

**BRITISH MUSEUM  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
9 JULY 2004  
AT  
5.00 PM**

**PRESENT**

SIR JOHN BOYD (CHAIRMAN)  
MR CHARLES ALLEN-JONES  
MR HASAN ASKARI  
LORD BROERS  
PROFESSOR BARRY CUNLIFFE  
SIR JOSEPH HOTUNG  
DR OLGA KENNARD  
MR PHILIP LADER  
MR RICHARD LAMBERT  
MR DAVID LINDSELL  
MR DAVID NORGROVE  
MR TOM PHILLIPS  
MR VIKRAM SETH  
SIR KEITH THOMAS  
SIR JOHN TUSA

The Director (Neil MacGregor), the Deputy Director (Dawn Austwick), the Director of Finance (Chris Herring), and the Governance Manager (Stephen Corri) were also present.

*The minutes referred to at 9.1-9.3 and the reports referred to at 5, 6.1-6.4 & 7.2 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 Lord Broers, Dr Kennard and Mr Norgrove to their first meeting of the Board.

1.2 The Trustees noted that it was Sir Joseph Hotung's last meeting as a Trustee and they joined with the Chairman in thanking him for his services to the Museum.

**CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

2.1 The Trustees endorsed Professor Cunliffe's appointment to the Council of the British Museum Friends and Mr Norgrove's election to the Board of the British Museum Company.

2.2 The Trustees noted that the Chairman, Mr Lader and Mr Lambert had accepted appointment to the Board of the British Museum Development Trust.

2.3 The Chairman would write to trustees to invite them to complete a skills matrix drafted by Val Gooding's Working Group. This, when finalised, would help to inform consideration of future trustee appointments in order to ensure these were approached

in such a way as to provide optimum support for the Museum's planned objectives.

2.4 The Director reported on the draft programme for the Board's October meeting which would be held at the Musée du Louvre. The Board meeting proper would take place between 2pm and 5pm on Friday 1 October to allow for full and proper consideration of the Board's business. This would be further complemented by visits to the antiquities galleries at the Louvre and other galleries on the following day. The Governance Manager would confirm and circulate a detailed itinerary in due course though it was anticipated that trustees would make their own transport and accommodation arrangements.

#### **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS AND MATTERS ARISING**

3.1 The Trustees agreed that the minutes of the Board meeting of 26 March 2004 be signed by the Chairman as a correct record of their proceedings.

#### **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE COMMITTEES FOR DECISION BY THE BOARD**

4.1 The Board approved the recommendations of the Nominations and Governance Committee at 5.1.1 – 5.1.4.

4.2 With respect to the recommendation of the Standing Committee at 5.2.1 it was agreed that the approval of the Annual Report and Accounts together with any minor changes be delegated to the Chairman, the Director and Mr Lindsell.

4.3 The Board received and noted the contents of a written report from the Chairman of the Audit Committee at item 5.2 summarising the business from Committee's 1 July meeting.

#### **ANNUAL REPORTS AND ACCOUNTS FOR 2003/04**

5.1 The Trustees received the Museum's Annual Report and Accounts at item 4. It was noted that the deficit reduction exercise had been successful and that therefore the Museum could now concentrate on its forward programme. Trustees noted the revised more 'user-friendly' format and agreed that further refinements in this direction would be welcome in future. The Board agreed that, subject to 4.2 above, the Annual Report and Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2004 be approved.

#### **MANAGEMENT REPORTS**

6.1 RECOMMENDATION OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL.- The Trustees were grateful to Messrs McCall, Allen-Jones and Doubleday for their work on this matter. The Board noted the report at item 6.1 and agreed the recommended course of action therein.

6.2 HUMAN REMAINS.- The Trustees noted the report at item 6.2 and agreed that further consideration would be given to the impact of the proposed legislation.

6.3 INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS.- The Trustees noted the report at item 6.3. The Chairman reported on his telephone conversation with the trustees of the Victoria Museum. It would be necessary to convey the Board's reaction to them. The Director would liaise with senior UK colleagues in the sector on further developments in Australia.

6.3.1 Trustees were encouraged to consider their role in support of the Museum's

international objectives. A session for trustees would be held in the Autumn on the nature and scope of universal trusteeship and how it would underpin the Museum's activities going forward.

#### **DELEGATION OF PUBLIC APPOINTMENTS**

7.1 The Trustees noted the correspondence on the delegation of public appointments at item 7 and endorsed the view of the Nominations and Governance Committee that the Governance Manager should signal the Trustees' willingness to proceed with the scheme subject to due consideration of its functionality in future.

7.2 Further to the recommendation at 4.7 in the minutes of the meeting of the Nominations and Governance Committee on 26 March, the Chairman noted the Trustees' views and would seek to ensure that the appointment process was informed accordingly.

#### **MUSEUM STRATEGIES**

8.1 The Trustees noted the paper on Museum strategies at item 8 and endorsed the proposed next steps.

#### **MINUTES OF COMMITTEES**

9.1 The minutes of the meetings of the Standing Committee on 29 April, 20 May and 25 June 2004 were noted and the recommendations therein approved.

9.2 The minutes of the 15 June meeting of the Audit Committee were noted.

9.3 The minutes of the 25 June meeting of the Nomination and Governance Committee were noted.

#### **DRAFT SCHEDULE OF TRUSTEES' BUSINESS 2005**

10.1 The draft schedule of Trustees' Business for 2005 had been tabled. Trustees were invited to submit comments on the schedule to the Governance Manager by close on 23 July.

#### **ACQUISITIONS REGISTER**

11.1 The Trustees noted the tabled Acquisitions Register.