

Minutes of the AGM of the Herculaneum Society held on Saturday 7 November, 2020 at 12 noon by Zoom

Present: Trustees: Robert Fowler (Chair), Kay Byers, Alison Carter, Analisa Marzanno, Carol Scott, Kate Starling. Apologies: Joy Bithell, Daniel Delattre, Holger Essler, Gianluca del Maestro, Nigel Wilson. Secretary Krystyna Cech. Members: Alison Alden, Bonnie Blackburn, Paul Everard, Kilian Fleischer, Iona & Sheena Hampson, Hannes Hoffmann, Leofranc Holford-Strevens, Selby Knox, Julie Lorenzen, Peter Pickering, Daniel Resheteer, Peter Spital, Martin Taylor, Djamila Zaid.

- The meeting began with RF welcoming attendees on Zoom.
- The minutes of the 2018 AGM were received.
- **Accounts.** The accounts of the Herculaneum Society should have been posted on the website but due to a storage capacity issue, this was not possible in time for the meeting; they would be posted early the following week in the members' area. RF noted highlights on screen and reported that the accounts this year are straightforward and were approved by the Trustees in a Board meeting held on 1 Nov 2020. The financial situation is good. There is a healthy balance which includes a reserve to keep the Society going for at least 18 months (as required by the Charity Commission). £3000 was given out in Bursaries and a donation was made to Papyri.info. It is now clear that it is possible to collect Gift Aid on memberships and this will be done in due course and will bring a valuable boost to Income. The accounts were received.
- **Activities.** RF reported on Society activities of the past year. It was stated that the past year had been very active for the Society. A group of members attended a conference and visited the Herculaneum exhibition at the Getty Museum in California in July 2019. In November Dr Paul Roberts gave a talk at the November AGM about curating the "Last Supper in Pompeii" exhibition at the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford. In February, Prof. Michael Scott gave a well-attended talk on "Invisible Herculaneum" at ICS (London) which is now available as an audio podcast. A Society YouTube channel was created and hosts podcasts by the 2019 Bursary beneficiaries and the Getty conference talks. Numerous Trustee working party meetings took place during the year looking at ways of rebranding and marketing the Society resulting in an overhaul of the website. Thanks are due also to member Susan Krantz who gave valuable insights.
- **Memberships.** Memberships have risen this year partly due to the Congress which was planned to take place in June 2020. The question remains how to maintain this level. There is a need for members to be contacted when they fail to renew. A Membership Management System has been looked into but it has been decided that it is not fit for purpose for the particular needs of the Society. A manual system will be employed.
- **Congress.** There was a discussion about when the postponed 2019 Congress should take place. It was generally agreed that June 2021 would be too early but that Sept 2021 might be a possibility. Opinions varied. Some preferred the idea of having the Congress in June 2022. If there is a chance of having a Congress in September 2021, then a decision must be made by March. It has been decided to refund everyone (after some members preferred for their congress fee to be kept in deposit by the

Society for the next Congress) and to start the whole process of registration from scratch.

- **Future Activities.** There were many suggestions about possible activities during the pandemic (all virtual). They included: another research-focused event jointly with the Getty and/or the American Friends, requesting curators to give members bespoke tours of collections/exhibitions in museums world-wide, requesting Francesco Sirano and Ferdinando de Simone to give members a tour, asking past Bursary beneficiaries to give talks about their research, informing members about virtual tours in museums in Campania/Rome as well as local museums with Roman collections, start planning for physical meetings such as the one to the archaeological site at Silchester in 2019, inviting members to make their own podcasts of visits to sites. Members could be invited to give notice of their own visits to sites of interest in case others are able to join them.
- **Newsletter.** This year's edition of "Herculaneum Archaeology" is an e-version due to the difficulties of having one printed in the pandemic.
- **AOB.**
RF presented the Covid Harship Fund launched by the Society to award students grants to assist their research into all manner of Herculaneum related topics in literature/history/archaeology/anthropology/papyrology. The Society will match donations up to £1000.
Daniel Delattre, a founding member and later Trustee of the Society, has decided to step down as Trustee. RF proposed a motion of formal thanks to Prof. Delattre for his phenomenal help over the years.

The meeting adjourned at 13.00.

KC 9/11/ 2020