



**Meeting of the Association of Pall Mall Libraries
held at the Royal Astronomical Society
on Thursday 21 January 2016 at 10.30am**

MINUTES

In attendance:

Anna Brynolf, *Chair*
Gill Briggs
Danny Smith
Karen Syrett
Kay Walters
Mary Duffy
Sian Prosser
Jane Harrison
Hattie Lloyd
Kathy Johnson
Julie Beckwith
Sarah Hume
Moiria Goff
Jane Trodd
Huw Williams

Royal Institute of International Affairs
Royal Horticultural Society
Royal Automobile Club
British Academy
Athenaeum
Army & Navy Club
Royal Astronomical Society
Royal Institution
Royal Institution
The Kings' Fund
Royal College of Physicians
RUSI
Garrick Club
East India Club / In & Out Club
Oxford & Cambridge Club

Apologies for absence:

Tony Pilmer
Simon Blundell
Wendy Cawthorne
Sheila Markham
Renae Satterley
Mark Hayward
Kirsty Morrison

Royal Aeronautical Society
Reform Club
Geological Society
Travellers Club
Middle Temple
Savage Club
Institute of Directors

1) Introductions

Members introduced themselves.

2) Apologies

Apologies for absence were noted.

3) Talk by John Sibbald of Pall Mall Art Advisors - *Book Bitch to the Rich - The Strife and Times of the Revd Dr Thomas Frognall Dibdin (1776-1847)*

John Sibbald talked about the mania for book collecting that occurred throughout the country during the Regency period. Sibbald's paper centred on the activities of Dr Dibdin who was an author, traveller and bibliographer. Dibdin's books contain a wealth of bibliographical detail as

well as lively pen portraits of the book sellers themselves; they are also notable for their copious footnotes. Slides of the talk are available on the APLM website.

4) Minutes of the meeting on 15 October 2015

The minutes were approved. The Chair thanked Sian Prosser for organising the Christmas lunch and noted that it was a very enjoyable occasion.

5) Training sub-group update

Kay Walters reported as follows:

Training

- *Caring for Prints & Drawings*
A session on Caring for Prints and Drawings took place at Tate Britain on 16th October 2015 with a visit to the Prints and Drawings Room in the afternoon. Feedback on the day has been very positive.
- *Briefing session on RDA*
Someone from the National Archives has agreed to speak. It will probably be a half-day session with case studies and is likely to take place in the spring or summer.
- *Introduction to Managing Archives*
This one day course by Elizabeth Oxborrow-Cowan has been arranged for the 2 June 2016 at the Egypt Exploration Society. Details will be sent out soon.

The Training Group is also hoping to arrange sessions on *Writing for Publication* and *Conservation Issues for Archives*.

Visits

- *Bishopsgate Institute* – This took place recently and was very entertaining.
- *National Archives* - Date to be arranged.
- *Women's Library (LSE)* - Being investigated.

The Training Sub-Group will meet again on 2 February 2016. Please let Kay know if there are any issues that you would like to raise.

6) Security

Members were asked about their institution's security measures. The following points were made:

- It was hard to get the balance right between CCTV and club members' desire for privacy
- CCTV resolution is often very poor so its usefulness is limited
- Insurers advise CCTV
- CCTV at entrance points may be preferable to cameras all over the building
- Visible security measures can dampen the atmosphere of a club and so there is often resistance to installing the necessary gates, cameras etc.
- Loss is a perennial problem that most clubs fail to deal with effectively
- Some clubs have installed alarms and security screws for artwork
- Good cataloguing can aid the identification of 'lost' items
- Most clubs have open access and therefore no control
- Although the clubs are not open to the general public, many of the rooms are used for external events – monitoring access is therefore difficult
- There is evidence of targeted theft
- Missing books are not always a result of theft, some are borrowed - albeit on a prolonged, unlogged basis
- Book amnesties may encourage the return of missing items

- Anything of particular value should probably be locked away but this was not always practical or effectively observed

7) Any Other Business

- Jane Trodd asked for recommendations of digitising companies
- Julie Beckwith drew members' attention to the John Dee exhibition at the Royal College of Physicians until 29 July 2016.

8) Dates for future meetings:

Thursday 14 April 2016 at the Garrick Club

Thursday 14 July 2016 at the Royal Automobile Club

Thursday 14 October 2016 at the Oxford and Cambridge Club