



## **FRIENDS OF THE ORIENTAL MUSEUM AGM 2022**

**Sunday 27th November, 3pm  
Education Room, Oriental Museum**

### **1. Welcome and Apologies**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the AGM

Apologies were received from Jill Stephenson, Keith and Sondra Pratt, Charlotte Spink and Malcolm Walker.

15 people were present.

### **2. Minutes of the 2021 AGM**

These had been sent out in advance. They were accepted as a true record of the meeting.

### **Matters arising**

The Chair raised a number of matters:

- Item 3: The Mahjong Group has resumed its normal starting time of 2pm, as the Museum opening hours are now back to normal.
- Item 6: The financial contributions to the Museum for the Monogatari catalogue of Japanese prints, and conservation and mounting of the Akhenaten stela have now been paid (cheque being organised). This support for the Museum is the *raison d'etre* for the Friends and it is your subscriptions that enable us to do this.
- Item 9: The Council discussed the position of President and agreed for it to remain vacant for the moment. Things still need to settle down.

There were no other matters arising.

### **3. Chair's Report**

Sue Childs gave the Chair's report.

In the Orient Express I reported on last year's programme, which wasn't fully back to normal, with some Zoom meetings and not every event possible. I hope that this year, 2022 to 2023, will be a normal year. Our lecture programme is back to in-person meetings. Though Zoom is always an option if we have particularly severe winter weather. The Museum is also offering a full programme of exhibition previews.

Unfortunately, our first lecture on Diwali had to be cancelled for personal reasons. Hopefully this can be held next year. The recent shared event with NEAESOC celebrating the Tutankhamen centenary was a great success. That was both an in-person and Zoom event. This could be something for us to explore. Our next lecture on 14th December is by Ross Wilkinson, The Learning and Engagement Manager, who will talk about the work of the Learning and Engagement Team. It's always interesting to find out more about the work of the Museum staff. We are having Friends only events: an object handling session, and a tour of the Museum Stores. We hope to be able to arrange more of these in the future.

We are also looking at holding more day events: more people are saying they don't wish to drive at night. The annual meal is now at lunchtime. We could hold the AGM at an earlier time: the Museum is open from 12 noon on Sundays. Day lectures or other events are harder to arrange because of access to rooms in the University. But any suggestions are very welcome.

We should also be looking at more publicity and online activity. A new membership leaflet is being prepared, and I want to look at setting up some kind of social media presence.

I'm sorry to have to report that Ruth Crofton, a Council member, died this last year. She was a committed Friend and supporter of the museum, and took the minutes for our Council meetings and the AGM. I'm sure you will remember her talks about her travels in Syria, and her love of camels in every form possible!

I also note with sadness other Friends who have passed away in the last year.

I would like to conclude my report by thanking the Museum staff for all their hard work that makes the Museum such a marvellous place to visit.

The people present applauded the Museum staff.

There were no comments.

#### **4. Treasurer's Report, independently examined accounts, and appointment of independent examiner**

The Treasurer, Brian Straughan, presented the Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended 30th September 2022 (see below). Brian will ask Mike Bath, based at Durham University, to audit the 2022 accounts. Once this has been done the Friends will be informed if any changes are required.

The accounts were accepted as a true record.

A question was asked to clarify the payments to the Museum. These have been:

- Lu Xun exhibition catalogue
- Usbek ceramics
- Monogatari catalogue of Japanese prints
- Conservation and mounting of the Akhenaten stela

#### **5. Secretary's Report**

Jane Manley gave the Secretary's report.

The membership comprises 194 Individuals and 13 Families giving a total 220 (with a family being counted as 2 members). 4 people have ceased membership (because of various reasons). There have been 3 new members. 12 people are outstanding and will be contacted again in January.

Membership numbers are static. There was a discussion about gaining new members.

## **6. Museum Curator's report**

Rachel Barclay gave the Museum Curator's Report.

### **General**

- The Museum reopened to the public in May 2021 under tight limitations. Year August 2021-July 2022, story of reopening. Despite all of the limits and restrictions, we have welcomed 14,251 visitors to the Museum during 2021/22
- December 2021 we introduced late night opening on Thursday until 7pm.
- From February half term 2022 we returned to a 5pm closing time and started to open again on a Tuesday. Towards the end of March 2022, we welcomed back our first school groups, now back up to full capacity
- Regular groups and events also slowly restarted including weekend and family activities
- More interactives back in galleries from Easter this year

### **Events**

- Diwali celebrations in November 2021 and Lunar New Year Lantern Festival in February 2022 were both limited
- By March we were able to welcome 448 people to our outdoor Holi Festival, our first large scale festival since the pandemic
- October 2022, Diwali, 10th anniversary, was back to pre-Covid.

### **Exhibition programme**

- January 2022 Monogatari: the art of storytelling in Japanese woodblock prints - grateful to the Friends of the Oriental Museum for their support for the publication
- May 2022 Tradition and transformation: contemporary Indian miniature painting from Rajasthan – Grace Randford, the student intern who worked on this is currently in India purchasing more pieces on our behalf
- Also art installation Ashes to Ashes, Dust to Dust, two artworks by contemporary artist Alan O'Cain

**Storage project** – audit almost complete, looking forward to Friends tour in the New Year

**Permanent galleries** – focus on continued tweaking of the Silk Roads gallery as it gets used

### **Teaching**

- Despite ongoing restrictions, staff across the museums team have worked with more than 1000 students using over 1200 objects across 49 different undergraduate and postgraduate modules. The Oriental Museum continues to be the most heavily used of the University's collections: Archaeology, Modern Languages & Cultures, History, School of Education and Foundation Studies.

### **Volunteering**

- We prioritised students who needed to undertake placements or internships as part of their formal learning programmes.
- 60 of the 62 people who volunteered their time this year were Durham University students.
- We hope to welcome back more of our community volunteers during 2022/23 to join the students.

### **Research**

- Curators supported the research of 82 academics, students, museum professionals and private individuals over the year.

- As well as Durham University and UK-based researchers these included scholars based in Australia, Egypt, France, Japan, Italy, PR of China, Poland, Russia, USA, Spain and Switzerland.

### ***Staffing for museum***

- Qin Cao as Curator of Chinese collections to join Gill and I
- New collections assistant this week – Carolyn Waterworth
- From August Rachel Barclay has been promoted to Senior Curator – wider cross department role

### ***New acquisitions***

- Friends – Uzbek ceramics – many thanks
- Other key acquisitions – Vietnamese art (150 works) and Japanese traditional toys

### ***Current exhibitions***

- Guardians of the Silk Road – part of wider project with Geography department
- There was light – stela in honour of Ralph – thanks to Friends for financial support complex project

### ***Looking to future***

- Working with NMJH (National Museum of Japanese History) take exhibition to Japan in 2024
- Resume work in Nepal with UNESCO Chair on promoting sustainable pilgrimage to Buddhist sites
- Collaboration Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum exhibition summer 2023
- Outdoor art gallery project, first exhibition being installed in December 2022 based around Prof Christina Riggs research into the photography of the Tutankhamun excavations, details to follow soon
- Signing of MOU (memorandum of understanding) with Palace Museum Beijing delayed by Covid lockdowns in China and changes of government in the UK
- New website - now due February 2023 after further delays. Good opportunity to refresh Friends marketing.

The people present applauded.

Rachel's new role was emphasised. The replacement for Julia as administrator was queried. At the moment there is no prospect of this post being filled. There was a question about how the Museum obtained new acquisitions. Many of these were donations from word-of-mouth promotion and in response to news about Museum activities and published catalogues of exhibitions. Lack of space is an issue. There has been a survey of all the art and object collections across the University. A central store of these collections, managed by the Museums, Galleries and Exhibitions department, would be the way forward. The social media presence of the department is going to be rationalised, with staff members given specific responsibility for running this.

## **7. Election of Officers and Members of the Council**

Sue Childs is starting her third year as Chair, and Anne Bothwell continues to give support as Vice Chairman.

The Officers and Members of the Council are:

- Hon. Treasurer – Brian Straughan
- Hon. Secretary – Jane Manley
- Members – Lyn Gatland, Keith Pratt, Charlotte Spink, Ian Stewart, Malcolm Walker, and Penny Wilson

These people are willing to stand and no other applications were received.

The Officers and Members of Council were accepted.

Sue thanked all the Council members for the work they undertake to keep the Friends group running, and in particular our Treasurer, Brian, and our Secretary Jane.

#### **8. Submitted discussion topic(s)**

None

#### **9. Any other business**

The Xmas discount of 20% is available at the Museum shop.

The date of the Annual lunch has been moved from 6th May to 29th April because of the coronation.

Anne Bothwell gave a vote of thanks to Sue for her work as Chair.

The AGM was followed by refreshments and an informal look at favourite items in the Museum's collection by members of the Friends' Council: Chinese tea bowl with hare's foot glaze (Sue); neolithic Chinese ceramic (Jane); ceremonial Mughal Khanjar hilt (Ian Stewart).

The Friends of the Oriental Museum

Year ended 30th September 2022

**Income and Expenditure Account (receipts and payments)**

<u>Income</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>
Members' subscriptions and donations	1779.00	1639.00
Gift Aid refunds <span style="float: right;">Note 1</span>	0.00	1817.05
Sundry income - refreshments and lecture fees	0.00	22.95
Annual dinner tickets	1530.00	
	3309.00	3479.00
<u>Expenditure</u>		
Speakers' fees and expenses	259.36	100.00
BAFM membership	100.00	100.00
Insurance	300.00	287.00
Printing, postage, etc.	137.58	145.94
Independent Examiners' gratuity	0.00	0.00
Sundries	26.50	28.22
Annual Dinner Expenditure <span style="float: right;">Note 2</span>	1504.00	150.00
Special Donation	940.50	
Lu Xun exhibition catalogue/Diwali festival	2200.00	0.00
	5467.94	811.16
<u>Surplus/deficit for the year</u>	-2158.94	2667.84

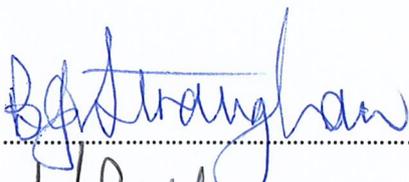
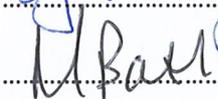
**Balance Sheet**

	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>
Powerpoint projector - at depreciated cost	1.00	1.00
Bank - Lloyds	8731.90	10890.84
Bank - CafBank	0.00	0.00
Cash	0.00	0.00
Gift Aid debtor	0.00	0.00
	8732.90	10891.84

**Represented by:**

General reserves:-

Balance b.fwd	10891.84	8224.00
Trfr from restricted funds	0.00	0.00
Surplus for the year	-2158.94	2667.84
<b>Total</b>	<b>8732.90</b>	<b>10891.84</b>

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B J Straughan (Treasurer)

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 (Independent Examiner)  
 12th January 2023

**Notes**

1. We account for gift aid tax refunds in the year in which they are received from HMRC.

2. Included in the annual dinner expenditure is a deposit of £150 which can be offset against the cost of the dinner to be held in 2023.