

Royal Asiatic Society
Anniversary General Meeting

Thursday 27th of May 2021

at 5.30pm via Zoom

AGENDA

1. To confirm the Minutes of the last Anniversary General Meeting (22 October 2020)
2. Treasurer's Report
3. Report of the Council and Accounts for 2020 (copies will be available to download from the website in advance of the meeting)
4. Appointment of Auditors: Council recommends the re-appointment of UHY Hacker Young until the Anniversary General Meeting 2022
5. Address by the President
6. Election of Officers and Council Members. The Standing orders relating to this reads as follows:
 19. *No later than the 1st day of March, the same such notice in Standing Order 19 shall be sent to all Fellows of the Society having an address in Great Britain or Ireland; together with a notice that every such member, subject to Byelaws 9, 10 and 11 is entitled to nominate any other Fellow for election to any position on the Council; such nomination to take the form of a written communication, signed by the nominator and by a seconder who is a duly qualified member of the Society, and accompanied by a short curriculum vitae and a statement signed by the nominee expressing the willingness to act if elected, which must reach the Society not later than the 21st of March.*
 20. *At its Ordinary Meeting in April, having received any representations from members, the Council shall agree and recommend a list of candidates for election by the Anniversary General Meeting to serve as officers and Council members for the ensuing year.*
 21. *A copy of the list shall be sent with each notice of the Anniversary General Meeting to every Fellow of the Society having a postal address in Great Britain or Ireland or an email address; together with a notice showing separately any valid nominations received which are not incorporated in the proposals made by the Council.*
 22. *The Council's recommended list as a whole shall first be put to the meeting. If the recommended list be not carried it shall be in the discretion of the Chair to put the recommendations of the Council and any alternative nominations permitted by standing orders in several parts and in such order as to the Chair shall seem appropriate; and if no candidate or candidates shall have been nominated in excess of the number required for the particular office or offices to be filled the candidate or candidates nominated to such office or offices shall be deemed elected; otherwise the election to such office or offices and of ordinary members of the Council shall be determined by ballot, each Fellow present at the meeting to be entitled to one vote in respect of each office to be filled.*

The Council proposes the following list:

Election of Officers

President: Dr Sarah Ansari

Proposer: Prof. A.J. Stockwell
Secunder: Prof. F. C. R. Robinson

Elected fellow 2000

Sarah Ansari is Professor of History at Royal Holloway, University of London, where she has worked since the 1990s, and twice been head of department. She has also been an academic member of its governing body for six years. Her research focuses on South Asia during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, with a particular emphasis on places that today are in Pakistan. She has been Hon Editor of the JRAS since the turn of the millennium, and so a member of Council for over twenty years. Accordingly, she has a good understanding of role and responsibilities of the Council, and she looks forward to contributing to the life and activities of the Society as it enters its third century.

Election of Ordinary Members

Professor Sanjoy Bhattacharya

Proposer: Prof. P. Robb
Secunder: Dr N. Peabody

Elected fellow August 2011

Professor Sanjoy Bhattacharya completed his first degrees in Delhi followed by a PhD in 1940s Indian politics with Peter Robb at SOAS. He's since moved (with great distinction) into the history of medicine, especially in the colonial context. He is currently Professor in the History of Medicine at York where he also co-directs a Wellcome-funded Centre for Global Health History and is the Head of a World Health Organisation Collaborative Centre for Global Health Histories. He is the founding editor of the CUP journal, *Medical History* (which he is about to give up after ten years of service) and is the editor of CUP's monograph series: '*Global Health Histories*'. Since 2004 he has been a co-editor of Orient Blackswan's monograph series '*New Perspectives in South Asian History*'. His work through Wellcome and WHO has given him extensive international connections. He is to act as lead Chair on the Lancet Commission on Decolonizing Global Health. The Lancet's 200th anniversary year also falls in 2023 and the journal expects to commemorate this event with an interim report of that Commission (the final report would appear in 2025). Historical research will lie at the heart of this Lancet initiative - Professor Bhattacharya sees synergies between this work and that of the RAS, and he believes that alliances between important institutions strengthen efforts to do public good. He is particularly experienced in questions of representation of under-represented or marginalised groups, and has a strong record of successful programmes of outreach.

Professor François de Blois

Proposer: Mr L. Knight

Seconder: Dr B. Brend

Elected fellow 1984

I have been a fellow of the RAS since 1984, which makes me one of the longest serving current members of the Society. From 1989 to 2000 I was employed as the Storey Fellow at the RAS with sole responsibility for the research project “Bio-bibliography of Persian Literature”. After leaving paid employment at the Society I served several terms as an ordinary member of Council and as a Vice-President of the Society. I have lectured at the Society and have published in its monograph series and its journal.

I have held teaching or research positions at SOAS, UCL, Cambridge University, Institute of Ismaili Studies, Institute of Advanced Studies (Princeton), and at Hamburg University, where I served as Professor for Iranian Studies. My research has covered a wide range topics centered on Iranian and Semitic languages and literatures and the history the Near East and Central Asia in pre-modern times. Most recently I have been working on the history of science and chronology in Central Asia.

François de Blois

Professor Deborah Swallow

Proposer: Mrs A. Lonsdale CBE

Seconder: Dr B. Brend

Elected fellow 1992

Professor Deborah Swallow is a senior distinguished academic, now the Director of the Courtauld Institute and with a great network of useful connections. Her original doctoral work was on Indian social anthropology (supervised by Edmund Leach in Cambridge) and then her experience was as researcher and curator in the Cambridge Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology; on to the V&A where she became Director of Collections and Keeper in the Asian Department before becoming Director of the Courtauld Institute in 2004 (which has also developed its Asian collections and academic courses while she has been Director). Professor Swallow will bring to Council deliberations an invaluable broad range of advice, particularly for how the Society presents its collections, physically and intellectually, and would help, through her extensive connections to raise the profile of the Society, aid targeting of support and recruitment of new Fellows.