

**THE BRITISH MUSEUM
MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
HELD ON 22 NOVEMBER 2007
AT THE BRITISH MUSEUM**

PRESENT

Mr Niall FitzGerald KBE (Chairman)
Chief Emeka Anyaoku
Sir Ronald Cohen
Sir Barry Cunliffe
Mr Francis Finlay
Mr Stephen Green
Miss Val Gooding
Ms Penny Hughes
Mr George Iacobescu
Baroness Kennedy
Mrs Edmée Leventis
Mr David Lindsay
Mr David Norgrove
Lord Powell
Mr Vikram Seth
Mr Eric Salama
Sir John Tusa

IN ATTENDANCE

Mr Neil MacGregor	- Director
Dr Andrew Burnett	- Deputy Director
Ms Zoe Hancock	- Acting Director of Finance and Administration
Mr Chris Yates	- Director of Finance and Administration (<i>newly appointed and officially taking up post on 1 January 2008</i>)
Miss Heidi Weeks	- Directorate Manager
For item 1	- Roger Stirk Harbour and Partners
For item 8	- Ms Joanna Mackle, Director Public Engagement

OBSERVING

Mr Shahrokh Razmjou	- National Museum Tehran (Clare Leadership Programme)
Mr Danny Herbert	- Appointments Unit, DCMS

1. NW DEVELOPMENT CONCEPT DESIGN

1.1 The Board agreed the paper entitled *North West Development Concept Design*.

- 1.2 The Board approved the concept design.
- 1.3 The Chairman would consider whether an extra meeting of the full Board of Trustees would be necessary before the next Board meeting in April.

2. APOLOGIES

- 2.1 Apologies had been received from Lord Broers, Mr Antony Gormley, Ms Bonnie Greer, Dr Olga Kennard, Mr Richard Lambert, and Sir Keith Thomas.

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

- 3.1 *Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Trustees: 27 September 2007.*
 - 3.1.1 The Minutes of the Board meeting held on 27 September 2007 were approved and the Chairman was authorized to sign them as a true record.
- 3.2 *Matters Arising*
 - 3.2.1 *Human Remains Update* – the Deputy Director informed the Board that reports would be prepared for discussion at the Board meeting in April 2008.

4. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

- 4.1 No conflicts of interest were reported.

5. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

- 5.1 *Governance Structure and Review* – This section of the meeting was a closed session with no minutes recorded and only the Trustees and Director in attendance.
- 5.2 *Dates for 2008* - The Chairman informed Trustees of key dates for events in 2008 including the Tom Friedman Seminar on 5 June and the Trustee dinner on 15 October, and October Board meeting which would be held in Paris on 2-4 October.
- 5.3 *Patron Recruitment*– The Chairman reported on the campaign to recruit Patrons.
- 5.4 *Trustee Appraisals* – The Chairman informed the Board that he would meet each Trustee during the next three months to conduct appraisals.

6. MANAGEMENT REPORT

- 6.1 The Board noted the content of the Management Report.
- 6.2 The Director reported on the success of *The First Emperor* exhibition. The Director reported that options to extend opening hours were being considered.

6.3. *Collection Online* – the Board acknowledged the achievement of establishing the online database and conveyed their thanks and congratulations to Antony Griffiths and the project team.

6.4 *Keeper of Greece and Rome* – the Director informed the Board that Lesley Fitton had been appointed Keeper of Greece and Rome and would take up the post on 1 December 2007.

7. SPENDING REVIEW UPDATE

7.1 The Director reported that the Museum still awaited a formal letter from DCMS confirming the Spending Review settlement.

8. ADVOCACY

8.1 Programme

8.1.1 The Director of Public Engagement presented the paper: *Summary of the BM's advocacy/positioning programme for the next six months.*

8.1.2 The Board wished to convey its thanks to the Communication Department and the Events team for their crucial role in helping to deliver the ambitious programme of activities and events relating to the *First Emperor* exhibition.

8.2 Towards 2012

8.2.1 The Director of Public Engagement presented the paper: *Towards 2012: History(ies) of the World.*

9. RESEARCH REPORT

9.1 This item would be deferred to the next meeting.

10. LOAN TO MUSEO NACIONAL DEL PRADO FOR THE EXHIBITION GOYA IN TIMES OF WAR

10.1 The Board approved the loan to the Museo Nacional del Prado for the exhibition *Goya in Times of War.*

11. MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEES

11.1 The Minutes of the Audit Committee meeting held on 10 October 2007 were noted.

11.2 The minutes of the Investment Sub Committee meeting held on 11 October 2007 were noted.

11.3 The minutes of the Standing Committee meeting held on 1 November 2007 were noted.

12. SCHEDULE OF FORTHCOMING EVENTS

12.1 The schedule of forthcoming events was noted.

13. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

13.1 *BMCo AGM*

13.1.1 It was resolved that the directors' report and statement of account for the year ended 31 March 2007 be received.

13.1.2 It was resolved that the following directors who retire by rotation be re-elected:

Sir John Tusa
Mr Niall FitzGerald

It was resolved that as his term as Trustees was coming to an end, Mr Eric Salama would not be re-elected.

It was resolved that Mrs Penny Hughes be appointed as Director and Chairman of the Company.

13.1.3 It was resolved that Grant Thornton be reappointed as the auditors of the Company for the ensuing year and that the Directors be authorised to set their remuneration.

13.2. Vikram Seth offered some observations on his experience with the Chinese Calligraphy Day at the BM.

13.3. Vikram Seth and Sir Keith Thomas will be completed their terms as Trustees before the next Board meeting. The Chairman, on behalf of the Trustees, thanked them both for their exceptional contribution to the Board of Trustees and the British Museum.

Date of next meeting: Thursday 17 April 2008.

_____ Chairman