



2022 Annual Report
Professor Deborah Swallow
President, Royal Anthropological Institute

This is my first annual report since taking over as President. I should like to congratulate my predecessor Baroness Black of Strome upon her tenure, and thank the Council and Fellows for so kindly welcoming me to the role. I have had, indeed, a long association with the RAI. Looking back, I can see well how its professional and friendly approach has been a constant backdrop over the course of my career, and long may this be a feature for those who are to come in the next generation.

These reports by custom cover the previous year, and though it seems already in the distant past, at the beginning of 2022 we were still working out how to reconstitute the institute's activities in the post-pandemic world. In practice, this has meant the gradual reestablishment of meetings and in-person events at the RAI. Yet, as so many institutions have found, many things appear to have changed.

Not the least of these is that, having worked out how to present events and conferences online, we have needed to consider how to combine our new virtual offering with face-to-face events now that they are possible again. In practice, a variety of different approaches has emerged: virtual alone, face-to-face alone, hybrid, and so on. This has been greatly facilitated by the purchase of a device known as an 'Owl', which is very effective in capturing participants in the seminar room, and enabling them to share their live discussion over the internet.

Last year also marked our major conference 'Anthropology, AI and the Future of Human Society', which took place 6-10th June 2022. As befits its subject, we held this conference on-line, using Whova as the programme platform. Amongst the many questions that we explored during that conference were how we can work with other disciplines in order to look at future possibilities, the ethics of AI and the rapid change which it foreshadows, its implications for gender roles and the legal frameworks that we will need to revisit. I would like to thank all those who proposed panels, spoke or attended our discussions, and in particular our plenary speakers: Professor Sarah Pink (Monash); Dr Gillian Tett (Financial Times/ Kings College Cambridge); and Professor Richardson (Dr Montfort University). In the light of the very recent topical discussions, we can see how prescient this conference was, and we are considering how we may build upon it. The programme remains accessible on the RAI website.

During the conference, we held one hybrid event, the RAI Myers lecture by Professor Harvey Whitehouse (Oxford), the face-to-face component of which took place at Magdalen College. Entitled 'Rethinking ritual: how rituals made our world...and how they could save it', this gave us a fascinating glimpse into the way that Professor Whitehouse is seeking to apply major comparative projects on ritual to advise future policy.

Throughout this time, the work of our wonderful committees continues unabated, often feeding into our diverse activities and events, of which a second large conference in 2022 is a fine instance. Entitled 'Mobilising Methods in Medical Anthropology', it took place on-line 18-21 January. For it, we welcomed 352 delegates, who delivered 174 papers. The three plenaries were given by Professor Lesley Sharp (Barnard College, Columbia University), Professor Komatra Chuengsatiansup (Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn Anthropology Center) and Professor Clarence Gravlee (University of Florida). This is the second specialised conference on medical anthropology that we have held recently, and we look forward to considering how this successful initiative may be continued.

In the autumn, after the AGM which we held on 18th October, there took place the RAI Curl Lecture, 'Migration and the Diffusion of Culture: a reconsideration' delivered by Dr Maxime Brami. The Curl Lectureship is given to an academic at the outset of their career, who shows exceptional promise, and we were engrossed by his detailed description of the significance and implications of aDNA for our understanding of prehistoric populations migrations. We were also delighted to be able to continue with our anthropology 'country' series, devoted to exploring the way that anthropology has grown and become established in different parts of the world. In February, we held the launch of the volume devoted to anthropology in Austria, *Anthropology in Motion*, edited by Professor Andre Gingrich, and in May, 'Irish Anthropology Day', at the Royal Society of Antiquaries in Dublin, with colleagues from the University of Maynooth, and Queen's University Belfast. We look forward keenly to the publication that will result.

Throughout the year, our main journals the *JRAI* and *AT* continued to appear promptly, and full of interest. We should draw attention also to the *JRAI* Special Issue, 'On Irreconciliation', which we launched in September, and which has attracted much favourable comment. I should mention too our expanding access publications: including the

journal *Teaching Anthropology*, and the series on Photography, and on Art. These may be seen on our website. Potential contributions of course are welcome for all these publications.

Staff changes during 2022 were as follows: In January, Emma Ford (Education Officer) moved to a new position where she will be working on large-scale remote education courses. We were pleased to welcome Sophie Cowling as her replacement. Joanna Yates (Forensic Anthropology and Fund-Raising) emigrated with her family to Australia, and is replaced by Felicity Davies, who is also working for her PhD at SOAS. Alice Geist, the graduate editorial assistant to the JRAI is replaced by Ana-Maria Cîrstea, who is a doctoral student at Durham. Sarah Walpole, after many decades service to the RAI, retired as archivist, but continues as a consultant for a year, with the aim of retiring fully in September 2023. Andrei Nacu is promoted archivist to take her place, assisted by Lavinia Cyrillo, a former volunteer at the archive, who has become a student at King's College London to work on her PhD.

Turning now to the question of finance. The institute receives no government support, as is known. However, I am pleased to say that we were able to achieve a balanced operating budget. That we are able to do so is greatly due to the generations of generous support that we have received from Fellows, something of which I am well aware having chaired the Horniman Committee with great interest for very many years.

The Horniman Fund, which is managed by the institute, exists to help post-graduates in anthropology to pursue their field researches. Highly competitive, and its work supplemented by the kindness of the Sutasoma Trust, it has resulted in many important projects, all the more so as the committee's members generously devote their time to mentoring the successful applicants. Many of those, indeed, who have received Horniman grants have later gone on to successful careers in the discipline.

This is just one example of how our contribution to the wider discipline can be sustained over very long periods of time by our Fellows. I would therefore like to make a special appeal: please do consider aiding the work of the institute if you are in a position to do so. A legacy, or in-life donation to the Horniman Trust, to our Urgent Anthropology Fund, or to our general fund will be nurtured by our staff and committees, and put to the greatest use.

Finally, I should thank our staff. They maintained the institute's operations without a break through one of the most difficult periods in our history, and are equally rising enthusiastically and willingly to the challenges of the post-Covid era. They continue to provide the most impeccable service to all those fortunate enough to interact with them. On behalf of the RAI and Council, I express my sincere gratitude to them all.

Professor Deborah Swallow, President, RAI.

Treasurer's Report

During 2022, the RAI continued gradually to return to normal, albeit overshadowed by the war in the Ukraine and associated economic disruption. The specific threats that we have previously touched upon remain, in particular the unpredictability of journal income and rising inflation. This impacts upon our ability to maintain staffing salary levels at the same time as meaning that we are faced with increased bills. To this we should note that much of our publishing income comes in US dollars. This means that in times of dollar strength, our income increases, but this exposure also means that a future weakening dollar would mean that our sterling income decreases.

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. We continue to invest with two ethical investments platforms CCLA's COIF Charities Ethical Investment Fund, and Sarasin's Endowments Funds. The value of the investments has contracted by 10%. At the time of writing, at 1st June 2023, the value has recovered by approx. 3%.

Though the situation is challenging, the RAI continues to operate in budget surplus and has no debts.

Dr Fiona Bowie, Honorary Treasurer

Library Donors during 2022 were;

Roy Ellen, Gerhard Muller-Kosac, Elizabeth Tonkin, Tom Shay, Katya Mihalyova, Simon Coleman, Sarah Elton

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 2023
preceded by the Huxley Lecture**

The 2023 AGM will take place on Tuesday 7 November 2023 at 2.30 pm in the Flett Lecture Theatre, Natural History Museum, South Kensington, London SW7 5BD and on Zoom.
It will be preceded by the 2023 Huxley 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

1.30 pm: 2023 Huxley Lecture
by Prof Chris Stringer, Natural History Museum

2.30 pm: AGM

AGM AGENDA

1. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of 18 October 2022
2. Annual Report of the Council for 2022
3. Appointment of Auditors (Current auditors: Friend-James, Chartered Accountants)
4. Election of Officers and Council for the year 2023-2024 (see overleaf for House List)
5. Announcement of elections of the Huxley Memorial Lecturer and Henry Myers Lecturer for 2024
6. Rivers Memorial Medal for 2023
7. Marsh Award for 2023
8. Public Anthropology Award for 2023
9. President's Lifetime Achievement Award for 2023
10. Patron's Medal for 2023
11. Lucy Mair Marsh Medal for 2023
12. 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 Deborah Swallow

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

Hon Secretary: Professor Raymond Apthorpe

Hon Librarian: Professor Michael Scott

Hon Treasurer: Dr Fiona Bowie

Ordinary members of Council

Dr Hazel Andrews
Professor Sara Cohen*
Professor Ann R. David
Professor Richard Fardon
Dr Emma Gilberthorpe
Professor Rachael Goberman-Hill
Dr Nichola Khan
Professor Paul Lane
Professor Ann MacLarnon
Professor Garry Marvin
Dr H el ene Neveu Kringelbach
Dr Celia Plender
Professor Jamie Tehrani
Keith Thorpe, OBE
Professor 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 2022

	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2022 Total £	2021 Total £
INCOME					
Donations and grants	10,034	-	43,632	53,666	69,556
Investment income	135,691	225	18,921	154,837	142,849
Miscellaneous fees	6,595	-	-	6,595	6,088
<i>Income from charitable activities:</i>					
Fellowship and Membership	115,786	-	-	115,786	108,858
Publications	759,142	-	-	759,142	668,718
RAI Collection	88,465	-	-	88,465	111,142
Education Programme	82,773	-	-	82,773	59,079
TOTAL INCOME	1,198,486	225	62,553	1,261,264	1,166,290
EXPENDITURE					
<i>Expenditure on charitable activities:</i>					
Policy and Profile	122,822	-	30,624	153,446	159,217
Fellowship and Membership	72,487	-	-	72,487	67,450
Publications	374,938	-	-	374,938	346,936
RAI Collection	172,936	-	2,300	175,236	176,390
Library	58,670	-	-	58,670	57,251
Education Programme	175,703	-	5,000	180,703	111,999
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	977,556	-	37,924	1,015,480	919,243
Net income for the year	220,930	225	24,629	245,784	247,047
Gain (loss) on investments	(252,021)	(999)	(84,120)	(337,140)	289,648
Transfers between funds	1,375	(1,375)	-	-	-
Net movement in funds	(29,716)	(2,149)	(59,491)	(91,356)	536,695
Fund balances at 1 January 2022	1,699,391	1,905,181	1,374,299	4,978,871	4,442,176
Fund balances at 31 December 2022	1,669,675	1,903,032	1,314,808	4,887,515	4,978,871

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2022

	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>
	£	£
Fixed assets		
Tangible fixed assets	674,554	675,929
Freehold investment property	1,067,500	1,067,500
Listed investments	2,847,075	2,734,215
	<u>4,589,129</u>	<u>4,477,644</u>
Current assets		
Debtors	191,318	166,634
Cash at bank and in hand	466,338	616,767
	<u>657,656</u>	<u>783,401</u>
Creditors-amounts falling due within one year	<u>(359,270)</u>	<u>(282,174)</u>
Net current assets	298,386	501,227
	<u>4,887,515</u>	<u>4,978,871</u>
Income funds		
Restricted funds	1,314,808	1,374,299
Unrestricted funds		
Designated funds	1,903,032	1,905,181
Other charitable funds	1,669,675	1,699,391
	<u>4,887,515</u>	<u>4,978,871</u>

These summarised accounts are extracted from the full unqualified audited accounts approved by the trustees on 06 July 2023. 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 11 July 2023. 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 2022.

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

Dated: 11 July 2023