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PROCEEDINGS OF
THE SOCIETY FOR THE PROMOTION OF HELLENIC STUDIES 2015–2016

The Annual General Meeting of the Society was held at 4pm on Saturday 11th June 2016 in the Woburn Suite G22/26, Senate House, Malet Street, London. The President, Professor Robert Fowler, was in the chair and welcomed members.

The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted.

Professor Fowler discussed the activities of the Council and Committees during the past year. The headline for 2016 was the signature of an agreement with the University of London, effective from 1st January 2016. The two Societies also jointly established a company, called the Hellenic and Roman Library ('HARL'), to operate the Joint library on their behalf. The University Agreement provides greater certainty as to the terms to govern the operation of the combined library for 25 years and shelters the two Societies from increasing space charges. In addition, the new arrangements provide a better basis for fundraising, as the Societies will be seeking funds primarily to support salaries of library staff. Professor Fowler further reported that HARL had engaged a professional fundraiser, Mr William Conner, for an initial six months to help the directors structure their ideas and focus on priorities. The process would be reviewed at the November Council. The directors of HARL had recommended that each Society set aside £150,000 of its reserves as a donation to the campaign. These funds would be spent on the library anyway, but, if we do raise sufficient funds, the long-term threat to the Society's reserves will be removed.

Professor Fowler informed members of the ill health of the Honorary Librarian, Professor Michael Crawford, who had suffered a stroke while in Paris. A new Honorary Librarian would be jointly appointed by the University of London and HARL to take office from 1st August 2016. Professor Fowler expressed the Society's profound gratitude to Professor Crawford, who had supported the library through very fraught times, successfully seeing off threats like St George saw off the Dragon. He wished Professor Crawford a swift recovery.

Professor Fowler highlighted that *ARGO*, the Society's magazine, continues to sail on. The Society was endeavouring to increase its subscriber list having received many positive comments and encouragements.

Events hosted at the Hellenic Centre, lectures by Professor Josiah Ober (Stanford University) and Sir Michael Llewellyn Smith (British Ambassador in Greece 1996–99), had proved very successful, with good attendance. The summer lecture by Professor Phiroze Vasunia (University College London) had also been very enjoyable and well attended.

Mr Peter Lennon (Honorary Treasurer) presented the 2015 Accounts. In 2015 the Society had net incoming resources (excluding net gains on investment assets) of £73,816 (2014: £64,585). Members' subscriptions increased by 9% to £60,530 (2014: £55,513). Publishing income increased by 17% to £111,633 (2014: £95,547). Investment income declined by 9% to £42,632 (2014: £46,753). The Society's main overheads were library costs (£72,612) and staff costs (£49,773), and these were maintained at similar levels as in 2014. The first year for the publication of *ARGO* gave rise to net costs of £5,465, but this ignores the unquantifiable impact on members' subscriptions. From a cash-flow perspective, the Society's year-end cash had increased to £148,867 (2014: £90,177), excluding the cash held in the investment portfolio. Of the net incoming resources of £73,816, £61,750 was represented by non-cash items relating to the Joint Library. Net investment gains amounted to £5,024 (2014: £36,283). Overall the investment portfolio (managed by Rathbones) showed a 1% decline in value to £1.367m. This largely reflects the movements in global equity markets in the period. During 2015 Rathbones implemented the decision of the Society's Finance & Investment Committee substantially to complete the

unwinding of the holding in the Veritas Global Equity Income Fund. As a result, going forward, the whole portfolio will be managed on a discretionary basis by Rathbones, within the mandate given by the Society. Looking forward to 2016, the Society has sufficient cash reserves for its immediate operating needs. The adoption of the 2015 Financial Statements was proposed by Dr David Thomas and seconded by Ms Davina Given. The accounts were unanimously adopted. Professor Fowler thanked Mr Lennon and Ms Doyle for their work throughout the year.

Professor Malcolm Schofield proposed the election of Mrs Anne Powell-Jones (The Classics Bookshop) as an Honorary Member of SPHS, seconded by Ms Davina Given. Her election was unanimously approved.

The following resolutions were proposed by Professor Fowler and seconded by Dr Margaret Mountford:

for re-election as Vice-Presidents: Professor Pat Easterling, Mr Brian Gilmore, Mr George Lemos, Dr Pantelis Michelakis, Professor Robin Osborne, Professor Christopher Rowe, Professor Ken Saunders, Professor Malcolm Schofield, Professor Brian Sparkes and Dr David Thomas;

for re-election as Honorary Secretary: Dr Margaret Mountford;

for election as Members of Council (to serve 2016–2019): Dr Bruno Currie (Oriental College, Oxford), Miss Amelia Dowler (Curator of Greek Coins, The British Museum), Dr Steven Kennedy (Classics Master, Harrow School), Professor Judith Mossman (University of Nottingham), Mrs Maria Oikonomou (Swansea University) and Dr Vasiliki Zali (University of Liverpool).

The nominations were unanimously adopted. Professor Fowler expressed his and Council's gratitude to Dr Mountford for agreeing to carry on. He expressed his thanks to those members stepping down: Professor Douglas Cairns (although he would remain on Council as Editor of *JHS*), Dr Myrto Hatzimichali, Professor Ahuvia Kahane, Professor Irene Lemos, Mr Adrian McAra, Dr Andrew Shapland and Dr Tracey Rihll. The Society was very grateful for their service and dedication to Hellenic studies.

Mr Lennon proposed for re-election as Auditors: MHA MacIntyre Hudson, 31 St George's Place, Canterbury, Kent CT1 1XD, seconded by Dr Mountford. The delay in the production of the 2016 Financial Statement was queried. Mr Lennon stated that it was the wrong time to switch, with extensive changes in the Society's financial arrangements with the University of London in 2016; however, the Auditors would be carefully monitored. Their election was approved.

The proceedings were drawn to a close.

SOCIETY EVENTS 2015–2016

Thursday 26th November 2015, The Hellenic Centre: 'The rise and fall of Classical Greece', Professor Josiah Ober (Stanford University).

Thursday 25th February 2016, The Hellenic Centre: 'Paddy Leigh Fermor and friends: explorations in his archive', Sir Michael Llewellyn Smith.

Wednesday 25th May 2016, Senate House: 'Dionysus and India: Lucian to Gandhara', Professor Phiroze Vasunia (University College London).

Saturday 11th June 2016, Senate House: 'Master of those who know: a celebration of Aristotle's 2,400th birthday', Professor Edith Hall (King's College London).

Friday 24th June 2016, The British Museum: 'Sicily: a force to be reckoned with in the ancient world', Dr Michael Scott (University of Warwick).