on the Honorary Fellowship job description is ongoing. It will go to Fellowship Committee and then to Council.

ii. It was reported that the Honorary Fellowship election is open for votes, and the ballot is scheduled to close on 16 October 2025.

iii. It was agreed that in spring 2026 Fellows should be invited to make suggestions for the next elections of Honorary Fellows, the ballot for which will be closing in January or February 2027. **ACTION: Annabel Harrison and MN to set up.**

iv. The Council agreed that the timetable for the above should be agreed formally at the December Council meeting, and then promulgated as an Order, and be attached to Statues. **ACTION: NM and MN to set up.**

51/25 Terms of Reference (Journal Exchanges Working Group)

A paper having previously been circulated:

i. Council approved the Journal Exchanges Working Group Terms of Reference.

52/25 Museum

Papers having previously been circulated:

i. The Council approved deaccessioning for the following items:
LDSAL15
LDSAL21
LDSAL26

LDSAL165
LDSAL355

53/25 Past Matters update

i. It was reported that the Past Matters Working Group is discussing how SAL might adapt the building to help us better meet our charitable objectives.

ii. It was reported that a session for gathering feedback from SAL's staff was scheduled. It was agreed that feedback from Fellows should also be gathered.

[CB left the meeting at 15:09]

54/25 Committee minutes

Papers having been previously circulated:

i. Council noted the minutes from the Publications Committee Meeting June 2025.

ii. Council noted the minutes from the Policy Committee Meeting September 2025.

55/25 Standing items

i. The General Secretary reported no updates on the Health and Safety report.

ii. The General Secretary reported no updates on the Ethical Conduct Body.

iii. The Governance and Grants Officer reported Fellowship numbers:
   a. Fellows: 3222 – 0.4% increase compared to July 2025
   b. Affiliates: 709 – 5.7% increase compared to July 2025

56/25 Confidential item [Redacted]

57/25 AOB

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 3.16 pm.

Prof Martin Millett, President

Ms Natasha McEnroe, General Secretary

Ms Marta Naumova, Governance and Grants Officer

October 2025