

**BRITISH MUSEUM
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
27 SEPTEMBER 2003**

AT
12.00 PM

PRESENT

SIR JOHN BOYD (CHAIRMAN)
HRH THE DUKE OF GLOUCESTER
MR CHARLES ALLEN-JONES
MR HASAN ASKARI
MR NICHOLAS BARBER
PROFESSOR BARRY CUNLIFFE
SIR MICHAEL HOPKINS
PROFESSOR MARTIN KEMP
MR PHILIP LADER
MR CHRISTOPHER MCCALL
SIR JOSEPH HOTUNG
MR DAVID LINDSELL
MR TOM PHILLIPS RA
LORD POWELL OF BAYSWATER
MR RICHARD LAMBERT
DR ANNA RITCHIE
SIR KEITH THOMAS
PROFESSOR JEAN THOMAS
SIR JOHN TUSA

The Director (Mr N MacGregor), the Deputy Directors (Ms D Austwick and Dr A Burnett) and the Secretary (Mr T Doubleday) were also present.

The minutes referred to in paragraphs 3.1-3.2 and the reports referred to in paragraphs 7.1 -7.2 contain exempt information within the meaning of paragraph 7 Code of Practice on Access to Government Information 1997.

PRELIMINARY

1.1 The Chairman reported that apologies for absence had been received from Lord Browne, Lady Dalkeith and Mr Salama.

1.2 The Trustees warmly endorsed the Chairman's expression of thanks for the very generous hospitality of Sir Michael and Lady Hopkins, in whose home the meeting had convened.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS AND MATTERS ARISING

2.1 MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES: The Trustees agreed that the minutes of their meeting held on 27 June 2003 be signed by the Chairman as a correct record of the proceedings.

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETINGS AND MATTERS ARISING

3.1 MINUTES OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE: The minutes of the meetings of the Standing Committee on 10 July and the draft minutes of the Standing Committee on 18

September were discussed. The Trustees noted that the deficit exercise was now complete and conveyed their thanks to the Deputy Director (Ms Austwick). The Chairman intended to consider the draft minutes further and said that the final version of the minutes of the 18 September meeting would be circulated in due course.

3.2 MINUTES OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE: The minutes of the meeting of the Audit Committee held on 8 July 2003 were noted.

THE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

4.1 THE DIRECTOR'S REPORT: The Trustees discussed the Director's written report to the Board (Item 5). The Director outlined plans for the opening of the King's Library and the Wellcome Trust Gallery and drew attention to the important acquisitions acquired during the year, for which the BMF were entitled to a significant measure of thanks. He also drew Trustees' attention to coverage by *The Guardian* of the acquisition of the Nr Baldock Roman Temple Hoard (Maev Kennedy: "*Senua, Britain's unknown goddess unearthed*"; 1 September 2003). The Trustees agreed (i) the strategy for the future development of cultural relations outlined in the Director's report; (ii) the DCMS proposals in relation to the treatment of human remains in museum collections set out in the report.

4.2 The Director tabled a paper setting out proposals for the future organisation of the American Friends of the British Museum. The Trustees agreed the recommendations set out therein.

THE BRITISH MUSEUM FRIENDS; REPORT FROM THE CHAIRMAN

5. The Trustees received Mr Barber's last annual report as the Chairman of the British Museum Friends (item 6). He drew attention to the annual Townley and Associates party on October 13th. Trustees would receive invitations and were urged to support the occasion.

SCHEDULE OF BUSINESS 2004 AND LIST OF FORTHCOMING EVENTS

6. The Chairman asked the Trustees to hold the dates in the schedule of Business 2004 free, but added that the frequency of Standing Committee meetings would reflect the strategic needs of the Museum, and that it remained to be confirmed that the dates for meetings identified in the schedule avoided major cultural holidays and festivals. The List of Forthcoming events (Item 7.2) was noted

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

7.1 COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS.- The Trustees re-affirmed that, upon the retirement of Mr Barber, Mr Allen-Jones be appointed to the Standing Committee; and agreed that Mr Lambert be appointed to the Audit Committee in place of Mr Allen-Jones.

7.2 The Chairman was delighted to report that the British Academy had reappointed Sir Keith Thomas for a second term commencing on 21 January 2004

7.3 The Trustees joined with the Chairman in thanking Mr Barber for his services to the Museum both as Trustee and as Chairman of the Council of the British Museum Friends and Chairman of the British Museum Company.