

Proceedings of the Society for the Promotion of Roman Studies 2004–5

The Annual General Meeting of the Society was held at 2 pm on Saturday, 4 June 2005 in Room 329/330, Senate House, Malet Street, London WC1E 7HU. The President, Professor Alan K. Bowman, FBA, FSA, was in the chair and welcomed members and non-members.

Professor Bowman presented to members the Report of the Council for 2004, which had been circulated in May. He commented on the success of the Society's cultural and intellectual activities during the year, in particular the visits in April 2004 to Petworth and Bignor Roman Villa and in June to Bath, and the Sixth Roman Archaeology Conference in the University of Birmingham in March/April 2005. The Seventh Archaeology Conference would be in London in spring 2007. Less welcome were developments relating to the convergence of the libraries of the School of Advanced Study and the University of London Library into the University of London Research Library Services. This process had potentially deleterious implications for the running of the Library of the Institute of Classical Studies and the Joint Library of the Hellenic and Roman Societies, but it was hoped that the problems had been satisfactorily resolved by a Memorandum of Understanding signed in December that set out a *modus operandi* between the University and the Societies for the future. The Hellenic and Roman Societies' officers were satisfied so far that they had protected the two Societies' interests.

Professor Bowman noted that Britannia Monograph 20, *Roman Carmarthen, Excavations 1973–1993*, by Heather James, had been published in January and No. 21, *The Roman Cemetery at Brougham, Cumbria; Excavations 1966–67*, by H. E. M. Cool, in June. The Schools Committee, in conjunction with the Roman Research Trust, had awarded 22 archaeology bursaries to sixth-formers in 2004, and the same number again in 2005. Applications for the 2006 round of awards (deadline 15 May 2006) would be welcome.

The Hon. Treasurer, Mr Graham E. A. Kentfield, presented the accounts for 2004. The surplus of £5,000 in 2004 had been better than forecast, partly as a result of increased income from monograph sales and royalties (especially from the back volumes of the journals accessible through JSTOR) and partly from savings made by changing the printers for *JRS*. There had also been substantial unrealised gains on the Society's investments. The current financial position was therefore reasonably healthy, but with the Societies' contributions to Library staff salaries and space costs due to be renegotiated later in the year the future was more problematic. Costs were bound to rise, but the Societies' Treasurers would take as tough a negotiating line as they could. There being no questions, the Report of the Council and the Accounts for 2004 were accepted and approved on the proposal of Dr R. D. Hackney, seconded by Miss A. E. Healey.

On the proposal of Mrs J. Kilsby, seconded by Miss A. E. Healey, Council was authorised to agree the remuneration of the auditors. Mr P. Agrell proposed and Dr C. W. Grocock seconded the re-appointment of AGN Shipleys as auditors for 2005. Professor T. D. Barnes proposed, seconded by Professor J. J. Wilkes, the following nominations for election: as President for 2005–8 Professor M. G. Fulford, FBA, FSA; as Vice-Presidents for 2005–6 Professor A. K. Bowman, FBA, FSA, Professor Averil M. Cameron, CBE, FBA, FSA, and Rev. Professor J. S. Richardson, FRSE; as Hon. Treasurer and Hon. Secretary for 2005–6 Mr G. E. A. Kentfield and Mrs E. Matthews respectively; and as Council members for 2005–8: Professor W. M. Beard, Dr P. James, Dr G. A. J. Kelly, Dr M. R. Morello, Professor S. P. Oakley, Dr A. Poulter, Dr R. D. Rees and Mr A. R. Wilmott, FSA. They were all declared elected *nem. con.*

No other business was brought forward in accordance with the Articles of Association. The Treasurer, on behalf of the Society, thanked Professor Bowman for his work as President over the past four years. His Presidency had been extended by a year to ensure continuity during the difficult negotiations with the University of London over the Memorandum of Understanding. He had presided over the Society with good humour and decisiveness. Professor Bowman in his turn expressed his appreciation of the support of the officers, and especially of the Secretary, Dr H. M. Cockle. He wished his successor well for his Presidency.

The AGM was followed by two well-attended lectures: Dr L. W. G. Morgan on 'Domitian's Blush: Appearance and Power in First-Century Rome' and Dr P. M. Carroll on "*The Garden's Ceaseless Thirst*". The Archaeological Exploration of Gardens in Roman Italy'.