



## NOTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 21 MARCH 2018 AT 9.30AM IN ROOM O, PORTCULLIS HOUSE (PI 03)

Members present: Alison McGovern (Chair)  
Hannah Bardell  
Ann Clwyd  
Nic Dakin  
Jonathan Djanogly

Apologies: Simon Hoare, David Lammy, Tom Tugendhat

In attendance: Malcom Hay, Curator of Works of Art  
Emma Gormley, Deputy Curator  
James Ford, Assistant Curator  
Sileas Wood, Assistant Curator  
Melanie Unwin, Project Manager, Vote100 project  
Camilla Aitken, Media Officer  
Baroness Maddock, Chair, House of Lords Works of Art Committee

### 1) Informal Note [INF 02]

The Committee **agreed** the informal notes of the meeting on 21 February 2018.

#### Matters arising

#### **Recent acquisition request – Lord Archer cartoons**

The Chair noted that the Committee had agreed to decline the request by correspondence of 12 March 2018 to consider the acquisition of three cartoons from Lord Archer's collection.

The responses received from Members were as follows:

In favour	Against
Jonathan Djanogly Tom Tugendhat	Simon Hoare Alison McGovern (Chair)

#### **Daniel O'Connell request**

Melanie Unwin updated the Committee following a request at its meeting in February that the Curators use the presentation of the Constance Markievicz portrait as an opportunity to investigate the possibility of acquiring an image of Daniel O'Connell.



Ms Unwin said that a portrait had appeared at auction but that the sitter could not be positively identified as Daniel O'Connell. The Curators would continue to monitor future sales for relevant artworks.

## 2) Financial statement [WOA 13]

Malcolm Hay, Curator, briefed the Committee.

Mr Hay said that the Committee had spent the in-year budget allocation of £75,000 and had drawn down just under £2,500 from reserve.

### Decision

The Committee **noted** the financial statement.

## 3) Vote 100 update [WOA 14]

Melanie Unwin, Curator/Project Manager, and Mari Takayanagi, Project Manager Voice and Vote exhibition, briefed the Committee. David Clark, Head of Education and Engagement, gave a presentation on public engagement in relation to the Vote100 project.

Mr Clark said that the launch of the project in February had been a success and other key anniversaries would also be celebrated throughout the year. The Vote100 reception held on 6 February in Westminster Hall had received wide news coverage and was attended by over 750 guests. A number of other engagement events would take place over the following months. In June and July a series of Equaliteas would be held across the country and 1,552 activities had already been registered, far higher than for Libertees in 2015. This would be followed by UK Parliament Week in November, for which 1,530 organisations had signed up. Other work included a series of films entitled 'Your Story: Our History' that focused on laws affecting women, and these had over two million views to date; 'Beyond the Ballot', a free online course, had also been launched and 6,000 people had signed up.

Dr Takayanagi updated the Committee on preparations for the exhibition 'Voice and Vote: Women's Place in Parliament' that would run from June to October. The exhibition would be open one evening exclusively for members of both Houses. Some rare and unusual pieces would be on display, including items from the Alice Hawkins Collection, an anti-suffrage doll, a drawing of the Ventilator and the outfit worn in Parliament by Nancy Astor MP. One of the highlights of the exhibition was an acoustic model, developed in collaboration with the University of York on an AHRC-funded project, to recreate the experience of listening to debates in the ventilator space above the pre-1834 Chamber.

A Member asked if anything was being done to conserve Emily Davison's cupboard in the Undercroft Chapel and to share its story with a wider audience. Dr Takayanagi said that the cupboard would be recreated in the exhibition. It was hoped that this would induce House authorities to take action. Mr Clark said that they would look into the matter and see what could be done. The Chair said that it should be discussed at a future meeting and proposed commissioning an artist to produce a digital representation of the cupboard. Ms Unwin said that there would be a performance of 'A Necessary Woman' in the Macmillan Room the following week which told the story of Emily Davison's night in the cupboard and the people involved.



Baroness Maddock asked if it was acceptable for her to host an Equalitea with colleagues of the same political party. Mr Clark said that it was acceptable if the event was not used for political or campaigning purposes.

## Decision

The Committee **noted** the update on the Vote 100 Project.

## 4) Ways of Working of the Committee [WOA 15]

Malcolm Hay, Curator, briefed the Committee.

Mr Hay said that the Parliamentary Art Collection was a working collection with 9,000 objects, of which 80% were on display and that his team would be happy to arrange a walk-round tour of the collection for Members. The collection had increased in diversity because of changes to the acquisition policy. He also noted the importance of working with the Lord Speaker's Advisory Panel on Works of Art.

Several Members expressed an interest in a walk-round tour of the collection.

A Member asked whether there was a disadvantage to publishing the Committee's papers online in the same way that the Lord Speaker's Advisory Panel on Works of Art did. The Chair said that the risk of publishing papers online was minimal. Publishing them promoted transparency and would allow the public to learn about the work of the Committee. Several other Members agreed. Ms Aitken said that there was a potential for negative publicity if the press focused on items of particular interest in the committee papers. Mr Hay added that commercially sensitive discussions, such as those relating to the commissioning of artworks, would not be disclosed in any of the published papers.

A Member suggested that commemoration of historical events and the use of the collection for educational and engagement purposes should be included in the Terms of Reference. The Chair asked Ms Unwin and the Secretary to include this in a revised version of the Terms.

A Member said that widening access to the collections was important and a touring programme should be considered. Mr Hay said that the online collection had increased accessibility and that his team was keen to engage the public. Restoration and Renewal could provide an opportunity for outward loans and it was something to look at. Ms Gormley added that the display of the 2010 Election commission in Birmingham was a good example of widening access to works from the collection. There was potential for the current commission to go on tour and the artist was supportive of the idea and the work was very mobile.

A Member asked if the House received donations of artworks and whether artworks could be donated in lieu of tax. Mr Hay said that the commission of the bust of Charles Bradlaugh MP by Suzie Zamit had been funded through a donation. There were 500 works on display that were loaned from individuals or other institutions. Successful applications for allocation of artworks in lieu of inheritance tax had been made on four or five occasions over the previous 20 years.



## Decision

The Committee **agreed** to amend the Terms of Reference as follows:

1. To add “the potential to received donations is part of the acquisitions policy”; and
2. “to make proposals on the siting of works of art (both in and outside Parliament) to the Administration Committee.

## 5) Forward planning (including portrait commissions) [WOA 16]

Malcolm Hay, Curator, briefed the Committee.

Mr Hay said that one of the key points in the paper was the Committee's role in developing the collection through acquisitions, reflecting the interests of Parliament. Successive Committees had helped to widen representation of under-represented groups.

A Member asked if any of the portraits in the collection had been produced from photographs. Ms Unwin said that this had been done but only where the sitter was deceased and said that it was important to focus on commissioning portraits of members who were still alive. The Chair suggested that a discussion on portrait commissions should be held at a future meeting.

A Member asked what was being done to address the points in the paper on showing the diversity of members through contemporary displays and the items on sale in gift shops. Ms Unwin said that an audit of the gift shops could be carried out on items relating to the works of art collection. There were also themed tours run by Visitor Services that focused on the diversity of the collection.

The Chair asked for clarification on what was meant in the paper on appointing a panel of academics to draft an addition to the list of those meriting consideration for inclusion in the Collection. Mr Hay said that the academics consulted in the past were staff from the History of Parliament Trust.

## Decision

The Committee **considered** its approach to commissioning for the new Parliament and:

1. Reaffirmed the Acquisition Policy
2. Reviewed the shortlist of Parliamentarians to approach for the portrait programme
3. Decided to schedule a discussion with Visitor Services about the recommendations of the Good Parliament report on improving diversity and its visibility within the Collection.
4. Agreed to appoint a panel of academics to draft an addition to the list of those meriting consideration for inclusion in the Collection, covering the period 2001 to 2015.



## 6) Updates, acquisitions and loans

### **Potential acquisition: The Political House that Jack Built [WOA 17] by William Hone with Illustrations by George Cruikshank**

Sileas Wood, Assistant Curator, briefed the Committee.

#### **Decision**

The Committee **agreed** to acquire the etching for the Parliamentary Art Collection.

## 7) Any other business

### **208 Women Photography proposal**

Emma Gormley, Assistant Curator, spoke to the proposal.

Ms Gormley said that this was a proposal for a photographic exhibition in Westminster Hall to coincide with the 100th anniversary in 2018 of women being allowed to stand for election. The involvement of the Committee would be minimal. An application would need to be made to the keyholders of Westminster Hall if the proposal was agreed to. The first floor of Portcullis House could be considered as an alternative venue.

The Chair noted that there had been a similar exhibition entitled '121' a few years previously.

#### **Decision**

The Committee **agreed** to endorse the proposal to apply to the keyholders of Westminster Hall to hold the exhibition.

## 8) Date and time of the next meeting

The Committee will next meet on Tuesday 24 April at 2.00pm.