



- IN CONFIDENCE: FOR COMMITTEE USE ONLY -

NOTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 13 NOVEMBER 2018 AT 3.00PM IN COMMITTEE ROOM 21, PALACE OF WESTMINSTER (INF 09)

Members present: Alison McGovern (Chair)
Nic Dakin
Mr Jonathan Djanogly
Mr David Lammy
Hywel Williams

Apologies: Hannah Bardell, Ann Clwyd, Tom Tugendhat, Mr Edward Vaizey

In attendance: Melanie Unwin, Curator of Works of Art (Acting)
Emma Gormley, Deputy Curator
James Ford, Assistant Curator
Sileas Wood, Assistant Curator
Maev Mac Coille, Media Officer
Baroness Maddock, Chair, Lord Speaker's Advisory Panel on Works of Art

1) Informal Note [INF 08]

The Committee **agreed** the informal notes of the meeting on 10 October 2018.

Matters arising

International Women's Day lecture 2019

The Curators had contacted the two proposed speakers.

Potential acquisition of a bust of Olaudah Equiano

The Curators would arrange a viewing of the bust in the New Year.

Portrait of Alfred Waterson

The Cooperative Party had been informed of the Committee's decision to accept the inward loan of the portrait and would be holding an event in Parliament to mark the occasion in January 2019.

2) Financial Statement [WOA 38]

Melanie Unwin, Curator (Acting), briefed the Committee.



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The only change since the last financial statement was a payment made to the artist Scarlett Crawford for the First Waves Race Relations residency.

Decision

The Committee **noted** the financial statement.

3) Forward temporary display programme [WOA 39]

James Ford, Assistant Curator, briefed the Committee on temporary displays to be installed between January and October 2019.

The display programme included:

- a 'feature medal' display focusing on the large Royal Humane Society Medal on the Medals Corridor of the Palace from January 2019-January 2020;
- a recent acquisitions display on the Glass Wall in Portcullis House from February-May 2019;
- a display in Portcullis House marking 40 years since Margaret Thatcher became Prime Minister from April 2019-April 2020; and
- a display marking the 200th anniversary of the Peterloo Massacre on the Glass Wall in Portcullis House from July-October 2019.

Decision

The Committee **agreed** in principle the proposed forward display programme.

4) Commonwealth Parliamentary Association request for a Glass Wall display

The Committee then considered a request from the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association for a temporary display on the Glass Wall in Portcullis House to mark the 70th anniversary of the Commonwealth.

Dr Ford said the display could be accommodated in the 2019 programme, though the CPA would need to make a separate approach to the Committee for any works that they wished to include in the display from the Parliamentary Art Collection.

Decision

The Committee **agreed** to the request for a temporary display on the Glass Wall in Portcullis House.

5) Frank Doran memorial plaque [WOA 40]

Sileas Wood, Assistant Curator, briefed the Committee.



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The Committee considered the proposed wording for a new plaque to be added to the base of the Henry Moore sculpture *Knife Edge Two Piece* to reflect the service of the late former Chair of the Committee, Frank Doran.

Several Members suggested that the proposed wording should be shortened as it could detract from the text on the existing plaque. It was suggested that the wording should also include a word of thanks to Mr Doran for his role in preserving the sculpture and bringing it into the Parliamentary Art Collection.

Decision

The Committee **requested** the rewording of the proposed new plaque for Henry Moore's *Knife Edge Two Piece* (WOA S715), reflecting the service of Frank Doran MP (1949-2017), Former Chair of the Speakers Advisory Committee on Works of Art.

6) Naming of rooms in the Commons [WOA 41]

Melanie Unwin, Curator (Acting), briefed the Committee.

The Administration Committee had asked for a draft policy on the naming of rooms following a request from a Member to rename one of the meeting rooms in Portcullis House after Eleanor Rathbone, an early woman MP. The Works of Art Committee had on previous occasions taken a lead role in the naming of rooms because of the requirement for the siting of art works to support the theme of the named room.

Ms Unwin noted that it was almost impossible to come up with a policy on the ad-hoc naming of rooms that would ensure consistency and fairness, though room naming provided an opportunity to celebrate the contributions of women parliamentarians. There were only a few rooms in the Palace (the A, B, C and D dining rooms, the Lady Members' rooms and the Smoking Room) that were suitable for renaming under this proposal.

The following points were then raised:

- rooms should not be named on an ad-hoc basis and this should be incorporated into any future policy;
- a rehang of the artworks on display in the A, B, C and D dining rooms and their decoration should be considered at a future meeting as those rooms were available for hire by the public and were not very attractive;
- it was noted that the naming of rooms along the Committee Corridor after prime ministers had not been a success as Members, staff and visitors nearly always referred to the rooms by their numbers.

Decision

The Committee:



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- **advised** the Administration Committee that ad hoc naming of rooms was unlikely to be satisfactory;
- **recommended** to the Administration Committee that the Palace Committee rooms have their prime minister names removed to allow for more flexible picture hangs; and
- **sought** permission for the Committee to present a project brief to the Administration Committee to rename rooms, selected from those identified in paragraph 10 of the paper, after pre-1945 women MPs to respond to the lack of visible women's history.

7) Updates, acquisitions, moves and loans

a) *House of Doors exhibition update*

Emma Gormley, Deputy Curator, briefed the Committee.

The sculpture *House of Doors* by Kristina Clackson Bonnington had been installed in Westminster Hall. A leaflet had been produced to accompany the display and a private view would take place on 21 November.

Decision

The Committee **noted** the update.

b) *Potential acquisitions: photographs of the Speaker's Chaplain Rev. Rose Hudson-Wilkin and former Serjeant at Arms Jill Pay by Anita Corbin [WOA 42]*

James Ford, Assistant Curator, briefed the Committee.

The two photographs were from a series entitled *First Women*, depicting women in the UK who were first in their field of achievement, and fell within the acquisition policy criteria.

Dr Ford noted that there was already a photograph of Jill Pay in the Parliamentary Art Collection but it was taken when she was the Deputy Serjeant at Arms. All of the previous Speaker's chaplains were represented in the Collection but there were as yet no representations of Rev. Rose Hudson-Wilkin.

Decision

The Committee **agreed** to acquire the photographs of Jill Pay and Rev. Rose Hudson-Wilkin by Anita Corbin at A1 size.

8) Any other business

209 Women exhibition

Emma Gormley, Deputy Curator, provided an update to the Committee.



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The exhibition was due to be installed on 7 December and would be displayed until February 2019. The official opening would take place on 13 December.

Ms Gormley reported that good progress had been made to photograph the participating Members, of which only three were yet to sit for their portraits. The project curators were working to a tight deadline to ensure that all Members who had been photographed had approved their portraits for inclusion in the exhibition.

The Curators had contributed a significant amount of time to the project, assisting with the planning of the portrait hangs and overseeing the relocation of works from Portcullis House that would be temporarily displaced by the exhibition. It was proposed that those works could be displayed at other locations on the Northern Estate, such as the Norman Shaw buildings.

The Chair said that she would be happy to prompt participating Members and to speak with the Curators to see how she could help move the project along in its final stages.

9) Date and time of next meeting

The Committee will next meet on **Wednesday 5 December at 9.30am.**