



2017 Annual Report
Professor André Singer
President, Royal Anthropological Institute

As I am coming to the end of my term of office, this will be my last Presidential report. Over the years that I have had the privilege of being the head of the RAI, I have got to know the Institute far better than I did before. It makes me realize once more just how unique and valuable an institution we are, the world's most long-lived institute devoted to the pursuit of anthropology in all its forms. It is this diversity within anthropology that makes it such an exciting community to be a part of.

As well as offering my thanks, I should like to acknowledge the extra-ordinary variety of the many people who go up to making the Institute the success that it is, and the different roles that they fill: I am grateful to my fellow Trustees for making my tenure so straightforward and pleasant, to the Honorary officers who selflessly devote so much time and energy to keeping the machine so well oiled, to the committees for the creative and voluntary input that they have in the affairs of the institute; to the Fellows for the enormous goodwill that they show when I see and talk to them at our events, to the volunteers at our conferences, many of whom go on to become Student Fellows, or Fellows in later life, and to the exceptional staff for their devotion to the cause of the Institute. Together, this makes a formidable body, one that will I am sure be even more successful in the future.

It is usual in these reports to reflect on the events of the previous calendar year, that is 2017. Clearly the highlight was the film festival, which took place for the second time at the Watershed, in Bristol. The reason that we moved to a professional cinema complex is two-fold: it means that we can be assured that we have the technical capacity to receive and show films in a variety of ever-changing digital formats, and that by holding the festival in the same place, we can gradually build up experience, and an audience that comes to know and love the location. We were most fortunate, this time round, in having Professor Paul Henley (Manchester) as our Film Festival Director. He brought to the event an energy and an understanding of how festivals may best be presented that was quite outstanding, including the development of collaborative festival partners in universities around the country. The venue was full throughout, with a number of highlights, such as the Hugh Brandt Lecture discussions with Hugh Brody; a panel and film showing celebrating the centenary of Jean Rouch; showing of *The Eagle Huntress* in the presence of its Director; master classes by David MacDougal and John Baily and of course the competition itself. My thanks not only to Paul Henley, but also to Caterina Sartori and her team who managed the festival with great skill and verve, and to our colleagues in the University of Bristol, in UWE, and in all the participating departments. The programme may be seen on the RAI film web-site, <https://raifilm.org.uk/>. The web-site is new, and I warmly encourage all those who are interested in this aspect of the RAI's work to take a look!

In addition to this, our busy and ever expanding events programme continued as now has become usual, expertly managed by our staff. Here, I should add that though staffing was stable during the year, we made a few internal changes as approved by Council. In recognition of her many years of fine work, Amanda Vinson was promoted to Assistant Director (Administration), and we were pleased too that Christine Patel (Assistant Director Finance) increased her time to four days a week. This strengthening of our administration has already shown its benefits, in that we were able to cope with the very large conference we have held this year with such conspicuous success at the British Museum. I do not wish to single out any one member of staff for particular praise, because they all have performed magnificently, and I thank them all. I have seen an increasingly harmonious and productive collegiate spirit amongst the staff of the RAI over the past four years and I cannot emphasize enough how fortunate we are in having such a dedicated team and Director.

I turn now in conclusion to a development that concerns the future of the Institute. In a separate letter that accompanies this report, I have explained to Fellows that there is the possibility that the institute may petition to obtain a Charter. You will find more details in that paper, but I should like to say that this possibility is one that I believe has the potential to add further lustre to the institute's already

distinguished history, and to contribute greatly to the development of anthropology in this country. It will be on the agenda of the AGM, and I would like to invite most cordially all Fellows to send me any comments or questions that they may have regarding this development.

Confidential to Fellows of the RAI.

Dear Fellow,

17th July 2018

Charter

I wrote recently to all Fellows by e-mail concerning the possibility of obtaining a charter. Many thanks for the many messages received from Fellows in unanimous support. I am greatly heartened by this. As the matter will be on the agenda of our AGM on 4th October, which will take place at the British Museum, I write in similar fashion now in case not all Fellows saw my message.

In recent years, Council has been deliberating the question of updating the institute's constitution. Work on this is now well advanced. However, during the course of these discussions, the possibility of obtaining a Charter has also been raised. I should explain that the institute was made 'Royal' in 1907, but though it had before that date tentatively explored the possibility of obtaining a Charter it was not then encouraged by the Privy Council to take this wish further. In the century that has passed since, the institute has become much better founded. We have our own building, we have built up our publications, staff, Fellowship, events, and so on. Following a series of preliminary discussions with the Privy Council, of which the import was to test our eligibility, the institute has now been encouraged to petition. For this reason, we believe that there may be a reasonable chance that a Charter may be awarded on the basis of the institute being a successful learned society in the pursuit of anthropology.

In the course of our extensive discussions with our advisors and with other institutions which have obtained a Charter, we have learnt that a Charter is only awarded to subjects or disciplines which may be said to have a clear contribution to make to the public good. In effect, if successful, it would bring anthropology closer to having its 'voice' heard in public debate, something that we would like very much to come about. It would also be expected that the RAI, and hence its Fellowship, would become a body that may be consulted on questions that the government feel that it would welcome advice on.

At the AGM, Fellows will be invited to consider the following motion, which is also recommended by the Council of the RAI: "that the RAI should petition the Privy Council for a Charter".

Proposed by: Professor Andre Singer (President), Seconded by Professor Raymond Apthorpe (Honorary Secretary).

If this motion is approved, the AGM will also be invited to approve two commensurate documents which would form the basis of the RAI's new constitution, the text of which will be circulated in advance.

Below this message, I have appended several Questions and Answers that I hope will clarify any queries that Fellows may have concerning this initiative, one that as President, I firmly believe would be a very positive step forward, perhaps even transformative. I hope very much that the Fellowship will think so too.

In the meantime, however, I look forward very much to hearing any comments that you may have, to be sent please to admin@therai.org.uk. I will naturally keep Fellows updated as this initiative takes shape.

Kind regards
Yours faithfully

Andre Singer, B.Sc. (Econ), B.Litt., D.Phil.
President of the Royal Anthropological Institute

Questions and Answers

What is a Charter? A Charter is the oldest form of incorporation, and is awarded only rarely. A body that is incorporated through a Charter reports to the Privy Council, and a petition to receive a Charter is approved by the Queen.

Is the process expensive? No. There is no charge to make a petition, and the institute has been kindly assisted by an advisor at the Foundation for Science and Technology, a charity recommended by the British Academy, who has not charged for his services. There is a one-off charge to produce the documentation relating to the Charter should any petition be granted, which is in the region of £5,000.

Does a Charter have any administrative or bureaucratic implications? No. The administrative burden on the institute would lessen, as it would no longer be incorporated through Companies House (though it would still remain regulated by the Charities Commission).

What is the reason for petitioning to obtain a Charter? Only those subjects which are regarded as clearly beneficial to the public good are awarded a Charter, and anthropology will potentially benefit from having a Charter in that it enhances the possibility of its 'voice' being heard in the public sphere.

Further information may be found here: <https://privycouncil.independent.gov.uk/royal-charters/>.

Treasurer's Report

The RAI held a steady financial position in 2017, maintaining an overall surplus at the end of the year. Our equities investments continued to show signs of recovering, and the fund balance at the end of the year remained buoyant. We have received grants from the William Buller Fagg Trust, to whom we are indebted for their cordial additional support of the assistant archivist.

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. However, we have tried to mitigate against this by signing a new, extended contract with our publisher, Wiley. 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 next one of which takes place in 2018, continuing to work with the Alexander Street Press, and 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 now have one house purchased on behalf of the Esperanza Trust, one purchased with Horniman funds and two purchased partly with general funds and partly with Horniman funds, and one purchased with general funds only. All are rented out, apart from the last one purchased which is being refurbished.

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 2017 were; Elizabeth and Geoff Harrison, Pat Caplan, Eric Ramirez-Ferrero, Graham Connah, Michael Yorke, Fuyubi Nakamura, Hilary Callan, Carlos Velez-Ibanez, and Roy Ellen.

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 2018
followed by the 2018 Henry Myers Lecture**

The 2018 AGM will take place on Thursday 4 October at 3.30 pm in the BP Lecture Theatre, Clore Education Centre, British Museum, London WC1. It will be followed by the 2018 Henry Myers 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: Tea

4.00 pm: AGM

5.30 pm (approximately)

2018 Henry Myers Lecture, to be given by Prof Simon Coleman

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

AGM AGENDA

1. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of 15 September 2017
2. Annual Report of the Council for 2017
3. It is proposed "that the RAI should petition the Privy Council for a Charter".

Proposed by: Professor Andre Singer (President), Seconded by Professor Raymond Apthorpe (Honorary Secretary).
4. Memorandum of Association and Bylaws (text circulated in advance)
5. Appointment of Auditors (Current auditors: H.W. Fisher and Company, Chartered Accountants)
6. Election of Officers and Council for the year 2018-2019 (see overleaf for House List)
7. Announcement of elections of the Huxley Memorial Lecturer and Curl Lecturer for 2019
8. Rivers Memorial Medal for 2018
9. Lucy Mair Marsh Medal for 2018
10. Marsh Award for 2018
11. President's Life-time Achievement Award
12. 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*

Dr Joseph Calabrese

Dr Liana Chua

Dr Ian Collard

Professor John Gowlett*

Dr Lucina Hackmann*

Dr Charlotte Joy

Professor Susanne Kuechler*

Professor Jeremy MacClancy

Professor John Morgan

Professor David Parkin

Professor Steve Rayner*

Dr Emily Rousham

Professor Paul Sillitoe

Professor Julian Thomas*

Dr Christopher Tyler*

Dr Simon Underdown

Professor Maya Unnithan

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 2017

	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2017 Total £	2016 Total £
INCOME					
Donations and grants	98,935	-	69,744	168,679	80,473
Investment income	63,246	122	3,541	66,909	56,605
Other income	374,163	-	-	374,163	91,801
<i>Income from charitable activities:</i>					
Fellowship and Membership	100,927	-	-	100,927	95,642
Publications	702,848	-	-	702,848	646,394
RAI Collection	80,912	-	-	80,912	45,703
TOTAL INCOME	1,421,031	122	73,285	1,494,438	1,016,618
EXPENDITURE					
<i>Expenditure on charitable activities:</i>					
Policy and Profile	170,897	-	36,333	207,230	203,437
Fellowship and Membership	62,919	-	-	62,919	53,494
Publications	298,295	-	-	298,295	339,048
RAI Collection	127,365	-	31,470	158,835	109,882
Library	78,975	-	-	78,975	79,756
Education Programme	86,930	-	2,800	89,730	67,477
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	825,381	-	70,603	895,984	853,094
Net income for the year	595,650	122	2,682	598,454	163,524
Gain on investments	27,196	167	2,131	29,494	150,366
Transfers between funds	(535,941)	535,941	-	-	-
Net movement in funds	86,905	536,230	4,813	627,948	313,890
Fund balances at 1 January 2017	788,200	1,177,553	310,567	2,276,320	1,962,430
Fund balances at 31 December 2017	875,105	1,713,783	315,380	2,904,268	2,276,320

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2017

	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>
	£	£
Fixed assets		
Tangible fixed assets	679,639	672,546
Freehold investment property	968,848	450,000
Listed investments	764,824	480,315
	<u>2,413,311</u>	<u>1,602,861</u>
Current assets		
Debtors	227,622	154,965
Cash at bank and in hand	598,745	840,957
	<u>826,367</u>	<u>995,922</u>
Creditors-amounts falling due within one year	<u>(335,410)</u>	<u>(322,463)</u>
Net current assets	490,957	673,459
	<u>2,904,268</u>	<u>2,276,320</u>
Income funds		
Restricted funds	315,380	310,567
Unrestricted funds		
Designated funds	1,713,783	1,177,553
Other charitable funds	875,105	788,200
	<u>2,904,268</u>	<u>2,276,320</u>

These summarised accounts are extracted from the full unqualified audited accounts approved by the trustees on 07 June 2018. 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 6 to 7 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 15 July 2018. 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 6 to 7 are consistent with the full accounts of the Royal Anthropological Institute for the year ended 31 December 2017.

H. W. Fisher & Company
Chartered Accountants, Registered Auditor, Acre House,
11-15 William Road, London, NW1 3ER, UK

Dated: 15 July 2018