SOCIETY OF ANTIQUARIES OF LONDON

COUNCIL

Thursday, 12 March 2026
At Burlington House and Online (via Zoom), 1.30 pm

Prof. Martin Millett, President, in the chair

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

In attendance: Ms Natasha, McEnroe, General Secretary (NLM)
Dr Alexandra Ault, Head of Collections (AA)
Ms Marta Naumova, Governance and Grants Officer (MN)

Apologies: Prof. Jenny Alexander, Mr Timothy Loughton, Mr Dominic Wallis, Dr Sophia Collingwood

4/26 Welcome and apologies and declarations of conflicts of interest

i. No conflicts of interest were declared.

5/26 Minutes from the 18 October Council and 28 January Extraordinary Council
Papers having previously been circulated:

i. The minutes of Council on 18 December 2025 were approved and signed.
ii. The minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of Council on 26 January 2026 were approved and signed.

6/26 Matters arising

[70/25i] Committee membership: using online lots:
Jennifer Alexander is to step down at the Anniversary Meeting.

[70/25iv] Co-opted members to Council in the Statutes
It was reported that Council can co-opt, but the co-option can only last for one year. The option to extend the co-option at the end of the year is not prohibited.

7/26 General Secretary's Report
A paper having previously been circulated:

i. The report was presented, highlighting the following points:
    a. Societies of the Courtyard are learning to work together. Carter Jonas, who also works for Kelmscott Manor, was appointed as Burlington House's Managing Agent.
    b. SAL interviewed for the positions of Porter / Security Manager and the Museum Collection Manager. Conditional offers were made, and references were being awaited.
    c. The Tapestry Room project is in the final stages. Council members were encouraged to visit Kelmscott Manor when the Tapestries are reinstalled at Kelmscott Manor.

ii. Council thanked Paul Drury for his support with the Tapestry Room Project.

8/26 Fundraising Update

i. It was reported a season of fundraising is planned for autumn 2026.

ii. A new grant was announced: a gift from the family of Geoff Wainwright, Past President, for the establishment of the Wainwright Fund to support archaeological work in Wales.

9/26 Finance

i. The Treasurer noted that there was a delay with preparing the Budget for 2025-26 [Redacted]. It was agreed that the Budget would be circulated to Council for approval following discussion of it at the next Finance Committee.

ii. It was noted that despite the situation in the Middle East, there had been no significant decrease in the value of SAL investment.

iii. Portfolio valuation was reported to be £12,364,000, being up from £12,363,000 at 31 December 2025.

iv. It was noted that volatility is to be expected due to crude oil price instability.

v. Meeting with Sarasin regarding the policy changes agreed at the December meeting of Council were planned by the Treasurer.

10/26 Council membership and nominations for 2026/27

i. It was reported that Council nominations for 2026/27 had gone out.

ii. It was noted that Anniversary Meeting papers were being made ready to be circulated to the Fellowship.

iii. The President reported that the following nominations had been received (and that as there were no further nominations, no ballot would be required at the Anniversary Meeting):
   a. Treasurer: Dr Carol Bell (second term)
   b. Ordinary Council Members: Dr Karen Limper-Herz, Mr Martin Levy, and Dr Nick Merriman.

11/26 Past Matters update

A paper having previously been circulated:

i. It was highlighted that architects were being sought for Stage I of the study, and the shortlisting process was planned for the first week of April.

ii. Council was asked to approve a draw-down from the Tercentenary Fund to partially fund this work. This was approved in principle. **ACTION: MN to add to the next Council meeting Agenda.**

iii. It was agreed that Architects presentation should be given to Council at the autumn meeting. **ACTION: MN to add to the agenda of the autumn meeting**.

12/26 Out-of-London Ordinary Meetings

i. It was noted that Fellowship Committee recommended to Council:
   a. To review the Regional Groups annually.

b. To reduce the number of Out of London meetings to two per year, one of which will be the Welsh Fellows as it is a national group.
c. To liaise with Regional Groups so that the President and General Secretary regularly attend events they are arranging

ii. The Council accepted the recommendation to review the Regional Groups annually.

iii. The Council accepted the recommendation to reduce the number of Out of London meetings to two a year whilst ensuring regular attendance of the President and General Secretary at Regional Group events.

13/26 Committee minutes
A paper having previously been circulated:

i. The minutes of Library and Collections meeting were noted. Council approved the loan requests in [4/26].

ii. The minutes of Fellowship Committee were noted.

iii. The minutes of Kelmscott Committee were noted.

14/26 Digitisation project with Watercolour World
A paper having previously been circulated:

i. Council approved the participation in Watercolour World project.

15/26 Society Medals

i. Council members were asked to propose candidates for the Society Gold Medal. **ACTION: all to send a note. MN to add to the Autumn Meeting Agenda.**

ii. It was noted that even though historically medals have only been given to archaeologists, widening the scope would be appropriate and desirable.

16/26 Standing items

i. Update on the Fellowship numbers was provided:
a. Fellows: 3261 (0.93% increase from December 2025)
b. Affiliates: 722 (1.8% increase from December 2025).

17/26 AOB

i. It was noted that concerns in the press about non-European human remains in British collections does not directly affect SAL.

ii. It was highlighted that SAL has a human remains policy that lists the small collection of human remains and is available online.

iii. The President thanked the outgoing members of the Council for their contributions: Dr Jennifer Alexander, Dr Elizabeth Hallam Smith, and Dr Thomas Williams.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 2:55 pm.

Prof Martin Millett, President

Ms Natasha McEnroe, General Secretary,

Ms Marta Naumova, Governance and Grants Officer

March 2026