

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The seventieth Annual General Meeting of the International Institute for Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works took place at 6:00 pm on Monday 27th January 2020 at the Society of Antiquaries of London, Burlington House, Piccadilly, London W1

Present: Julian Bickersteth (President, in the Chair), Jane Henderson (Secretary-General), Amber Kerr (Vice-President and Director of Publications) Austin Nevin, Sandra Smith (Vice-Presidents), Amber Kerr (Vice-President), Juergen Vervoorst (Treasurer), Joyce Townsend (Director of Publications), David Saunders (Director of Membership) Stavroula Golfomitsou, Stephen Koob, Eleonora Nagy, Rachel Sabino, Helen Griffiths, Isobel Griffin (ordinary Members of IIC Council)

Sarah Staniforth (President Emeritus)

Jonathan Ashley-Smith, Peter Cannon-Brookes, Nicola Costaras, Clare Finn, Helen Ganiaris, Stephen Hackney, Lynn Harrison, Josephine Kirby, David Leigh, Helen Lloyd, Fiona Macalister, Juanita Navarro, David Scott, Sibylla Tringham, Valentine Walsh (Fellows)

Lora Angelova, Mary Bustin, Antonio Cardoso, Claire Fry, Alexandra Gent, Aisling Macken, Clive Raymond, Sylvia Sumira (Individual members)

Joshua Hill, Maria Kinti (Early Career members)

Nicola Shreeve (Student member)

Unable to attend: Lorenzo Appolonia, Tom Learner, Barbara Reeve, Satish Pandey, Alice Tsang (members of Council),

In attendance: Sarah Stannage (Executive Director), Graham Voce (Executive Secretary), Tina Churcher (Membership Secretary)

Julian Bickersteth, President, in the Chair, extended a welcome to all those present, and especially to those who had travelled long distances. Julian Bickersteth explained that the meeting would be followed by the AGM Talk for 2020, 'The National Museum of Brazil LIVES!', is by Beatriz Haspo, of APOYOnline who would present findings and recommendations from the recent research mission supported by IIC to the National Museum of Brazil to explore the ongoing efforts to salvage and conserve collections and artefacts damaged by the fire in September 2018. The damage and needs assessment was funded by the Prince Claus Fund Culture and Development programme, and co-sponsored by the Whiting Foundation.

The Minutes of the last Meeting, having been published on the IIC web-site and circulated to members with the announcement of this Annual General Meeting, were taken as read and signed by the President.

The Notice calling the present Meeting, having been published in *News in Conservation* number 75 of December 2019, as well as being published on the IIC web-site, sent to members by e-mail and posted to members, was taken as read. The Audited Reports & Accounts for the IIC membership year 2018 – 2019 had been published on the IIC web-site and posted to members at the same time.

The Chairman explained that this had been the first IIC Annual General Meeting at which electronic voting had also been available, from the IIC web-site; voting on the Resolutions by Members present who had not voted electronically, by post or appointed a proxy would be by show of hands for the Ordinary and Special Resolutions and would be by ballot paper for the elections to positions on Council.

Resolution 1: To receive and consider the Reports of the Council and the Auditors and the Financial Statements for the year ended 30th June 2019

Julian Bickersteth, President, in the Chair, explained that this year IIC's reports and accounts had been published online on the IIC web-site this year and where there was no viable e-mail address information about these was sent to all members postally and that the IIC Annual Review, which contained details of IIC's finances and activities in a more engaging and readable format, had also been produced. There was a printed copy of the 2018 – 2019 Annual Review for every person attending this Annual General Meeting; Julian Bickersteth explained that, as this document contains the reports from the various Officers of IIC in addition to an edited version of the audited Annual Report & Accounts sent to all members, there would be no separate reports to the meeting read out by the Officers, however questions would be welcomed from the floor.

Julian Bickersteth outlined IIC's work of the past year and explained Council's plans for the future and also paid tribute to the late Robert Child, who had recently died, for his great contributions to IIC's work and activities.

On completion of this, *Resolution 1 was duly adopted.*

Resolution 2: To appoint Moore Kingston Smith as Auditors to The Institute and to authorise the Council to fix their remuneration for the ensuing year.

Julian Bickersteth, President, in the Chair, asked the meeting to vote on this resolution *and the resolution was duly adopted.*

Resolution 3: To consider and, if thought fit, to pass a Special Resolution THAT the Articles of Association produced to the meeting and signed by the Chairman for the purposes of identification be approved and adopted as the new Articles of Association of the Company in substitution for, and to the exclusion of, the existing Articles of Association

Julian Bickersteth, President, in the Chair, showed the proposed Articles of Association to the meeting and explained that these had also been displayed on the IIC web-site since the notice of this Annual General Meeting was published. Julian Bickersteth reminded members that, in summary, the changes provided to clarify the processes for the election of, and removal of, IIC Fellows and that any other amendments were consequential or clarificatory.

Fiona Macalister asked if there was a mechanism to identify Fellows who were 'not in good standing'; IIC Council member Helen Griffiths explained that the term 'not in good standing' meant that a membership fee for the current IIC membership year had not been paid by the person in question; there is therefore a financial mechanism to identify Fellows not 'in good standing'. Fiona Macalister then asked if there was a precise framework to guide how Fellowship could be withdrawn; Helen Griffiths replied that it is very difficult to predict the circumstances or situation under which a case may rise and so a precise framework could not be set up. Clare Finn noted that, for example, whether or not a criminal act was found to have been committed, a person's conduct may still bring IIC onto disrespect and so flexibility had to be part of this process. Sarah Staniforth: a recent case at the Society of Antiquaries of London had shown that IIC's Article 38 is indeed relevant and was an important change to IIC's governing statutes.

Julian Bickersteth informed the meeting that earlier that day IIC's Council had approved a Safeguarding Policy and a Complaints Procedure and that these are now in place to address such issues in the future.

Julian Bickersteth, President, in the Chair asked the meeting to vote on this resolution *and the resolution was duly adopted.*

Resolution 4: To elect a Director of Communications

Amber Kerr was standing for election at this meeting having been co-opted into this role on Council in May 2019, in addition to her role as IIC Vice-President. On the basis of the total vote Amber Kerr *was duly elected* as Director of Communications.

Resolution 5: to elect two Ordinary Members of the Council

A total of six places as Ordinary Members of Council was available for ballot. Eleonora Nagy was standing for re-election to a second three-year term and Lorinda Wong was standing for election as an Ordinary Member of Council for the first time.

On the basis of the total vote, Eleonora Nagy *was re-elected* as an Ordinary Member of Council and Lorinda Wong *was duly elected* for the first time as an Ordinary Member of Council.

Julian Bickersteth thanked the retiring members of Council, Stavroula Golfomitsou, Barbara Reeve and Lorenzo Apollonia, for their support of IIC and the work they had put into taking IIC forward over the past six years.

Resolution 6. To transact any ordinary business of The Institute

Jane Henderson explained to the meeting that IIC Executive Secretary Graham Voce would in February 2020 be leaving his role after fifteen years and thanked him for his support of, and work for, IIC. Jonathan Ashley-Smith made a speech and a presentation to Graham Voce.

Peter Cannon-Brookes made a short presentation to the meeting about single use plastics and unrecyclable packaging used by art handling and shipping companies and presented alternative substances, products and processes that had been used earlier, such as wooden packing cases and wood wool, and smaller packaging units, that were sustainable and re-useable or were biodegradable. However, there is an issue in that many art handling and shipping companies would not consider use of these other materials and packaging processes as they were perceived to not be of the 'current required standard', which was incorrect. He implored IIC and its membership to support the use of these alternative methods and to act as a forum for discussion and a means by which such alternatives could be advocated for.

Julian Bickersteth thanked Peter Cannon-Brookes for his contribution and, there being no further business, as President in the Chair, declared the meeting closed at 6.55 pm.

Graham Voce
IIC Executive Secretary