

National Portrait Gallery

SEVEN HUNDRED AND TWENTIETH MEETING

Minutes of the Meeting of the Trustees held at the National Portrait Gallery on
Thursday 19 May 2005

Present:

Sir David Scholey (Chairman)
Professor Robert Boucher
Professor David Cannadine
The Marchioness of Douro
Ms Amelia Fawcett
Ms Flora Fraser
Sir Nicholas Grimshaw (from item 8)
Professor Ludmilla Jordanova
Sir Christopher Ondaatje
Mr Tom Phillips
Ms Sara Selwood
Miss Alexandra Shulman

In attendance:

Mr Sandy Nairne
Mr Jacob Simon

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from the Rt Hon Baroness Amos, Ms Zeinab Badawi and Sir John Weston.

2. Trustees

The Trustees confirmed the revised remuneration arrangements for the Director. Additionally:

- THE TRUSTEES unanimously elected Amelia Fawcett as Deputy Chair from 15 July

The meeting was then joined by Amelia Fawcett, Sandy Nairne and Jacob Simon. The Chairman invited Trustees to pass any further comments on nominations for two new Trustees to the Director so that they could be fed into the submission to DCMS. He congratulated Ludmilla Jordanova on her appointment to a professorship at Kings College London and noted with sadness the death of a former Trustee, Sir Eduardo Paolozzi.

3. Minutes of the Last Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 17 February 2005 were approved.

4. Matters Arising

On arrangements for celebrating the Gallery's 150th anniversary, the Director reported that Dom Perignon had agreed to sponsor wine and champagne at the Gala, that Trustees would each be offered a ticket and the opportunity to buy further tickets in advance and that the Royal Mail commemorative stamp issue would now be advanced to July 2006.

5. Director's Report

The Director reported that the Gallery was in the process of seeking a limited amount of partnership money to add to the Heritage Lottery Fund support for refurbishments at

Beningbrough. In response to questions he attributed the high visiting figures at Tate Britain to the success of their spring exhibition. The Chairman suggested that it would be helpful to move to using rolling 12-month attendance figures for other museums. The Director also reported on his conversations concerning Michael Reynolds's portrait of Bernard Haitink, which had now been accepted for the collection. He reported on the welcome visit to the Gallery from the new Minister for Culture, David Lammy, on his first day in office. Lastly, he reported on a meeting he had just had with the three Gallery trustees of the Portrait Fund.

6. Portraits on Offer

The Trustees noted the successful conclusion of the appeal for funds for the portrait of the Duchess of Cleveland, the purchase at auction of a photograph of Keir Hardie and the failure to acquire at auction an oil painting of Sir Moses Montefiore.

- THE TRUSTEES agreed to the acquisition of the portraits on the attached list
- THE TRUSTEES agreed that auction bids should be placed up to a level of £7,000 for a portrait drawing of Charles Jennens and, subject to viewing, for a portrait pastel of John Horne Tooke

7. Commissions

The Trustees welcomed the report on current Annual Commissions and on Photograph Commissions and approved the choice of Creative Industries and Health Sector Leaders as themes for further photograph commissions.

8. Financial Report

The Trustees welcomed Barbara Jotham's return to the Gallery. The interim financial report for the 2004/05 outturn was presented, with a verbal update that a further £100,000 would need to be designated for the Deferred Projects Fund. Over £600,000 would be transferred to the Investment & Contingency Fund, including £250,000 from the release of funds from the 2003/04 outturn. Trustees approved the designations recommended (£273,000 for the Deferred Projects Fund and £177,000 from the Sieff bequest for the Portrait Fund) and the use of £59,000 from the Investment and Contingency Fund. The wording for the Reserves and Investment Policies for the 2004/05 published accounts was agreed, with two amendments to the Reserves Policy: to remove the reference to a fundraising target for the Portrait Fund and to alter the wording such that Trustees would consider designating unrestricted legacies for the Portrait Fund. Trustees requested that in future the Audit and Compliance Committee should review the Policies before they were brought to the Board for approval.

9. Audit and Compliance Committee

Sara Selwood, a member of the Audit and Compliance Committee, reported on the committee's review of the register of key risks. In particular she commented on the three major corporate partnerships coming up for renewal within 18 months, daytime incidents of theft in museums and galleries which are being addressed through reviews of security and a CCTV upgrade, developing the case for Spending Review 2006, further development of the Gallery's press strategy and difficulties arising from lack of IT cover, for which a new post was required (approved under item 8).

10. Annual Exhibitions Review

The Director gave a PowerPoint presentation on three forthcoming exhibitions. He reported on collaborations and touring exhibitions where there are resource issues, broadening the BP Portrait Award by reviewing the age restriction but continuing to offer prizes for younger artists, and the competitive state of exhibition programming in London. A variety of matters emerged in discussion: the challenge to make exhibitions relevant to new audiences, the way we programme and market major historic exhibitions, the close links between our

research agenda and the exhibition programme, our parameters for success including the nature of the visitor experience, and the evaluation of exhibitions where conclusions need to link back into thinking about future exhibitions. The Chairman in his valedictory remarks described the most successful institutions as those where the 'insiders' welcome the involvement of the 'outsiders', and the 'outsiders' respect the expertise and responsibilities of the 'insiders'.

11. Matters for Report

Reports on Conservation, Communications and Development, Building and Resources, Learning and Access and Loan requests were noted.

Appended list of portraits on offer, 19 May 2005

THE EDGEWORTH FAMILY

Loan accepted

Ten chalk or pencil drawings by Sir William Rothenstein accepted in lieu of tax by H.M. Government and allocated to the Gallery

WILLIAM HENRY ('W.H.') DAVIES

FABIA DRAKE

JOHN DRINKWATER

JOHN FREEMAN

LEONARD ALFRED GEORGE STRONG

LEON UNDERWOOD

SIR HUGH SEYMOUR WALPOLE

SIR ASTON WEBB

SIR FRANCIS YOUNGHUSBAND

Allocation approved

Two drawings by Sir William Rothenstein:

SIR HAROLD NICOLSON

VICTORIA MARY ('VITA') SACKVILLE-WEST

Bequest accepted

ALDOUS HUXLEY

Purchase approved

THE MEMOIR CLUB

Purchase approved

LAURIE LEE

Purchase approved

Group photograph by Nigel Henderson:

NIGEL HENDERSON, SIR EDUARDO PAOLOZZI, ALISON SMITHSON, PETER SMITHSON

Purchase approved

ALFRED BRENDEL

Commission approved

SIR WILLIAM ('BILL') MORRIS

Commission approved

JAN MORRIS

Commission approved

JOANNE KATHLEEN ('J.K.') ROWLING

Commission approved