SOCIETY OF ANTIQUARIES OF LONDON

**MEETING OF COUNCIL**

**Thursday, 13 March 2025**

**At Burlington House and Online**

**1.30 pm**

**(Lunch from 1.00 pm)**

Prof. Martin Millett, President, in the Chair

**Present:** Prof. Martin Millett, President (MM)
Dr Jennifer Alexander (JS)
Dr Carol Bell, Treasurer (CB)
Dr Bob Bewley (BB)
Prof. John Cooper, Director (JC)
Ms Shahina Farid, Honorary Secretary (SF)
Dr Elizabeth Hallam Smith (EHS)
Prof. Simon Kaner (SK)
Dr Ann MacSween (AM)
Prof. Anthony Musson (AM)
Dr Thomas Williams (TW)
Mr Gavin Williams (GW)
Dr Stewart Bryant (SB)

**In attendance:** Ms Katy Drake (KD)
Ms Natasha McEnroe, General Secretary (NM)
Dr Josie Mills (JM)
Ms Dunia Garcia-Ontiveros (DGO)

**Apologies:** Dr Andrew Seaman
Dr Timothy Schroder

The President opened the Council meeting and welcomed the new Governance and Grants Officer Josie Mills.

09/25 Apologies and declarations of conflicts of interest
Apologies were noted. No conflicts of interest were declared.

10/25 Minutes of the Meeting of Council on 12 December 2024 and the Extraordinary Meeting 30 January 2025

The minutes of the Council Meeting of 12 December 2024 and the Extraordinary Meeting of 30 January 2025, having been previously circulated, were approved and signed.

11/25 Actions from Previous Council

i.) [Redacted]

ii.) [30/24iv] The Fellows' Room has been renamed and a short piece published in Salon.

iii.) [46/24iii] NM reported that 22% of our 636 Affiliates are on a student rate, a qualitative survey suggested students felt current price was acceptable.

iv.) [47/24ii] The Trustees have received the correct copy of the Headlease.

v.) [47/24iii] The Joint Operating Agreement for BH is on the agenda.

vi.) [47/24iv] NM reported that the 'Vision' document for BH is in progress.

vii.) [48/24ii] The Flood Resilience and Risk Register for Kelmscott Manor is in progress.

viii.) [48/24ii] The Room Hire Rate review has been completed by NM.

ix.) [49/24iii] MM is close to finalising a date for an online meeting with Fellows in North America in early April.

x.) [50/24iii] A Midyear Event Booklet will be reviewed in the yearly budget.

xi.) [02/25vi] The 'Lessons Learned' document is in progress by NM.

xii.) [04/25i-v] DGO reported on progress following the flooding in RSC basement.

xiii.) [06/25i] Both Medals have been ordered, and the recipients are aware.

xiv.) [07/25i] The Honorary Fellows update is on the agenda.

12/25 Annual Report (previously circulated) and General Secretary's update
The General Secretary gave a verbal update:

i.) We are still awaiting the final figures from the auditors and there will be time pressure to submit these as soon as we receive them.

ii.) It was requested that the Trustees read through the Annual Report and provide any feedback on the wording to NM.

iii.) An additional Meeting of Council will be held on the day of the Anniversary Meeting 1st May 2025 to approve the Annual Report and Accounts for 2023–24.

iv.) The General Secretary's Report is not included in papers but will be sent out next week.

v.) NM reported on recruitment of interim cover for the Finance Team as Katy Drake and Kehinde Adelodun are leaving in May.

vi.) The search for a new Head of Finance is being led by Reed Recruitment. Interviews will take place in early April.

vii.) It was agreed that the interview panels for these posts should have professional finance experience.

viii.) DGO has announced her intention to resign as Head of Library and Collections at a date to be agreed. NM reported on the interim arrangements to cover her duties and on preparations for the search for a replacement. NM thanked everyone for supporting the recruitment process.

13/25 Update on the Fundraising Campaign

The General Secretary and Head of Development reported on the fundraising campaign:

i.) NM noted that the delay in the signing- off of the accounts for 2023-24 means that some applications have been delayed.

ii.) DW reported that the first phase of appeal to Fellows has raised in donations £375k with gifts from £500 to £50,000 in addition to the bequest from the late Dr Anthony Emery. The total raised represents 26% of our £4.8m target.

iii.) Phase two of the fundraising campaign will be a public appeal launched during the Magna Carta exhibition.

iv.) The Magna Carta exhibition is fully funded. Farrer & Co have offered £12,050, John Murray and Constable Trust £17,000, Arts Scholars £5,000, Edwards Harvist Trust (Westminster Council) £1,000.

v.) DW reported on the Autumn Programme, which includes four ticketed events designed to raise money for the lease appeal.

vi.) MM thanked contributors for their reports and it was noted that a Benefactors' Board would be installed shortly in the entrance hall.

14/25 New Burlington House and Courtyard Update

i. NM reported on progress towards the replacement of the managing agent. It was noted that there were outstanding issues to resolve over monies held by the current managing agents.

ii. It was noted that the draft of a Joint Operating Agreement with the other Courtyard Societies is nearing completion.

15/25 Treasurer's report

i.) The sign off date of the audit should occur the week of the 21st of April and Finance Committee would then review it prior to the additional Council meeting on 1 May. **Action: NM.**

ii.) The Treasurer and KD summarised the issues that had arisen during the preparation of these accounts and the audit. These had been discussed in detail by the Finance Committee who would review lessons learnt.

16/25 Honorary Fellows

i.) NM reported that progress on the election of Honorary Fellows had been delayed because of other business, so it would not take place at the Anniversary Meeting as planned. It is hoped that it will be possible to hold the Ballot at the Summer Soiree.

ii.) MM suggested that further discussion of the nomination of Honorary Fellows would be helpful. This will be taken to the Fellowship Committee and to the following Council meeting.

17/25 Royal Fellows

i.) This will be carried forward and updates will follow. **Action: MM**

18/25 Committee Minutes

i.) An informal briefing for the Finance Committee was held on March 2025 (this was not minuted).
ii.) Libraries and Collections met 20 February 2025 (minutes to follow).
iii.) Fellowship Committee scheduled for 6 February has been postponed.

19/25 Loans Update
The Head of Libraries and Collections DGO reported on six loans requests.

i.) Sainsbury Centre – approved pending funding
ii.) Virginia Museum of Fine Arts – approved
iii.) Laing Art Gallery – approved in principle
iv.) Fundación MAPFRE, Madrid – declined
v.) Wawel Royal Castle State Art Collection, Krakow – need more information
vi.) Courtauld Institute – approved
vii.) DGO reported on objects transferred to the BM in 1875. The Loans Administrator has formalised these historic loans and completed

deaccession notifications. These have been signed by SF and MM, and our Museums Collections Manager. We now have a paper trail of what happened in 1875.

20/25 Council and Officer Nominations
It was noted that there are four vacancies for Council members as well as for the role of Director. Three valid nominations for Council had been received and these were noted.

i.) Tim Loughton, Council Member
ii.) Stewart Bryant, Council Member
iii.) Kenneth Brophy, Council Member

There was one valid nomination for the role of Director, Dr Samantha Lucy.

Under the statutes (4.7.1), Council can also make nominations. The President proposed that Council should nominate Dr Dustin Frazier Wood for the vacant position on Council. This was unanimously agreed. **Action: MM to contact DFW.** [Post meeting note: DFW accepted the nomination]

It was agreed that a skills audit of Council would be undertaken, and the Council should also continue to monitor the balance of its membership (in terms of academic discipline, geographical coverage, age and gender).

21/25 Standing Items

i.) Health and Safety, nothing to report.
ii.) Ethical Conduct Body, nothing to report.
iii.) Fellowship numbers were read to Council.

22/25 AOB

i.) AM requested clarity of what was lost in the flooded archive. DGO reported that it was mostly [Redacted], duplicate SAL publications and old exhibition material. Losses were mainly of little value.
ii.) MM thanked the retiring Council members (Bob Bewley, Simon Kaner, Tim Schroder, Ann MacSween) and the outgoing Director, John Cooper, for their service.

Meeting ends 14.54pm
Date of next meeting: 10 July Kelmscott Manor

Martin Millett, President
Natasha McEnroe, General Secretary
Josie Mills, Government and Grants Officer