

National Portrait Gallery

723rd MEETING

Minutes of the Meeting of the Trustees held at the National Portrait Gallery on
Thursday 2 March 2006

Present:

- Professor David Cannadine (Chairman)
- Ms Zeinab Badawi
- Mr Nicholas Blake
- The Marchioness of Douro
- Ms Amelia Fawcett
- Ms Flora Fraser
- Professor Ludmilla Jordanova
- Mr Tom Phillips
- Mr David Ross
- Professor Sara Selwood
- Sir John Weston

In attendance:

- Mr Sandy Nairne
- Mr Jacob Simon

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from the Rt Hon Baroness Amos, Professor Robert Boucher, Sir Nicholas Grimshaw, Sir Christopher Ondaatje and Miss Alexandra Shulman.

2. Trustees

The Chairman welcomed Trustees to the first meeting of Trustees in the Gallery's fourth half-century. He congratulated Pim Baxter and Sarah Moir on their planning for the Gallery's Gala, which had been a triumph.

The Chairman drew attention to the memorial service for the late Dr John Hayes to be held at St James's, Piccadilly on 23 March. He welcomed David Ross to his first meeting as a Trustee and warmly thanked Tom Phillips at his last meeting for his long service as a Trustee.

3. Minutes of the Last Meeting

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

4. Matters Arising

On minute no. 11, the Director reported that a further meeting had been held to discuss how the Gallery might be linked more closely to the south-west region through the South West Hub.

5. Director's Report

On exhibitions and displays, the Director reported that the Gallery had now received confirmation that BP would sponsor the Portrait Award at a higher rate for five years from 2007. The competition would be now open to all artists but with a special prize for younger artists. The Chairman congratulated Pim Baxter on the successful completion of this negotiation. The Director also reported that the display, *Benjamin's Britain*, first shown at

Manchester, would now be exhibited at the Gallery this summer. A programme giving summary details of forthcoming displays would be circulated to Trustees.

On other matters, the Director reported on the success of the Learning Online consortium bid for £1.75m Invest to Save funding to support e-learning developments. He stated that the net proceeds of the Gala were likely to be in the region of £300,000. Visitor figures had been very good and had not suffered as badly in July last year as at some London museums and galleries, probably because decision-making on visiting the Gallery was adult-led rather than child-led.

6. Portraits on Offer

The Director reported on the appeal for funds for the portrait of John Donne. The National Heritage Memorial Fund had queried the portrait's valuation. We had received some higher-level pledges of support for the appeal. There had also been interest in the portrait from an American collector who is reported as querying the value and an English collector who had offered to support the appeal in return for a share in the ownership, although such support was not technically possible.

It was suggested that the life dates for artists should be included in the Offers List. David Ross withdrew from the meeting while the photographs by Broomberg and Chanarin were discussed. It was noted that he was not a Trustee at the time of this commission which included his own portrait.

- THE TRUSTEES agreed to the acquisition of the portraits on the appended list

7. Commissions

The Trustees noted the reports on new commissions and photograph commissions. In response to a tabled paper on the choice of sitters for the photograph commission devoted to Faith and Church leaders, the Trustees agreed that either of the two proposed Muslim sitters would be appropriate.

8. Finance and Planning

The Trustees welcomed the Management Report but asked whether it needed to be quite so long and detailed. The Director reported on difficulties in the retail sector and on the successful sale of back stock in the shop in January and February. The Trustees discussed the draft Business Plan and Budget. They noted various matters: the need to refine the Key Performance Indicators in the Management Report, the need for occasional progress reports on the coming year's priorities, the dependency of the budget on the Major Donor Development Manager generating the targeted levels of unrestricted donations and the possibility of DCMS imposing restrictions on our ability to carry forward the balance of funds from one year to the next.

- THE TRUSTEES approved the proposed reserves policy for the 2005/6 Annual Report and Accounts
- THE TRUSTEES approved the Business Plan and Budget 2006-9

9. Audit and Compliance Committee

Sir John Weston, Chairman of the Audit and Compliance Committee, reported on the recent review of the Risk Register. He drew attention in particular to the following risks: B3 Governance and Management effectiveness, where guidance was awaited from the Charity Commission on the purchase of works of art by Trustees; F1 Financial control & reporting where there had been problems, now resolved, in fully staffing the Finance Department.

The Trustees accepted the need to set up a trading company and agreed to consider a more detailed paper at their next meeting.

- THE TRUSTEES approved the Anti-Fraud Policy

10. Publishing Review

The Trustees welcomed the Publishing Review. They noted the need to broaden audiences to reach children and young people and the pressures on staffing in the Publications Department.

11. Digital Programmes for Public Access

The Trustees welcomed the report on Digital Programmes. They noted the need to understand the audiences using the Portrait Explorer and website search facilities. The introduction of searches devoted to themes such as the hundred most famous sportsmen or the hundred most famous writers was suggested.

14. Matters for Report

Reports on Communications and Development, Building and Resources, Learning and Access and Loan requests were noted. Amelia Fawcett said that much had been achieved by a small team in the Communications & Development Department. She noted that funds raised in development and fundraising work were mostly generated by Gallery staff, in contrast to the American experience where the Development Board was critical. It was suggested that Pim Baxter should make a detailed report in due course.

15. Any Other Business

Lady Douro suggested that Trustees could actively help the Gallery in seeking certain portraits.

Appended list of portraits on offer, 2 March 2006

HENRY MAYERS HYNDMAN

Gift accepted

WILLIAM GASKILL

Purchase approved

JOHN CHARLES WALSHAM REITH, 1st BARON REITH

Loan approved

JACK SMITH

Purchase approved

Ten drawings of actors by Stuart Pearson Wright

NONSO ANOZIE

JEREMY IRONS

JONNY LEE MILLER

PARMINDER NAGRA

GEOFFREY PALMER

NATALIE PRESS

DANIEL RADCLIFFE

ALAN RICKMAN

TIMOTHY SPALL

ALISON STEADMAN

Purchase approved

Eighteen C-type colour prints by Adam Broomberg and Oliver Chanarin

SIR TIM BERNERS-LEE
SIR CHRISTOPHER BLAND
FRANCES CAIRNCROSS
SIR BRYAN CARSBURG
STEPHEN CARTER
JOHN CAUSEBROOK
PETER DAWE
CHARLES DUNSTONE
SIR CHRISTOPHER GENT
JAMES GOLOB
SIR ERNEST HARRISON
PATRICIA HEWITT
KEN HYDON
STEPHEN LITTLECHILD
DAVID ROSS
DAVID ROWE
ARUN SARIN
HANS SNOOK
Transfer to Primary Collection approved