



2018 Annual Report
Professor Dame Sue Black DBE FRSE FRCP FRAI
President, Royal Anthropological Institute

In this, my first annual report, I should like first to thank my predecessor Professor André Singer. That the transition should have been so straightforward is remarkable testimony to his extra-ordinary skills. Not least amongst his contributions is the film festival, which for so many years he has devoted his energy to supporting, and which now has found such an auspicious home in the Watershed in Bristol where it is going from strength to strength.

In his last report, Professor Singer outlined the steps that the RAI has taken with regard to the question of obtaining a charter. I should, in turn, add that the motion 'That the RAI should petition for a Charter' which he noted had been made in his letter to the Fellowship was passed unanimously at the subsequent AGM. Accordingly, the institute has submitted such a petition to the Privy Council, where it is currently under consideration. The indicative documentation that we agreed at the AGM will come into force if the Charter petition is granted. We will inform the Fellows as soon as we have any news on this question.

It is usual in these reports to look retrospectively, at the previous calendar year. The highlight to 2018 was indisputably the major conference *Art, Materiality and Representation*, which took place 1st-3rd June, located as in previous years at the Clore Centre of the British Museum with the admirable facilitation of their Department of Africa, Oceania and the Americas. As it grew, we also joined forces with colleagues at the Department of Anthropology and Sociology at SOAS, ultimately ending with a gathering with some 110 panels, and more than a thousand registered delegates from many different countries. A feature of the conference was that there were presented art installations and films alongside more conventional exhibitions, as well as live demonstrations of string-figures and games.

We are particularly grateful to our key-note speakers: Professor Ruth Phillips (Carleton University); Professor Tim Ingold (Aberdeen), and Professor Gerald McMaster (OCAD), for bringing a lively and varied synthesis to our deliberations. The event as a whole, even though for the RAI very large, had an intimacy and excitement that means that it will long stay in the memory. As we have explored in our *Anthropology and Photography* conference (2014), we will publish proceedings in the form of refereed open access pamphlets, which will form an open-ended series on the RAI's website going forward.

Such an event could not have been presented without the consistent and generous assistance of an enormous number of colleagues and, at the conference itself, volunteers, whom I thank. It is invidious to single out any individual, but I should like to say that I realise that the welcome popularity of the conference meant consequently that an unanticipated work-load was placed on the staff. They rose to the task magnificently. It went as smoothly as if we had had a tenth of the numbers we eventually were able to welcome. The RAI is greatly fortunate that it can attract, and retain, employees of such calibre.

Through a welcome collaboration, we have in recent years held a mini-version of our film festival at the University of Southern California Dornsife's Center for Visual Anthropology. This has given us a chance to show the winners, and more broadly create cordial ties with their Department of Anthropology. We are most grateful to Professor Gary Seaman, with whom we initiated this partnership. Professor Seaman will be retiring this year, and I should like to say how valuable and worthwhile it has been for all of us at the RAI to have the privilege of working with him.

Back in London, our seminar series at the RAI continued with many varied and interesting presentations, very often fully subscribed. We were also delighted to hold the popular Reviewer meets Reviewed sessions at the Anthropology Centre at the British Museum, where our library collections are held. These are often discussions of first class importance, as they evaluate recent publications that help us to understand current developments in the discipline.

Our Huxley Lecture, held at the BM Clore Centre, entitled "The More-than-Human Anthropocene" was delivered by Professor Ann Tsing (UCSC) to a packed audience. The lecture is a highlight of the year, and Professor Tsing rose marvelously to the occasion, illustrating deftly the connections between globalization, industrialization, and movement, showing the unexpected consequences that arise from such a combination of circumstances. We understand that Professor Tsing is preparing a monograph on this subject, and we look forward keenly to its eventual publication.

Throughout the year, our flagship publications, the *Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute* and *Anthropology Today*, appeared regularly, and continue to gain new readers. We are pleased too, to note that our monograph

series is now fully established, with Professor Paul Sillitoe contributing *Built in Niugini: constructions in the highlands of Papua New Guinea*. We look forward to welcoming further proposals from Fellows – we particularly aim at publishing works of considerable ethnographic merit that might potentially not find it easy to find a trade publisher.

The autumn was marked by a great tragedy. On 2nd September 2018, the National Museum of Brazil burnt down, resulting in the loss of the national ethnographic collections, the anthropology teaching library, and the offices and personal papers of the teaching staff in anthropology. We have taken a close interest in this event, and heard about it from soon after from Professor Joao Pacheco de Oliveira Filho, whose visit in October enabled us to hold an open discussion at the RAI. In February 2019, we were pleased to welcome further Brazilian colleagues for a Brazilian Anthropology Day, which I shall talk about in more detail next year.

I should note, sadly, that we have recently lost three former Presidents: Professor Michael Day, Professor Michael Banton, and Professor John Davis. To lose the great benefit of their experience is a blow, and we hope that we will find ways of commemorating their contributions. One particular such event was a two-day conference on the life and works of another of our former Presidents, Professor Edward Evans-Pritchard, organized by Andre Singer in October. This yielded a host of new insights into this remarkable scholar, and we look forward to its appearance as an occasional publication of the institute.

In conclusion, I should like to mention our many and varied committees. These cover a huge array of subjects, and are very much the lively engine-room which generates our initiatives and events. It is this combination, staff, committees and fellows which works so well and gives the RAI its uniqueness. I am deeply proud to be its President.

Treasurer's Report

The RAI held a steady financial position in 2018, maintaining an overall surplus at the end of the year. The equity holdings of the RAI showed some variation along with the market as a whole, but have since largely recovered. The William Buller Fagg Trust, after careful consideration, have sent the capital of the fund, some £900,000 for the institute to administer, and this has therefore been added to our funds.

Our warnings from previous years remain. The instability of the financial world situation, and the more specific rise of 'open access' publishing means that the future income of the RAI may be affected. This is already becoming evident in that different models of scholarly journal publishing are being explored globally, and it is regrettably not clear that even modestly priced journals such as ours will be able to come through these changes unscathed. In parallel fashion, changes in technology make it clear that we shall have to work very hard to ensure the viability of our ethnographic film distribution as DVDs become less popular.

However, as noted last year, we have tried to mitigate against this by signing a new, extended contract with our publisher, Wiley. In co-operation with Alexander Street we are offering streaming access to ethnographic film from our website. We have also continued our programme of diversification of activities and their related income, in order to reduce the reliance of the RAI on any single source of funds. These activities include our major conference series, the most recent one of which took place in 2018, on the subject 'Art, Materiality, and Representation', the inclusion of our historic archives in the Wiley digital database and further projects with the Alexander Street Press. We are seeking donation from fellows of any unwanted anthropology books, that may either go to our library, or if already there, disposed of for the benefit of the RAI.

The diversification of our investments so as to include property continues. We purchased a new property to let out on behalf of the institute in Worthing. Two out of three of the units within it are currently let. The ground floor flat is still being refurbished. We anticipate spending approximately £30,000 on completing the works and it will be ready for renting out in June 2019.

Income from Fellowship and membership continues to remain steady, showing a slight increase in numbers overall. Provided that we can successfully diversify in the coming years, we can continue to be cautiously optimistic about our financial position.

Dr Fiona Bowie, Honorary Treasurer

Library Donors during 2018 were; Adrian Mayer, Pat Caplan, James Carrier, Philippe Beaujard, David Zeitlyn, Roy Ellen, Alexander Robertson, Tom Shay, Richard Green, Leila Zaki Chakravarti, Annabel Hendry, Elizabeth Tonkin, Elizabeth Hull, Hiroko Hagiwara, Hilary Callan, Pamela Shurmer-Smith, Qi Xiaoguang, Niki Alsford.

Fellows of the RAI who are members of the institute's committees may be found on this link <https://www.therai.org.uk/committees>.



**ROYAL ANTHROPOLOGICAL INSTITUTE
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2019
followed by the 2019 Curl Lecture**

The 2019 AGM will take place on Friday 20 September at 3.30 pm in the Gustave Tuck Lecture Theatre, University College London, 2nd Floor, South Junction Wilkins Building, Gower St, London WC1E 6BT. It will be followed by the 2019 Curl Lecture.

All are welcome. Only RAI Fellows may vote at the AGM. Formal notification of the AGM has also been published in *Anthropology Today* and on the RAI website.

Programme

3.30 pm: AGM

5.30 pm (approximately)

2019 Curl Lecture, to be given by Dr Oliver Harris on *Archaeology and the creation of pasts*

Following the AGM and lecture, there will be a drinks reception for all present.

AGM AGENDA

1. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of 4 October 2018
2. Annual Report of the Council for 2018
3. Appointment of Auditors (Current auditors: Friend-James, Chartered Accountants)
4. Election of Officers and Council for the year 2019-2020 (see overleaf for House List)
5. Announcement of elections of the Huxley Memorial Lecturer and Henry Myers Lecturer for 2020
6. Rivers Memorial Medal for 2019
7. Lucy Mair Marsh Medal for 2019
8. Marsh Award for 2019
9. President's Lifetime Achievement Award for 2019
10. Any other business

HOUSE LIST

(for election of Officers and Council under agenda item 4)

Names proposed by Council (new nominations marked with *)

All nominations are subject to the election of candidates as RAI Fellows for the year(s) in which they hold office. Former Presidents are *ex officio* Vice Presidents and not listed below.

President: Professor Sue Black

Elected Vice Presidents:

Dr Matei Candea
Professor Rob Foley
Professor Joy Hendry

Hon Secretary: Professor Raymond Apthorpe

Hon Librarian: Dr Michael Scott

Hon Treasurer: Dr Fiona Bowie

Ordinary members of Council

Professor John Baily
Professor Paul Basu
Professor Laura Bishop
Professor Janet Carsten*
Dr Ian Collard
Dr Rupert Cox*
Professor John Gowlett
Dr Lucina Hackman
Professor Kate Hill*
Dr Louise Humphrey*
Dr Charlotte Joy
Professor Susanne Kuechler
Professor James Laidlaw*
Dr Rebecca Lynch*
Professor Jeremy MacClancy
Professor Steve Rayner
Professor Julian Thomas
Dr Christopher Tyler

Article 42(b) of the Articles of Association states:

In addition to the candidates named in the House List, any member (Fellow) may be nominated for election as an Officer or a member of Council provided such member shall not have been disqualified under these presents.

Nominations shall be in writing and signed by at least two members (Fellows) eligible to vote and accompanied by a statement in writing by the nominee expressing his willingness to serve if elected. Nominations must have been lodged with the Secretary not later than three days before the Annual General Meeting.

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2018

| | Unrestricted Funds £ | Designated Funds £ | Restricted Funds £ | 2018 Total £ | 2017 Total £ |
|--|----------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| INCOME | | | | | |
| Donations and grants | 25,032 | - | 966,630 | 991,662 | 168,679 |
| Investment income | 66,549 | 90 | 3,026 | 69,665 | 69,909 |
| Other income | 5,630 | - | - | 5,630 | 366,418 |
| <i>Income from charitable activities:</i> | | | | | |
| Fellowship and Membership | 95,474 | - | - | 95,474 | 100,927 |
| Publications | 677,356 | - | - | 677,356 | 702,848 |
| RAI Collection | 110,414 | - | - | 110,414 | 80,912 |
| Education Programme | 134,428 | - | - | 134,428 | 7,745 |
| TOTAL INCOME | 1,114,883 | 90 | 969,656 | 2,084,629 | 1,494,438 |
| EXPENDITURE | | | | | |
| <i>Expenditure on charitable activities:</i> | | | | | |
| Policy and Profile | 139,291 | - | 41,040 | 180,331 | 207,230 |
| Fellowship and Membership | 67,697 | - | - | 67,697 | 62,919 |
| Publications | 347,896 | - | - | 347,896 | 298,295 |
| RAI Collection | 119,804 | - | 25,312 | 145,116 | 158,835 |
| Library | 81,635 | - | - | 81,635 | 78,975 |
| Education Programme | 203,160 | - | 2,800 | 205,960 | 89,730 |
| TOTAL EXPENDITURE | 959,483 | - | 69,152 | 1,028,635 | 895,984 |
| Net income for the year | 155,400 | 90 | 900,504 | 1,055,994 | 598,454 |
| Gain on investments | (51,657) | (250) | (7,169) | (59,076) | 29,494 |
| Transfers between funds | (97,065) | 97,065 | - | - | - |
| Net movement in funds | 6,678 | 96,905 | 893,335 | 996,918 | 627,948 |
| Fund balances at 1 January 2018 | 875,105 | 1,713,783 | 315,380 | 2,904,268 | 2,276,320 |
| Fund balances at 31 December 2018 | 881,783 | 1,810,688 | 1,208,715 | 3,901,186 | 2,904,268 |

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2018

| | <u>2018</u> | <u>2017</u> |
|--|-------------------------|------------------|
| | £ | £ |
| Fixed assets | | |
| Tangible fixed assets | 681,963 | 679,639 |
| Freehold investment property | 1,023,589 | 968,848 |
| Listed investments | 433,623 | 764,824 |
| | <u>2,139,175</u> | <u>2,413,311</u> |
| Current assets | | |
| Debtors | 425,358 | 227,622 |
| Cash at bank and in hand | 1,713,891 | 598,745 |
| | <u>2,139,249</u> | <u>826,367</u> |
| Creditors-amounts falling due within one year | <u>(377,238)</u> | <u>(335,410)</u> |
| Net current assets | 1,762,011 | 490,957 |
| | <u>3,901,186</u> | <u>2,904,268</u> |
| Income funds | | |
| Restricted funds | 1,208,715 | 315,380 |
| Unrestricted funds | | |
| Designated funds | 1,810,688 | 1,713,783 |
| Other charitable funds | 881,783 | 875,105 |
| | <u>3,901,186</u> | <u>2,904,268</u> |

These summarised accounts are extracted from the full unqualified audited accounts approved by the trustees on 06 June 2019. For further information, the full statutory accounts, which have been filed with the Registrar of Companies and the Charity Commission, should be consulted. These can be obtained from RAI offices at 50 Fitzroy Street, London W1T 5BT.

Auditors' statement on the summary accounts to the trustees of the Royal Anthropological Institute

We have examined the summary accounts set out on pages 5 to 6 inclusive.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and auditors

These summary accounts presented on pages 5 to 6 are the responsibility of the trustees. It is our responsibility to report our opinion on their consistency with the full accounts, on which we reported on 17 June 2019. Our report on the full accounts of the Institute includes information on the responsibilities of the trustees and the auditors relating to the preparation and the audit of those accounts and on the basis of our unqualified opinion on those accounts.

Basis of opinion

We have carried out the procedures we consider necessary to ascertain whether the summary accounts are consistent with the full accounts from which they have been prepared.

Opinion

In our opinion the summary accounts on pages 5 to 6 are consistent with the full accounts of the Royal Anthropological Institute for the year ended 31 December 2018.

Friend-James Limited
Chartered Accountants, Statutory Auditor, 4th Floor, Park Gate
161-163 Preston Road, Brighton BN1 6AF

Dated: 17 June 2019