

National Portrait Gallery

SEVEN HUNDRED AND SIXTEENTH MEETING

Minutes of the Meeting of the Trustees held at the National Portrait Gallery on
Thursday 20 May 2004

Present:

Sir David Scholey (Chairman)
Professor Robert Boucher
Professor David Cannadine
Ms Amelia Fawcett
Ms Flora Fraser
Professor Ludmilla Jordanova
Professor Phillip King
Sir Christopher Ondaatje
Mr Tom Phillips
Sir John Weston
Baroness Willoughby de Eresby

In attendance:

Mr Sandy Nairne
Mr Jacob Simon

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from the Rt Hon Baroness Amos, Sir Max Hastings, Professor the Earl Russell, Ms Sara Selwood and Miss Alexandra Shulman.

2. Trustees

The Chairman reported that this would be Lady Willoughby's last meeting as a Trustee and warmly thanked her for her considerable contribution during her term of office.

3. Minutes of the Last Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 12 February 2004 were approved.

4. Matters Arising

The Director responded on a number of matters arising. *Minute 4:* The Francis Bacon exhibition had been cancelled because the British Council were unable to accommodate the National Portrait Gallery's needs within their revised schedule; however there was a possibility of showing Bacon portraits in cooperation with the Tate centenary exhibition in 2009. *Minute 6:* living sitters acquired for the Primary Collection were informed when their portrait entered the collection; progress had been made on funding the acquisition of the portrait of David Sylvester with the offer of a grant of £35,000 from the National Art Collections Fund; in the final negotiations on the David Beckham portrait, we had obtained all the usual rights subject to a restriction on the use of the portrait as a postcard which we still hoped to be able to publish in due course. *Minute 11:* Plans have been formulated to adjust the layout of the basement Bookshop to provide further space for the café without prejudicing shelf space for the bookshop. *Minute 12:* There had been a good response from Trustees for the visit to Beningbrough on 7 June.

5. Director's Report

The Director updated his report. *We Are The People* was proving extremely popular and the Trustees congratulated Tom Phillips. Kathleen Soriano has been offered a fellowship on the new Clore Duffield Leadership Institute programme and Lucy Peltz had been offered a six-

week visiting scholarship at St Johns College, Oxford. The Chairman reported on his meeting with the Minister for the Arts who wishes to reexamine what are core purposes of museums for discussion with the Treasury. Robert Boucher suggested considering Regional Development Agencies for support for regional activities and specifically the Yorkshire agency which he has encouraged to support cultural activities.

It was proposed to defer the next annual round of selecting subjects for portrait commissions until November to allow Sarah Howgate to make progress on the David Hockney exhibition. Two additional commissions outside the annual process had been suggested: Dame Vivien Duffield as a potential subject for Charlotte Harris as BP Portrait Award winner, and Sir Michael Stoute as a leading representative of the world of horseracing. On the proposal to see if Charlotte Harris might paint Dame Vivien Duffield it was stated that Gallery practice has been to explore first whether the Portrait Award winner could paint a sitter on the Trustees approved list and only if not to bring in the name of other appropriate sitters to the Trustees for approval. On the proposal for a portrait of Sir Michael Stoute since this possibility had last been discussed his name had been put forward in the annual selection process and he was being included as one of the subjects in the photographic commission by Derry Moore. There was some feeling that we should await the outcome of this photographic commission before considering a painting of sculpture.

- THE TRUSTEES agreed to the choice of Dame Vivien Duffield as the subject of a commission but did not agree to the choice of Sir Michael Stoute

6. Financial Report

The Chairman welcomed Bruce Jackson as Head of Finance to his first meeting. Bruce Jackson introduced the interim financial report for the 12 months to March 2004 and reported that it had been successful year, with a probable operating surplus of £300,000, principally as a result of the *Cecil Beaton: Portraits* exhibition exceeding expectations. The Trustees examined the report and the Reserves and the Investment policies.

- THE TRUSTEES approved the Reserves Policy and the Investment Policy for inclusion in the 2003/4 statutory accounts

7. Risk Management

7.1 Risk Register. Sir John Weston, Chairman of the Audit and Compliance Committee, introduced the register of key risks and drew attention to the increased risks in categories B2 relating to terrorism and B4 relating to the Gallery's funding levels (more specifically to the risk of receiving no increase in DCMS grant). He reported that insurance was now in place to cover the principle risks identified in category C1. The Director reported that he would be putting the business case to DCMS to justify having taken out such insurance cover.

7.2 Draft Statement on Internal Control. It was suggested by Trustees that the Statement on Internal Control should be reordered so that the risk priorities for the year were clearer.

- THE TRUSTEES noted the draft Statement on Internal Control and agreed that the Chairman of the Audit and Compliance Committee should oversee amendments, and then the Chairman should approve the final version on their behalf for inclusion in the 2003/4 statutory accounts

8. Portraits on Offer

The Chief Curator tabled an addendum to the list of Portraits on Offer with details of a daguerreotype of Sir Joseph Dalton Hooker by William Kilburn purchased the previous day

at Christie's for £6,700 hammer price. The Director reported that the photographs of Lord Woolf and Dame Elizabeth Butler-Sloss by Christian Courrèges would probably be exhibited alongside the loan of the new sculpture of Lord Woolf by David Mach in August. The Trustees welcomed the prospect of acquiring one or both drawings of Drue Heinz by David Hockney and agreed to a maximum expenditure of £3,000. Sarah Howgate reported that the Jerwood commission would be unveiled in September.

The Chief Curator reported that two acquisitions of material from the Bassano Studio were in the course of being made for the Reference Collection: firstly a mixed lot of Victorian and Edwardian photographs, negatives and daybooks had been purchased by John Morton Morris at a sale in Godalming and would be presented to the Gallery with the exception of some Royal photographs which would go to the Royal collection, and secondly a selection of 1000 significant sitters from the 1960s, 1970s and 1980s from a larger collection of negatives which would be purchased from the current owner of the Bassano business.

- THE TRUSTEES agreed to the acquisition for the Primary Collection of the portraits on the attached list

9. Annual Commissions

Sarah Howgate updated her report by stating that there had been a successful meeting between Alfred Brendel and Tony Bevan. The Chairman suggested that Trustees with opinions on the choice of individual artists should contact Sarah Howgate.

10. Photograph Commissions

The Chief Curator reported that funding from Deloitte provided an opportunity to initiate a series of profession-based photograph commissions, with one commission each year devoted to public life and another to the business world. There was some discussion on how we shape individual themes; suggestions included separating out the category, 'Communications and media' into content providers and telecommunication providers, and giving a more precise focus to the category, 'Creative industries'. The Director said that the choice of individual sitters would be the subject of further research and he welcomed specific comments. A report back would be made to the next Trustees meeting.

11. Endowment

The Trustees welcomed the paper on endowment funding for the collection. It was generally thought that the fund should be named the National Portrait Fund and that there should be a majority of Gallery Trustees on the independent charitable trust to be formed to hold the endowment. The Trustees acknowledged that there would be some necessary expenditure on research and administrative costs.

12. Exhibitions Review

The Director reported on progress in planning the exhibition programme. He stated that both *Self-portraits* and *David Hockney* would extend out of the Wolfson Gallery into the Contemporary Galleries. It would be necessary to explore the idea of a David Bailey retrospective at an early date in order to secure the show. Plans for a contemporary photography show were being considered. Trustees noted the potential for linking a possible show of Chinese portrait photography with the China exhibition at the Royal Academy in 2007 or the Chinese design exhibition at the Victoria and Albert Museum in 2008. Attention was also drawn to the Gallery's 150th anniversary in 2006 as an opportunity for an exhibition on the history of the Gallery, which might explore a variety of intellectual themes. The Chief Curator reported that a display on Sir George Scharf and the Gallery's history was being considered for room 16 together with a gallery trail and that a book of essays on the history and work of Gallery would depend on some sort of subsidy.

13. Health and Safety Review

The Trustees noted the Review. The Chairman suggested that risks associated with accommodating disabled visitors at the Gallery should be the subject of a risk assessment.

14. Gallery Emergency Response Procedures

The Trustees welcomed the report on Emergency Response Procedures and the business continuity plan.

15. Matters for Report

Reports on Communication and Development, Building and Resources, Education and Access and Loan requests were noted.

Appended list of portraits on offer, 20 May 2004

SIR JOSEPH DALTON HOOKER

Purchase approved

DAVID HERBERT LAWRENCE

Purchase approved

BRUCE KENT

Purchase approved

NATHANIEL CHARLES ROTHSCHILD

Gift accepted

(GILES) LYTTON STRACHEY

Bequest accepted

JAN STRUTHER (JOYCE ANSTRUTHER, LATER PLACZEK)

Gift accepted

MICHAEL AYRTON

Purchase approved

Twenty vintage prints relating to Harley Granville-Barker

Purchase approved, with items asterisked on the Offers List being accepted for the Primary Collection and the remainder for the Photographs Collection

IDA KAR

Purchase approved

DAME ELIZABETH BUTLER-SLOSS (née HAVERS) and HARRY KENNETH WOOLF, BARON WOOLF

Purchase approved

DRUE ENGLISH HEINZ (née MAHER)

Purchase of drawing done in 2002 offered by the Richard Gray Gallery approved, as also the acquisition of drawing done in 2004

THREE ROYAL COURT DIRECTORS

Commission accepted

SIX MEMBERS OF THE BRITISH PARALYMPIC TEAM

Commission accepted