

National Portrait Gallery

726th MEETING

Minutes of the Meeting of the Trustees held at the National Portrait Gallery on
Thursday 23 November 2006

Present:

Professor David Cannadine (Chairman)
Ms Zeinab Badawi
Mr Nicholas Blake
Professor Robert Boucher
The Marchioness of Douro
Ms Amelia Fawcett
Ms Flora Fraser
Sir Nicholas Grimshaw
Professor Ludmilla Jordanova
Mr David Mach
Sir Christopher Ondaatje
Professor Sara Selwood
Miss Alexandra Shulman
Sir John Weston

In attendance:

Mr Sandy Nairne
Mr Jacob Simon

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Baroness Amos and David Ross.

2. Chairman's Report

The Chairman welcomed David Mach as a Trustee. He thanked Sir John Weston for his commendable work as Chairman of the Audit Committee and reported that David Ross had agreed to take over the chairmanship. He also reported that Robert Boucher had agreed to act as the Finance Trustee designated to examine Gallery accounts and budgets in detail.

3. Minutes of the Last Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 13 July 2006 were approved.

4. Matters Arising

In response to a question concerning the portrait of Princess Margaret, the Director said that it is hoped to make an approach to borrow the portrait in due course.

5. Director's Report

The Director reported that the David Hockney exhibition had already received more than 60,000 visitors and may reach 130,000 or more. There had been no significant response from visitors to the temporary removal of portraits in the contemporary collection. The Director also drew attention to several other matters: the external Gallery scaffolding, which would enable the floodlighting scheme, supported by British Land, to be completed in January; the installation of new boilers in the Orange Street building; and the successful conference, *Making Faces*, jointly organised with York University.

The Trustees endorsed the proposal that prices paid for portraits should be included in the Trustees minutes. Such prices could still be withheld should it be justified under the Freedom of Information Act.

In response to questions by Trustees anxious to support the project for the Portrait Gallery of Canada, the Director said that he had sent a letter as to the importance of this project. The Director also reported that the exhibition of Gallery portraits, *Great Britons*, would open at the National Portrait Gallery in Washington DC in late April 2007.

6. Portraits on Offer

The Trustees welcomed the acquisition of the portrait of Lady Jane Grey and asked that information should be made available about the portrait on the Gallery website and at the Information Desk. The Chief Curator reported that the Gallery's bid at auction for the portrait of the Duke of Wellington by Sir Thomas Lawrence had been unsuccessful. It is proposed to investigate whether it may be possible to show the portrait at the Gallery at some stage.

The Chief Curator also reported on a portrait of Thomas Paine by Laurent Dabos in the same sale which had been sold to Philip Mould Ltd. There were slight uncertainties about the identification but Paine was inadequately represented in the collection and the painting was the only significant one not already in a museum collection. It would improve by cleaning to present an intriguing image which would link Paine's British, French and American connections. There was wide agreement among the Trustees that the portrait would be a desirable acquisition but some uncertainty about purchasing the portrait at the offer price. There was some concern that there might be a conflict of interest in purchasing a portrait from a business owned by a member of the Gallery's Development Board but on examination, it was considered that there was no formal conflict of interest. Following a vote in favour of the acquisition, the Director was asked to negotiate with the vendor on the price.

- THE TRUSTEES agreed to the acquisition of the portraits on the appended list and noted portraits purchased since the previous meeting

7. Commissions

The funding from JPMorgan for the Fund for New Commissions was welcomed. A list of Trustees' nominations for future commissions was tabled, including some women who might be commissioned using the Fund for New Commissions. It was noted that attempts had previously been made to commission portraits of Tony Blair and Patrick Leigh Fermor. The Prime Minister would be reapproached in due course. Following a lively discussion on individual nominations and the process of nomination, it was agreed to bring the subject back to the next meeting of Trustees.

8. Finance and Planning

Barbara Jotham presented the Management Report to 31 October 2006. After some disappointments in income streams in the first half of the year, the David Hockney exhibition has produced more income than expected to date. The Chairman identified the new schedule of Key Performance Indicators as exceptionally useful.

- THE TRUSTEES noted the contents of the report and approved the modification to the Reserves Policy to allow unrestricted legacies of under £10,000 to be spent directly on acquisitions

Barbara Jotham then presented the Business Plan and Budget 2007-10. The situation was very different to a year ago and there would be limited funds for new activities. In response to questions concerning the outcome of the Comprehensive Spending Review, the Director said that the Gallery had identified appropriate contingency measures should the outcome

of the Review not be cash neutral. The Trustees noted progress towards the new Business Plan and the initial budget projection for 2007-10.

9. Audit and Compliance Committee

Sir John Weston, Chairman of the Audit and Compliance Committee, reported on the review of the Risk Management Register, noting that the Committee was satisfied that risks were being kept under regular review. He drew attention to various risks: B2 where avian flu continues as a risk to be taken seriously, B3 on governance, where he had requested that the risk of the Board of Trustees and its sub-committees not being in full compliance with standards and legal requirements should be added to the description of the risk, C3 regarding the setting up of the trading company and F1 where there was a continuing problem with credit control. Sir John commended the revised version of the Risk Management Policy for approval by the Trustees. It is hoped that the trading company will be operational from 1 April 2007.

- THE TRUSTEES approved the Risk Management Policy

10. Conflicts of Interest

The Director drew attention to the work of the Charity Commission and to the instances of 'benefit' to past Trustees. The Trustees noted the Charity Commission guidance in the avoidance of conflict of interest.

- THE TRUSTEES recognised the necessity to seek permission in advance should there be an exceptional necessity for a serving trustee to gain benefit through a transaction with the Gallery
- THE TRUSTEES agreed that subject to Charity Commission guidelines they deem it appropriate for individual Trustees to receive 'small payments' where the specific knowledge and experience of the Trustee is essential to the activity (whether lecture, educational event, writing an essay or offering specialist advice) and providing the total of such payments to all Trustees does not exceed £1,000 in any financial year
- THE TRUSTEES agreed to delegate to the Director the occasions when Trustees be asked to contribute services for which a 'small payment' would be appropriate
- THE TRUSTEES agreed to amend the Trustees' handbook as above and to ask the Director to check the wording with DCMS and with Charity Commission in the light of forthcoming guidance

Sir Nicholas Grimshaw drew attention to the fact that he was architect to Tate for the Tate Collections Centre. Should the National Portrait Gallery enter into an agreement to share this Collections Centre, he would wish to declare his interest.

11. Interpretation

The Trustees warmly welcomed the paper on Interpretation. Among other matters, the importance of the visitor reaction was highlighted by Trustees, as was the need to learn from experience elsewhere including overseas.

14. Matters for Report

Reports on Cultural Diversity, Communications and Development, Building and Resources, Learning and Access and Loan requests were noted. It was suggested that the Gallery should take external soundings before agreeing support for the Photographic Portrait Prize.

15. Any Other Business

Trustees asked for notes to be circulated on the proceedings of the Editorial Advisory Board meetings and of the Trustees Review Day.

Appended list of portraits on offer, 23 November 2006

6804 **LADY JANE DUDLEY (née GREY)**, painting by an unknown artist
Purchased with Chairman's approval from Lane Fine Art Ltd for £95,000

6791 **RONALD B. KITAJ**, self-portrait painting
Purchased with Chairman's approval at Sotheby's for £64,297

6792 **WILLIAM BUTTERFIELD**, drawing by Jane Fortescue, Lady Coleridge
Purchase with Chairman's approval at Sotheby's for £18,000

L238 **SIR LESLIE STEPHEN**, painting by George Frederic Watts
Loan from Matthew Syngé for three years approved

6793-6801 Nine pen caricatures by Powys Evans

LILIAN BAYLIS

SIR ERNEST WALLIS BUDGE

FREDERIC THESIGER, 1st VISCOUNT CHELMSFORD

HOWELL ARTHUR GWYNNE

DOUGLAS HOGG, 1st VISCOUNT HAILSHAM

EDWARD WOOD, 1st EARL OF HALIFAX

ARTHUR HENDERSON

THOMAS MARLOWE

JAMES GASCOYNE-CECIL, 4th MARQUESS OF SALISBURY

Purchase from the Political Cartoon Gallery at £4,000 approved

L239 **SIR EDWARD HEATH**, painting by Derek Hill
Loan from the Trustees of the Sir Edward Heath Charitable Foundation for five years
approved

6802(1-3) **STEPHEN HAWKING**, three drawings by Yolanda Sonnabend
Purchase from the artist for £1000 approved

P1123 **WILLIAM THOMSON, BARON KELVIN**, photograph by unknown photographer
Purchase from The Photoexchange at £80 approved

P1124-7 Four vintage silver gelatin prints by Carl Van Vechten

DAME MYRA HESS

EDWARD McKNIGHT KAUFFER

LAURENCE OLIVIER, BARON OLIVIER

DAME REBECCA WEST

Purchase from Henry Sotheran Ltd at £4,128 approved

P1128(1-16) Sixteen C-type colour prints of figures in the Health Sector by Julia Fullerton-Batten

DAME CAROL MARY BLACK

SIR IAIN GEOFFREY CHALMERS

SIR CYRIL CHANTLER

CHRISTINE HANCOCK

NOLA ISMAEL

SIR BRIAN JARMAN

SIR IAN McCOLL KENNEDY

SHEILA KITZINGER

NICK PARTRIDGE

CLAIRE RAYNER

RAY SHANNON

JILL STRINGER
MARJORIE WALLACE (COUNTESS SKARBEK)
SIR DEREK WANLESS
ROBERT WINSTON, BARON WINSTON
SIR MAGDI HABIB YACOUB

Transfer from the Photographs Collection approved, commissioned for £15,200

6803 **JOHNSON GIDEON BEHARRY**, painting by Emma Wesley
Commission for £7,000, plus up to £300 expenses, approved

THOMAS PAINE, painting by Laurent Dabos
Purchase approved in principle but subject to negotiation with vendor on price