

**THE SOCIETY FOR SOUTH ASIAN STUDIES**

Council meeting of the Society held on Monday 14 March 2005  
at SOAS, room 100

Members of Council present:

Prof. Peter Robb (Chairman)  
Dr. Ulrich Pagel (Honorary Secretary)  
Mr. David Waterhouse (Treasurer)  
Dr. Shailendra Bhandari  
Dr. Vinita Damodoran  
Dr. Jennifer Howes  
Dr. Emma Mawdsley  
Dr. John Smith  
Dr. Michael Willis

In attendance: Mrs. Brenda McGregor (Assistant Secretary)

**3. MINUTES 22/11/04** were approved and signed by the chairman.

**4. MATTERS ARISING:**

Council wanted to extend its warmest appreciation to Dr. Michael Willis for his chairmanship.

**5. TREASURER'S REPORT:**

The treasurer's report is accepted by Council:

- Council under-spent by £10.000 which will now be put forward to next year;
- Monographs 2005/6: Anuradnapura is at the printers. The invoice is due at the end of the year;
- There is possibility that Dr. Elizabeth Lambourn will go with another publisher, the Indian Ocean Series, and not with us. She can be taken off the list.

## **6. NOMINATION OF SOCIETY OFFICERS 2005/6**

Council proposed to have a more formal nomination process and start the procedures early spring/summer. This coming year Professor Graham Chapman, Dr. Jennifer Howes and Dr. Vinita Damodaran will step down. David Waterhouse will step down as treasurer. Council urged Council members to find new candidates, who could then be nominated at the next meeting. The Assistant Secretary will send out a reminder 1 week before the meeting. Nominations should be sent to the Secretary.

## **7. BRITISH ACADEMY GRANT-IN-AID & 8. DISTRIBUTION OF SSAS ACTIVITIES IN LIGHT OF BA RECOMMENDATIONS OF PRO RATA REDUCTIONS**

Our grant-in-aid from the British Academy was increased to £100,000. The BA sent a letter with the request to indicate how the grant-in-aid will be broken down. The treasurer will draft a budget for the next meeting.

Council will advertise the new Director post in South Asia on the SSAS and BASAS websites. The post will have to be filled in October. The Secretary/Monographs Editor will draft a job-description. **Action: Secretary/ Monographs Editor.**

## **9. KASHIKA AND OTHER PROJECTS:**

The administration of the Kashika project was handed over to the University in Paris. They should be reminded that they will also be responsible for the auditing. The treasurer remarked that Council is still accountable to the Charity Commission and that a statement from France will be required.

**Other projects:** The Society received signals from the BA which indicate to encourage the Society to develop in particular large consolidated, high-impact projects. Since our proposal is already geared to such a development Council has been asked to further initiate this process and involve other universities and scholars.

Council proposed to defer Institutional Grants to next year and further proposed to offer one Conference in Asia Grant per year. The treasurer will draft an up-dated proposal for discussion at the next meeting.

## **10. GRANTS TO BE OFFERED IN 2005/6 SSAS WEBSITE:**

A circular for the Language Training Grant is sent around within the UK. The Project Development Grant will be advertised on the Indology-, SSAS- and BASAS-websites and colleagues are encouraged to circulate this information via their sources.

The Assistant Secretary will create a distribution list of Dr. Pagel and Prof. Robb's mailing lists. All following grants will be on offer for September:

Project Development Grants

Research Groups Grants

South Asia Conference Grants (one per year)

Academic Exchange Grants

The deadline will be 15th July. The next grant-giving Council meeting is scheduled for Friday 23rd September 1 p.m.

**Action: Assistant Secretary.**

**Website:** Dr. Michael Willis will be the contact person for the website. The Language Training and Project Development grant application forms are ready to be put on the website. The web designer is in the process of setting up PayPal. The target for the website to be operational is 15<sup>th</sup> April. Council proposed to add a Webmaster to the website.

#### **11. INDOLOGY WEBSITE:**

Dr. Dominik Wujastyk requested £3,500 for further integration of the Indology website to the SSAS website. Council preferred to analyse the proposal first and discuss it at the next meeting.

#### **12. LETTER DR. LUCY BLUE:**

A request from Dr. Lucy Blue for a one-year postponement of her Project Development grant, due to the unforeseen circumstances of the Tsunami, was approved.

#### **13. REQUEST MS. SHEILA MIDDLETON:**

Mrs. Middleton requested an additional financial contribution of £200 for her monograph. Council accepted.

#### **14. MEMBERSHIP RATES:**

The new membership rates will be established in consultation with BASAS and will be confirmed at the next AGM.

**15. NEW MEMBERS:**

Council accepted the following new members:

Student membership: Mr. Abishek Singh Amar

Full membership: Dr. Richard Grove, Dr. Javed Majeed, Dr. Emma Mawdsley, Professor Peter Robb, Dr. Maya Unnithan.

Associate membership: Ms. Pat Saunders,

**16. ANY OTHER BUSINESS:**

The treasurer has contacted the Inland Revenue about Gift Aid.

Dr. Whitehouse will be able to deposit the Kandahar material (drawings, photos) at the SSAS office or at SOAS.

**17. DATE OF NEXT MEETING:**

12 May 2005



Council Meeting of the Society for South Asian Studies held on Friday, 23 September 2005, at 2:00 p.m. at SOAS

*Members of Council present:*

Mr Shailendra Bhandare	Dr Jennifer Howes
Dr Javed Majeed	Dr Ulrich Pagel (Chair)
Mrs Susan Stronge	Dr Michael Willis
Dr Dominik Wujastyk	Dr Maya Unnithan

*Apologies:*

Prof. Graham Chapman	Prof. Peter Robb
Mr David Waterhouse	

*In attendance:*

Ms Andrea P.A. Belloli	Mr Diccon Pullen
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**32. MINUTES 03/5:**

The minutes were approved and signed by the Chair.

**33. MATTERS ARISING:**

The reader's report for Crispin Branfoot's monograph has been received and is positive; the Monographs editor will proceed with costing. **Action: Dr Willis**  
Arrangements for the annual lecture are in hand; Dr Willis and Ms Belloli will liaise re: arrangements for Dr Falk. **Action: Dr Willis, Ms Belloli.**

The Society's website is being updated. The test site is running, applications are being added, etc. Any emails regarding changes and additions should be sent to Dr Willis. The new site should be up and running in October.

Dr Wujastyk reported that the Indology website is more or less finished. The public site address, [indology.info](http://indology.info), will be linked to the Society's website in due course.

Dr Wujastyk indicated that he has had mixed feedback regarding some of the Language Training Grants, in particular the Sanskrit course in Mysore. Grantees should be asked to include this type of feedback in their reports as a way of maintaining quality control.

In the discussion of new Council members at the last meeting, there was confusion regarding the identity of Ms/Mr/Dr Shaw. It was agreed that both Alison Shaw and Graham Shaw be approached, as well as Dr Hardiman. Council members who will retire in November are Dr Howes and Ms Damodaran.

**34. HOUSEKEEPING:**

It was agreed that Ms Belloli would purchase a new printer for the office, as well as arranging for broadband service. The Society's temporary office is located at 73 Collier Street, London N1. **Action: Ms Belloli.**

### **35. TREASURER'S REPORT, 2005/6:**

Peter Duffell's 'Report and Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2005' was approved and will be included in the funding bid to be prepared in October. Papers prepared by Mr Waterhouse were reviewed, and his 'Notes for Budget Proposal 2006-2007' addressed. It was unclear whether he felt it necessary for Council to identify £10,000 or £16,000 in cuts – i.e. whether his figures already took into account a cut of £5,000 from administrative costs. Dr Robb's proposals for cuts were circulated and the following proposals were tabled for review by Mr Waterhouse to whom authority was delegated for the figures to be given in the bid.

- a. £6,000 from museum grants
- b. £3,000 from research group funding
- c. £1,000 from project development grants

plus, if necessary,

- d. £2,000 from exchange grants
- e. a further £1,000 from research group funding
- f. a further £2,000 from project development grants
- g. £1,000 from language grants
- h. £500 each from Branfoot and Shokoohy monographs

It was agreed that the total budget for 2006/7 would be no greater than £125,000.

**Action: Mr Waterhouse.**

### **36. AGM, 2005:**

The AGM will take place on Monday, 21 November, beginning with a Council meeting at 3:00, followed by the AGM itself at 5:15 and Dr Falk's lecture at 5:30. The Council meeting will be at SOAS, Room 100 (tbc); the AGM and lecture will be at the Khalili Lecture Theatre at SOAS. There will be a dinner afterwards, to which Dr Falk will be invited as a guest of Council. Council authorised the Monographs editor to pay for Dr Falk's dinner and seek reimbursement from the Society.

### **37. AGM LECTURE, 2006:**

Phyllis Granoff was suggested; Dr Willis will contact her. Dr Howes will contact Phil Wagner. It was agreed that Dr Wujastyk would approach Chris Minkowski to lecture in 2007. Any other nominees' names for the 2006 slot should be emailed to Ms Belloli by end October. **Action: Dr Wujastyk, Dr Willis, Dr Howes.**

### **38. LEARNED SOCIETIES PROGRAMME:**

Peter Brown's letter dated 19 July to Peter Robb was discussed. The following points were agreed for inclusion in Prof. Robb's response:

- a. that organisations created solely to take advantage of the reorganised bidding protocol should be excluded
- b. that no applications for Mediterranean and European archaeology should be considered, but that applications for work in Central and eastern Asia should be encouraged
- c. that geographical limits should be agreed.

As Prof. Robb's response is due to Peter Brown by 15 October, any further views should be emailed by Council members to Prof. Robb as soon as possible. **Action: Prof. Robb.**

#### **39. NEW SOCIETY MEMBERS:**

The list was approved in its entirety. **Action: Ms Belloli.**

#### **40. GRANT AND FUNDING APPLICATIONS:**

- a. *Tillotson*: Approved to begin in post on date to be agreed by the Treasurer in this or the next financial year. Stipend amount is £6,000 per annum. Council noted that a full description of the position was posted on the Society's website from Autumn 2004, that the closing date was announced to be flexible and that notification of the position was circulated widely by email on a national and international basis in Spring 2005. Council therefore felt that it had given adequate notice and provided adequate opportunity for any person interested to approach the Society. It was agreed that the position would be reviewed at the end of the first year.
- b. *Ali*: Approved up to £5,000 and only for the south Asia segment.
- c. *Kandahar*: Approved up to £7,200 for six months starting 1 October 2005, then a £7,200 renewal will be considered from 1 April 2006 based on a report of progress.
- d. *Ahuja*: Rejected.
- e. *Ferus-Comelo*: Approved. Council noted that the applicant should inform the Society of how they would conform to ethical and British Academy guidelines.
- f. *Van Vugt*: Rejected.
- g. *Vitebsky*: Approved.
- h. *Quessel*: First year's funding approved pending a further presentation from him regarding the scholarly benefits expected to flow from this project as well as a breakdown of spending plans. Dr Wujastyk will email a detailed memo to be used as the basis for a letter from Dr Pagel to the applicant.

**Action: Dr Wujastyk, Ms Belloli, Dr Pagel.**

**41. NEXT MEETING:** 21 November 2005, at 3:00 p.m., SOAS, Room 100 (room tbc)

