



2020 Annual Report
Professor Dame Sue Black, Baroness Black of Strome DBE FRSE
President, Royal Anthropological Institute

Last year, when I submitted my annual report to the Fellows, we were at the height of lockdown. We did not know how long it was going to last, or how it was going to impact on the institute's activities. Even then, however, I was convinced that the resilience shown by the staff and Fellows would ensure that we would emerge after the crisis if anything stronger than before.

We are still, at the time of writing in July 2021, not back to normal, or whatever the new normal will be. Our staff are still working largely remotely, and face to face events have not yet resumed. Nevertheless, if all goes well, staff will be shifting their main point of operations back to the RAI on or about the beginning of September, and we will begin to reopen, and begin face to face events again. We hope to hold the Huxley Lecture, or Lectures, which are traditionally one of the highlights of our year, at the Clore Centre of the British Museum on 14th December 2021. With good fortune, this will mark the recommencement of our regular programme.

Meanwhile, we can look back at an extraordinary year, one that anthropologists will be discussing and researching for a long time in the future. From the RAI's point of view, it marked a great triumph: the final awarding of the Royal Charter. It was sealed, that is, came into operation, on 16th October 2020. We are still discussing the possibilities that the grant of the Charter will give rise to, but there is no doubt that it is a landmark both in the long history of the RAI, and for the establishment of anthropology in this country.

In my last report, I wrote that the greatly-anticipated large conference on Anthropology and Geography had been cancelled, much to our disappointment, for it had attracted a great deal of interest. However, the staff worked very hard, albeit now from home, and recreated it as a virtual event. We were delighted too to be able to continue to work with our conference partners: The British Academy; The British Museum; The Royal Geographical Society (with IBG) and SOAS University of London.

The conference itself took place on 14th-19th September, using a virtual platform, which gave a genuine feel of a distinct space within which to hold a large event. There was too an excellent number of panels, and 941 delegates. The event was opened by Marcia Langton, who spoke on "Place and existential crisis in Australia", whilst further excellent plenary address followed by Julie Livingston, Mike Collyer, Laura Hammond, and Charad Chari. The keynote address was delivered by Bruno Latour, whom we were delighted to welcome back as a lecturer to the institute: his Myers Lecture of 2008 is often referred to even today as being a most significant address. The Myers lecture itself featured again as an evening event, as David Gellner spoke expertly on 'The Spaces of Religion: A View from South Asia'.

As many institutions are discovering working remotely brings unexpected benefits as well as difficulties. For the first time, we were able to record the presentations as they were taking place, and many of the panel discussions remain on our website as well as the programme, which means that delegates to the conference will be able to view them again. I am convinced that such conferences frequently mark or herald important theoretical developments, and for the first time we will be able to look back and see how Anthropology and Geography began to create a dialogue together that surely will become ever more fruitful in the years and decades to come.

At the same time, we began to present a weekly programme of events online, which was as varied as it was well-supported. Amongst the highlights was a series of seminars on 'Anthropological Approaches to Covid-19'. From these we saw in remarkable fashion the serendipitous way that comparative reflections from different parts of the world can lead to wider conclusions: we were able to witness the remarkable creativity and new forms of sociality that the lockdowns led to, and also the complexities and hardships to which they gave rise.

Casting our minds back to before lockdown, we held several wonderful events at the RAI, including a one-day seminar on the History of Arctic Anthropology, which was chaired by Tim Ingold and Peter Schweitzer, one of several collaborations that we have with the Department of Anthropology at Vienna University. This

was fascinating, because it showed the way that international research developed over time in the Arctic, and the interaction between the different actors in that endeavour. We were pleased too, to be able to hold the conference Landscapes of Human Evolution at the RAI, which marked a festschrift for John Gowlett, and to organise jointly with SOAS, the British Institute at Ankara and the Anglo-Turkish Society, a remarkable day on Archaeology in Anatolia, at which the key address was given by Ian Hodder. We hope fervently that whatever the new normal, after Covid-19 has passed will be, we will still be able to put on such stimulating events.

The RAI publications programme continued throughout lockdown; the *JRAI* and *AT* appeared promptly to the highest standards, and the new editorial team, for the first time replacing a single editor, is working well. The Special Issue for 2020 *Mind and Spirit: A Comparative Theory*, edited by Tanya Lehmann, was marked by a well-attended virtual launch. We were pleased too to launch the second edition of *Exotic No More*, edited by Jeremy MacClancy, which has proved to be a most durable and popular work. The editor for open-access journal *Teaching Anthropology* rotated, and Patrick Alexander, whom we thank for his great service, gave way to Gavin Weston and Natalie Djohari, whom we wish every success in their tenure.

Turning, however, back to the core of the RAI, the Fellows and the staff. We are delighted that our newest committee, on Policy and Practice chaired by Emma Crewe was able to flourish during lockdown, presenting a whole series of seminars that will eventually provide a great body of material with which to rethink the relationship between anthropology, government and policy. All our committees, however, were able to gradually regroup after the shock of the pandemic, and I thank them all for their contribution. Staffing remained stable throughout the year, though we should note that Gemma Aallah (Research Officer) moved to take up a new position as a senior researcher at the University of Sussex, and we wish her all good fortune. We welcome her replacement, Jo Yates. Our Film Officer, Caterina Sartori asked to move to a job share, and we were pleased to welcome Steve Hughes as joint Film Officer from September. I should like to thank all the Fellows also who have renewed their membership so enthusiastically, meaning that the institute maintains its gradual expansion, in spite of all the difficulties with which we have all been faced.

In sum, we have been surprised, even shocked at the developments of the past year. But we have survived, and we are ready now for what this next year may bring.

Treasurer's Report

As will be appreciated, the institute's activities had to change substantially during the period of the Covid19 lockdown. Nevertheless, the RAI held a steady financial position in 2020, maintaining an overall surplus at the end of the year. No members of the RAI staff were placed on furlough, and they continued to work on their normal duties remotely. Throughout the year, we gradually rebuilt our face-to-face programme virtually, and the Fellowship numbers remained stable. For this reason, we came through with our operations intact.

Our warning from previous years nevertheless must 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 is almost certain to 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.

The diversification of our investments so as to include property continues. At present, all the properties owned by the RAI are rented out, and provide a steady source of income. Provided that we can successfully diversify in the coming years, we can continue to be cautiously optimistic about our financial position.

During the year, in order to build on our ethical investment policy we began the process of moving our holdings from the stockbrokers whom we have used previously, and instead have divided them between CCLA's COIF Charities Ethical Investment Fund, and Sarasin's Endowments Funds.

Dr Fiona Bowie, Honorary Treasurer

Library Donors during 2020 were;

Dr Nici Nelson, Dr Hazel Andrews, and Dr Shalva Weil

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 2021
followed by the 2021 Curl Lecture**

The 2021 AGM will take place on Monday 27 September 2021 at 3.00 pm on Zoom.
It will be followed by the 2021 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

3.00 pm: AGM
5.30 pm (approximately)
2021 Curl Lecture by Dr Rachel Crellin, University of Leicester

AGM AGENDA

1. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of 16 October 2020
2. Annual Report of the Council for 2020
3. Appointment of Auditors (Current auditors: Friend-James, Chartered Accountants)
4. Election of Officers and Council for the year 2021-2022 (see overleaf for House List)
5. Announcement of elections of the Huxley Memorial Lecturer and Henry Myers Lecturer for 2022
6. Rivers Memorial Medal for 2021
7. Lucy Mair Marsh Medal for 2021
8. Marsh Award for 2021
9. Public Anthropology Award for 2021
10. President's Lifetime Achievement Award for 2021
11. 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 Dame Sue Black, Baroness Black of Strome

Hon Vice Presidents: Professor John Gowlett*
Dr Louise Humphrey*
Professor Melissa Parker*

Hon Secretary: Professor Raymond Apthorpe

Hon Librarian: Dr Michael Scott

Hon Treasurer: Dr Fiona Bowie

Ordinary members of Council

Professor Janet Carsten
Dr Rupert Cox
Professor Ann R. David*
Professor Richard Fardon*
Dr Emma Gilberthorpe*
Professor Kate Hill
Dr Nichola Khan*
Professor James Laidlaw
Professor Paul Lane*
Dr Rebecca Lynch
Professor Ann MacLarnon
Dr H el ene Neveu Kringelbach
Judge Nicholas Padfield*
Keith Thorpe, OBE*
Dr Simon Underdown*
Professor Maya Unnithan*
Dr Richard Vokes*
Dr Shireen Walton

Article 18 of the Charter of Incorporation states:

In addition to those names on this Council list, any Fellow may propose any Fellow to be placed on a General List to replace those who are vacating their position through retirement from Council, provided that they lodge such proposed names at the RAI offices one calendar week before the annual general meeting takes place.

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2020 Total £	2019 Total £
INCOME					
Donations and grants	12,675	-	17,612	30,287	105,896
Investment income	112,540	96	30,660	143,296	95,586
Other income	6,014	-	-	6,014	10,255
<i>Income from charitable activities:</i>					
Fellowship and Membership	98,012	-	-	98,012	93,737
Publications	731,862	-	-	731,862	733,938
RAI Collection	66,803	-	-	66,803	105,915
Education Programme	46,127	-	-	46,127	6,765
TOTAL INCOME	1,074,033	96	48,272	1,122,401	1,152,092
EXPENDITURE					
<i>Expenditure on charitable activities:</i>					
Policy and Profile	118,738	-	8,976	127,714	176,863
Fellowship and Membership	66,587	-	-	66,587	64,581
Publications	363,269	-	-	363,269	360,175
RAI Collection	122,823	-	35,153	157,976	196,317
Library	57,189	-	-	57,189	59,137
Education Programme	121,295	-	9,300	130,595	133,506
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	849,901	-	53,429	903,330	990,579
Net income for the year	224,132	96	(5,157)	219,071	161,513
Gain / (Loss) on investments	11,373	6,975	46,251	64,599	95,807
Transfers between funds	2,948	(2,948)	-	-	-
Net movement in funds	238,453	4,123	41,094	283,670	257,320
Fund balances at 1 January 2020	1,073,033	1,845,891	1,239,582	4,158,506	3,901,186
Fund balances at 31 December 2020	1,311,486	1,850,014	1,280,676	4,442,176	4,158,506

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2020

	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>
	£	£
Fixed assets		
Tangible fixed assets	676,850	679,798
Freehold investment property	1,067,500	1,060,580
Listed investments	<u>2,043,835</u>	<u>1,877,523</u>
	<u>3,788,185</u>	<u>3,617,901</u>
Current assets		
Debtors	164,471	177,980
Cash at bank and in hand	<u>745,651</u>	<u>794,096</u>
	<u>910,122</u>	<u>972,076</u>
Creditors-amounts falling due within one year	<u>(256,131)</u>	<u>(431,471)</u>
Net current assets	653,991	540,605
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	<u>4,442,176</u>	<u>4,158,506</u>
Income funds		
Restricted funds	1,280,676	1,239,582
Unrestricted funds		
Designated funds	1,850,014	1,845,891
Other charitable funds	<u>1,311,486</u>	<u>1,073,033</u>
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	<u>4,442,176</u>	<u>4,158,506</u>

These summarised accounts are extracted from the full unqualified audited accounts approved by the trustees on 01 July 2021. 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 16 July 2021. 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 2020.

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

Dated: 16 July 2021