

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting**  
**Royal Photographic Society – Historical Group**

**RPS House**  
**337 Paintworks, Bristol BS4 3AR**

**11.00 am Saturday 9 March 2019**

**Present:** David Bruce (in the Chair), Geoff Blackwell, Donald Stewart, Gillian Read, Richard Fattorini, Edward Bylina, Brian Liddy, Monica Thorp, Roger Farnham, Michael Pritchard; Deborah Ireland, Stephen Jones, Janet Lowe, John Page, Marjorie Page, Clemence Schultze, Martin Rush, Eric Butler, Malcolm Corrigan, John Winstone, Ian Sumner, Michael Tatham.

Before beginning the business of the meeting, the Chairman, David Bruce, paid warm tribute to the late Richard Morris for his contribution to the work of the Historical Group, the Society and the understanding of early photography.

**1. Apologies:** David Burder, Avril Harris, Rose Teanby, Peter Harvey, Rob Crow, Janine Freeston, Ron Callender, Kate O'Neill,

**2. Minutes of 2018 AGM:** The Minutes of the previous year's AGM were accepted, and their adoption was proposed by Richard Fattorini, seconded by Roger Farnham.

**3. Chair's Report:** David Bruce reported on the activities of the Group during the past year, including – exceptionally – three lectures: in January 2018 George Szirtes' introduction to the Colin Ford Lecture series; the actual inaugural lecture in the series, presented by Robert Gurbo of the André Kertész Foundation, New York, at the V&A in December; and the 2019 Hurter & Driffield lecture by the documentary film maker and VR pioneer, Anthony Geffen, in February of this year.

Two successful visits had also taken place: to Liverpool in March and to Glasgow in August. The Research Day in Sheffield had been particularly interesting, and warm thanks were due to Geoff Blackwell for organising it. Production problems had held up *The PhotoHistorian* during the year but Nos 181 and 182 had nevertheless been published, plus a full-length Supplement. The proposed visit to Chalon sur Saône had to be cancelled because of strike action on French Railways, but it is now planned for September/October 2019.

Finally, the Chairman thanked the officers and members of the Historical Group committee for their help and support during his year in office.

Approval for his report was moved by Gilly Read, seconded by Monica Thorp.

**4. Treasurer's Report:** Geoff Blackwell referred the meeting to the financial statement on the website. He reported his disappointment at the deficit for the year, but explained that it was largely the result of the Group having had to pay for two venues for the Colin Ford Lecture. Committee meetings had also proved expensive, but from now on, venue costs will be reduced. He pointed out that the Annual Accounts now show the correct income for the year, following the transition from Cash Received to Cash Due.

Membership was lower, but the Treasurer attributed this largely to the ending of the free trial-membership scheme set up by the Society.

He reported that from now on, members would be charged a nominal amount for attendance at all events. The subscription would remain unchanged, but the price of *The PhotoHistorian* for non-members had been increased.

Acceptance of the Treasurer's Report was moved by Donald Stewart, seconded by Richard Fattorini.

**5. Election of the Historical Group committee:** The Chair outlined the procedure for the election of committee members, in particular that it is currently the committee, rather than the membership, who elect the officers. He hoped that in future years, the officers would be elected by the membership at the AGM. See the next item on the Agenda.

Meanwhile, nomination papers had been received for Janine Freeston, Rob Crow and Edward Bylina, all of whom were eligible for re-election to the committee, and were willing to stand again. They were all duly re-elected.

It was agreed to co-opt Dr Michael Pritchard to the committee.

**6. Proposed revised Constitution:** The Chair pointed out that the Constitution required to be updated for the digital age, as follows:

*1.C Group activities.* The list of activities should be condensed, and the reference to 'the Society's London presence' should be deleted.

*3. Committee Structure.* Three changes were proposed:

- The committee should be increased from 9 to 12.
- Officers should be elected at the AGM.
- The quorum should be raised to 5 including two officers.

The proposed revisions would then go to the RPS Council for ratification.

Approval was moved by Roger Farnham, seconded by Ed. Bylina.

**7. AOCB:** (1.) David Bruce drew members' attention to the President's column in the March 2019 *Journal* in which he made reference to discussions on publishing more 'academic' material than is currently the case. Members would remember that this has been a matter of concern to the Historical Group for some time. The meeting agreed that the matter should be

taken up with Council, as the group believes it has a significant interest in generating more academic material, and may well be able to contribute constructively to the debate.

(2.) Geoff Blackwell announced that this year's Research Event will take place on 15/16 November 2019.

At the conclusion of the meeting, Michael Pritchard, on behalf of the Society, presented a certificate to John Page, in recognition of his 25 years of outstanding service to the RPS.

The Annual General Meeting closed at 11.40.