

Royal Asiatic Society
Anniversary General Meeting

Thursday 12th of May 2022

at 5.30pm

AGENDA

1. To confirm the Minutes of the last Anniversary General Meeting (27 May 2021)
2. Treasurer's Report
3. Report of the Council and Accounts for 2021 (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 2023
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

Vice-President: Dr Gordon Johnson

Proposer: Professor Sanjoy Bhattacharya
Seconder: Professor Sarah Ansari

Elected fellow in 1990

Gordon Johnson is a Cambridge historian, author of *Provincial Politics and Indian Nationalism* (CUP, 1973) and *Cultural Atlas of India* (Time Life, Amsterdam etc., 1995). He has edited *Modern Asian Studies* and was the General Editor of the *New Cambridge History of India*. Dr Johnson was President of Wolfson College, and a Deputy Vice-Chancellor, University of Cambridge. He was a long-standing Syndic of Cambridge University Library and Cambridge University Press, chairing the latter from 1993-2009. He has been active on committees and editorial boards of the RAS since 2008 and served two stints as President. Since 2015 he has chaired the committee overseeing the preparations for the Society's 200th Anniversary. He is, and has been, a trustee and chair of several educational and other bodies, including work with schools in both state and independent sectors. He is a Liveryman of the Stationers' Company and a member of its Library and Archives Committee. He would bring to the Vice Presidency wide experience in the educational and charity sectors and help see through the Council's ambitious plans to mark the Society's 200th Anniversary, and to build on those celebrations for the Society's future.

Treasurer: Mrs Elizabeth (Liz) Robb

Proposer: Dr Liz Driver
Seconder: Mr Lionel Knight

Elected fellow 30/09/2017

My interests are particularly in South Asia, initially through my husband and from being an assistant in his research. After my BA and professional training, I worked in fund management, financial administration and compliance for over 30 years. I am still a registered Chartered Fellow of the Chartered Institute for Securities & Investment and have been made an Honorary Life Member. I have served on the House and Events Committee and been Chair of the Finance Committee since 2020.

Election of Ordinary Members

Dr Priyanka Basu

Proposer: Professor Sarah Ansari
Seconder: Mr Lionel Knight

Elected fellow 31/01/2021

Dr. Priyanka Basu is a Lecturer in Performing Arts at the Department of Culture, Media and Creative Industries, King's College London. She finished her PhD in South Asian Studies from SOAS on a Felix Scholarship. Before joining KCL, Priyanka worked as Curator of the 'Two Centuries of Indian Print' project at the British Library. as part of She curated and organised the 'British Library South Asia Seminar Series' (2018-21) as part of the project. She is currently finishing her first monograph—*The Cultural Politics of Folk: Transnational Histories in India and Bangladesh*—forthcoming from Routledge UK. She is also co-editing a special issue on ecology, music, and community in contemporary South Asia in *South Asia: Journal of South Asian Studies*. Her research interests include cultural histories of performances in South Asia, film archives, dance studies and the relationships between print, performance and intermediality. Priyanka has held Visiting Scholarships at the SOAS South Asia Institute and is currently a Visiting Fellow at the Institute of Advanced Studies, UCL. She is a Council Member of the British Association for South Asian Studies (BASAS), an editorial board member of Festival Culture Research Education network, an elected member of the Royal Historical Society, and Book Reviews Editor of the journal of *South Asian History and Culture*. Priyanka is a trained Odissi dancer and has performed in Japan, India and the UK including the London Bloomsbury Festival 2021.

Dr Richard Blurton

Proposer: Professor Deborah Swallow

Seconder: Dr Susan Whitfield

Elected fellow 1989

Richard Blurton trained as an archaeologist and subsequently worked in North Africa (Carthage), southern Afghanistan (Kandahar) and in southern India (Vijayanagara). He joined the Department of Asia in the British Museum in 1986, retiring in September 2018 as Head of the South and Southeast Asia Section. He worked on all aspects of the very extensive holdings of the BM from South and Southeast Asia, mounting a wide range of exhibitions, mostly in the Museum but also in Delhi and Bombay (1997-98). His research projects have carried him throughout the subcontinent (his first visit was fifty-two years ago), most recently in Assam, and before that in Arunachal Pradesh. Both projects resulted in exhibitions at the BM and publications; both are still continuing.

He has published extensively, most recently 'A History of India through Objects' (forthcoming Spring 2022), but also including books on Bengal, Assam, Burma, and Hindu Art, and editing volumes, including on village India, and on the archaeology and art history of Burma.

In the Museum he has been associated especially with ensuring that the collections are brought up to date - acquisitions have ranged from paintings by Rabindranath Tagore, prints by Krishna Reddy, modern textiles worked in ancient techniques, photographs by Lionel Wendt and a large-scale sculpture by Mrinalini Mukherjee, amongst much else.

In retirement he continues to write, publish and carry out research, in this country and in India. In both locations he continues to lecture, most recently in a four-part series on Amaravati including its survival in modern Buddhist traditions.

He is a trustee of the Ancient India and Iran Trust in Cambridge, a committee member of the Indian Art Circle, a trustee of Akademi: South Asian Dance, and a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries.

Dr Barbara Brend

Proposer: Professor Deborah Swallow

Seconder: Professor Sarah Ansari

Elected fellow in 1973

Dr Barbara Brend is an independent scholar with a particular interest in Persian and Mughal manuscript illustration. Her previous publications include 'Islamic Art' (1991), 'The Emperor Akbar's Khamsa of Niami' (1995), and 'Perspectives on Persian Painting: Illustrations to Amir Khusrau's Khamsah' (2003) She is the author of the beautifully illustrated book *Muhammad Juki's Shabnamah of Firdausi* published in 2010. She has served as Hon. Secretary and Vice-President, and as a member of the RAS Council several times.

Dr Rosie Llewellyn-Jones, MBE

Proposer: Dr Barbara Brend

Seconder: Mr Lionel Knight

Elected fellow 1986

Dr Rosie Llewellyn-Jones, MBE studied Urdu and Hindi at the School of Oriental & African Studies, London. Awarded a First Class Honours degree and completed a PhD in 1980 which was subsequently published as *A Fatal Friendship: the Nawabs, the British and the City of Lucknow*.

She has written numerous articles and books on colonial India including a trilogy on Major General Claude Martin, and is an honorary Old Martinian and an honorary member of the Academie Française de Lyon. Her book in the HarperCollins India series on *India's Historic Battles, Lucknow 1857* is published later this year (2022) and she is one of the few female military historians to examine the Uprising. She is a member of the History Reclaimed Group of scholars.

Rosie lectures extensively in Britain and abroad. She is editor of *Chowkidar*, the Journal of the British Association for Cemeteries in South Asia (BACSA) which records and restores European graves of those who died before 1947. She was awarded an MBE in 2015 for services to BACSA and British Indian studies. She was archivist at the Royal Society for Asian Affairs, until its move to Haileybury in 2021. She visits India

frequently, leading groups for major British-based tour companies, including Martin Randall and Indus Experiences.

She lives in London with her two cats called Havelock and Lawrence.

Mr Lionel Knight

Proposer: Professor Sarah Ansari

Seconder: Dr Gordon Johnson

Elected fellow 1984

Mr Lionel Knight has served on Council over a number of years and has been Hon Treasurer since 2013; and has been an occasional reviewer in the *Journal*.

In addition, at the Hakluyt Society he is a member of Council and of the Finance and Investment Group; and he has written the *India Books* for the Society's *Regional Guides* on their website.

My Britain and India, 1858-1947 was published in 2012.

Professor Francis Robinson

Proposer: Dr Gordon Johnson

Seconder: Mr Derek Davis

Elected fellow 1984

Francis Robinson is Emeritus Professor of South Asian History in the University of London. He has published extensively on the history of Islam, particularly but not exclusively in relation to the South Asian sub-continent. His first monograph, *Separatism among Indian Muslims*, was published by Cambridge University Press in 1974, and a recent highly regarded biographical study has been *Jamal Mian: The Life of Maulana Jamaluddin Abdul Wahab of Farangi Mahall, 1919-2012* published by Oxford in 2017. He is the author of *Atlas of the Islamic World* and edited both *The Cambridge Encyclopedia of India, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka* and *The Cambridge Illustrated History of the Islamic World*. Several of his many specialist articles have been collected in book form. He has been Vice Principal and head of the History Department at Royal Holloway, University of London, and held visiting Professorships at the Universities of Washington, Oxford and Chicago. Among other appointments in higher education he has served on the Boards of the Institute of Historical Research and the Institute of Commonwealth Studies. His contribution to higher education and to the understanding of Islam has been recognised by his appointment as CBE in 2006 and the National Sir Syed Excellence Award by Aligarh Muslim University in 2021. He commands great respect as a scholar across South Asia and in the West. He has wide experience as a Trustee of many public and educational bodies, not least with the Royal Asiatic Society where he has been a member of many committees and Council since the 1990s. He has pioneered new ways for the Society to publish its *Journal* and *Monographs*, and through developments like the establishment of the Bayly Prize has changed how the Society connects with its Fellows and recruits potential Fellows. He has twice served the Society as President. Professor Robinson brings wide experience of publications, academic outreach, and management of charitable trusts. His election to the Council is particularly valuable as the Society makes imaginative plans for the future following its 200th Anniversary in 2023.