

**BRITISH MUSEUM
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
1 OCTOBER 2004**

**AT
2.30 PM**

PRESENT

Sir John Boyd (Chairman)
Mr Charles Allen-Jones
Mr Hasan Askari
Professor Barry Cunliffe
Mrs Val Gooding
Dr Olga Kennard
Baroness Kennedy
Mr Philip Lader
Mr Richard Lambert
Mrs Edmée Leventis
Mr David Lindsell
Mr David Norgrove
Mr Tom Phillips
Lord Powell of Bayswater
Mr Vikram Seth
Sir Keith Thomas
Sir John Tusa

The Director (Neil MacGregor), the Deputy Director Resources (Dawn Austwick), the Deputy Director Collections (Andrew Burnett), the Governance Manager (Stephen Corri) and the Assistant to the Deputy Director Resources (Elizabeth Moss) were also present.

The minutes referred to at 9.1 and the reports referred to at 4.1 & 6.1 contain exempt information within the meaning of paragraphs 1, 2 & 7 of the Code of Practice on Access to Government Information 1997.

PRELIMINARY

1.1 The Chairman welcomed Baroness Kennedy to her first meeting of the Board.

1.2 The Trustees noted that Lady Dalkeith and Dr Ritchie's terms as trustees had expired since the last meeting of the Board. The Chairman would write to convey the Board's gratitude for their services to the Museum.

1.3 Mr MacGregor outlined the structure of the weekend's meetings which were intended to provide the appropriate context for Trustees to consider the presentation of the British Museum's collection and opportunities for reaffirming its worldwide civic purpose.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

2.1.1 Mr Lindsell reported on progress made towards ensuring the British Museum Friends were aligned with, and best able to support the Museum's own objectives going forward.

2.1.2 The Trustees noted that should Professor Cunliffe be invited to Chair the

British Museum friends this would have their strong support

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS AND MATTERS ARISING

3.1 The Trustees agreed that the minutes of the Board meeting of 9 July 2004 be signed by the Chairman as a correct record of their proceedings.

3.2 In relation to item 6.1 the Trustees noted that a decision was still pending.

3.3 With respect to item 4.2 the Trustees noted that the Annual Report had since been approved by the Chairman, Director and Mr Lindsell with the delegated authority of the Board.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE COMMITTEES FOR DECISION BY THE BOARD

4.1 The Board approved the recommendations of the 20 September meeting of Standing Committee.

PROCESS FOR TRUSTEE APPOINTMENTS

5.1 PROCESS FOR TRUSTEE APPOINTMENTS.- The Board received the final version of the proposed process for trustee appointments which had been developed by the Nominations Working Group chaired by Mrs Gooding and comprising Mr Allen-Jones, Mr Askari and Mr Lambert. The Group had been tasked with the development of a transparent, merit-based system for the selection of trustees more closely aligned with the Museum's planned activities, the diverse nature of its global audience and the fiduciary responsibilities of the Board. The process had been informed through a consultative exercise with trustees, the Directorate and DCMS. It was noted that relationships with the DCMS were extremely positive and that there remained scope to refine the mechanics of the process further in future. Mrs Gooding thanked all those who had contributed to the process and asked trustees to note that Mr Corri would manage the process in support of the Chairman, Nominations Committee and the Director. The Board approved the process and agreed that it be adopted for future appointments to the Board. It was noted that the Nominations and Governance Committee would keep the process under regular review.

The Board noted that the Museum's ambitions would need to be underpinned with a programme of high level fundraising and advocacy. The November Board meeting would provide the opportunity for more informed consideration of the high level supporting role played by trustees as advocates and fundraisers for the Museum and how this might be enhanced.

5.2 REGISTER OF INTERESTS.- The Board received and noted the latest version of the *Register of Trustees' interests* and the Museum's *Ethics Policy and Code of Conduct for staff*. Trustees were asked to confirm in writing to Mr Corri that their register entries remained current or to identify updates as appropriate by close on 29 October.

MANAGEMENT REPORTS

6.1 HUMAN REMAINS.- The Board noted the paper at item 6.1 on *Human Remains: the Human Tissue Bill*. The Board agreed with the recommendations in the paper.

6.2 SUDAN.- The Board noted that reaction to the *Sudan* Exhibition had been extremely positive and that a major public debate on Sudan, centred around the exhibition and arranged jointly with *The Guardian* was scheduled for 10 November.

6.3 DEPARTMENT OF ETHNOGRAPHY .- The Board noted that the Ethnography Department had been renamed the Department of Oceania and The Americas.

6.4 CONTACT POINT.- Trustees noted that Lyn Rees had moved to a new role as Information Management Coordinator and that their prime contact in the Directorate would now be Elizabeth Moss. The Trustees joined the Chairman in thanking Ms Rees for her support and welcoming Ms Moss to her new role.

MINUTES OF COMMITTEES

9.1 The minutes of the meetings of the Audit Committee on 1 July and the Standing Committee on 20 September were noted.

9.1.1 Ms Austwick updated the Board on fundraising for the refurbishment of the Egerton Room; resolution of the ongoing VAT issue and the recent renegotiation of rates for the Bloomsbury site.

9.1.2 The Board also noted that the Public and Commercial Services union (PCS) had urged its members to take part in a nationwide day of action on 5 November. Whilst the Museum was not itself in dispute with the PCS, industrial action remained a likely outcome. Trustees would be kept informed of developments.

SCHEDULE OF TRUSTEES' BUSINESS 2005

10.1 The Trustees noted that the schedule of Trustees' Business for 2005 (item 8) had now been finalised.