

**BRITISH MUSEUM  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
21 FEBRUARY 2003**

**AT  
3 PM**

**PRESENT**

SIR JOHN BOYD (CHAIRMAN)  
MR CHARLES ALLEN-JONES  
MR NICHOLAS BARBER  
MR PHILIP LADER  
PROFESSOR BARRY CUNLIFFE  
SIR MICHAEL HOPKINS  
SIR JOSEPH HOTUNG  
PROFESSOR MARTIN KEMP  
MR DAVID LINDSELL  
MR CHRISTOPHER MCCALL  
MR TOM PHILLIPS RA  
DR ANNA RITCHIE  
MR ERIC SALAMA  
SIR KEITH THOMAS  
PROFESSOR JEAN THOMAS  
MR JOHN TUSA

The Director (Mr N MacGregor), the Director of Resources (Ms D Austwick), the Senior Keeper (Dr A Burnett), the Director of Finances (Dr C Herring), the Secretary (Mr T Doubleday) and the Deputy Secretary (Mr S Corri) were also present. The Director of Marketing and Public Affairs (Dr C Homden) attended for the Preliminary and the Acting Head of Operations (Mr H Player) was present for item 2.2.

*The report referred to at item 2.2 contains exempt information within paragraph 4 (d) Code of Practice on Access to Government Information 1997. The report referred to at item 2.3 and the minutes of committees (items 1.2 – 1.4) contain exempt information within paragraph 7 Code of Practice on Access to Government Information 1997.*

The Chairman reported that apologies for absence had been received from Lord Browne, Lord Powell, Mr Askari, Lady Dalkeith and The Duke of Gloucester.

**PRELIMINARY.-**

It was noted that the Director of Marketing and Public Affairs would be leaving the Museum at the end of March and joining the Prince's Trust as their interim Commercial Director. Dr Homden thanked the Trustees for their support throughout her tenure. The trustees congratulated Dr Homden on her achievements at the British Museum and her new appointment.

The Trustees also offered their congratulations to Mr Barber on his being elected Chair of the Ashmolean Museum and to Mr Askari on having been appointed Deputy Chairman of Old Mutual Financial Services.

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

1.1 MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES: The Trustees agreed that the minutes of their meeting held on 30 November 2002 be signed by the Chairman as a correct record of the proceedings. It was agreed that agendas for future Board meetings would include an item for the Chairman's report. The Chairman reported that significant progress had now been made against financial targets and in strengthening relationships with key stakeholders. The Trustees welcomed the summary of proceedings produced by the Chairman of the Audit Committee and agreed that this might serve as a model for reporting business from Committees in future.

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

1.2 MINUTES OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE: The minutes of the meetings of the Standing Committee on 16 January and 13 February were discussed and the resolutions therein were approved.

1.3 MINUTES OF THE NOMINATION AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE: The minutes of the meeting of the Nomination and Governance Committee on 16 January 2003 were discussed and the resolutions therein were approved. It was agreed that full biographical details on Trustees recommended for nomination to the Board would be circulated to all trustees in future.

1.4 MINUTES OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE: The minutes of the meeting of Audit Committee on 16 January 2003 were discussed and the resolutions therein were approved. The British Museum Development Trust would be encouraged to consider the expertise of individual trustees on the Board in identifying approaches to specific fundraising opportunities. The Director informed trustees that the Development Trust was now principally focused on securing sponsorship for posts.

1.5 It was agreed that future meetings of the Nomination and Governance Committee would be scheduled well enough in advance of Board meetings to allow Trustees sufficient time to digest the minutes of those meetings.

## **THE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

2.1 THE DIRECTOR'S REPORT: The Trustees noted the contents of the Director's written report to the Board. The Director then presented a summary of the main public events for the coming year which included a range of significant planned acquisitions, major exhibitions, outreach and events planned for the Museum's 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations. Progress on major projects was also noted. The Director hoped that it would be possible for a similar presentation to be made at the next meeting of the Board perhaps focusing on the Wellcome Gallery. In discussion trustees considered how best to engage the regional museums in the anniversary celebrations.

2.2 SPOILIATION CLAIM: The Trustees received a note tabled by Mr McCall and its contents were noted and approved.

2.3 SECURITY: The Board received a report from the Acting Head of Operations, noted its contents and approved the proposals therein. A confidential note is held by the Secretariat.

### **THE ANNUAL PLAN**

3.1 THE ANNUAL PLAN: The Trustees received the draft Annual Plan and welcomed the approach outlined in the introductory note from the Director of Resources. The proposed process for the further development of the Plan was endorsed and the approval of the final document was delegated to the Standing Committee.

### **LOANS FOR APPROVAL**

4.1 LOANS.-Reports of loans recommended were received (Items 7.1– 7.2) and approved by the Trustees.

### **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

5.1 SEPTEMBER BOARD MEETING: The Trustees noted that the 26 September Board meeting would focus on strategic planning and would be held away from the Museum.

5.2 BMCO PUBLICATIONS: It was agreed that in future only one copy of each new publication would be presented at the Board meeting and the Secretariat would then arrange for copies to be distributed on request to individual trustees.

5.3 TRUSTEE INTERACTION WITH STAFF: The importance of trustee interaction with staff was noted and it was hoped that consideration would be given to how this might be extended in future.

5.4 The Director reported on the proposal which had been put to the Director of the Parthenon Museum for an approach to the EU for funding for a virtual assemblage of the Parthenon Marbles. The Trustees welcomed this new initiative.

*Annex 1***VISIT TO ADDIS GALLERY**

Trustees participated in a seminar involving staff from many parts of the Museum on the best way to present Islamic cultures to its visitors. All those present attended a supper afterwards in the Hartwell Room.