



**BRITISH ASSOCIATION
FOR
BIOLOGICAL ANTHROPOLOGY
AND
OSTEOARCHAEOLOGY**

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
YORK, 14TH SEPTEMBER 2013

Item

1	Apologies
	Linda Fibiger (secretary), Stefanie Vincent (membership secretary)
2	Minutes of the last AGM Accepted as a true record. To go on website.
3	Matters arising (Piers Mitchell)
3.1	The President thanked Jelena Bekvalac and Simon Mays for their efforts to produce the Position Statement on the Reburial of Human Skeletal Remains.
3.2	For the first time Conference Bursaries were implemented at the York conference. These are intended to support members on low incomes and 12 applications were received with five bursaries being awarded. The organisers felt the need to stress that a solid case for support needs to be made by those applying for future bursaries since none of the applications were particularly strong.
4	President's Report (Piers Mitchell)
4.1	The President outlined his vision for the future of the Association by reminding the membership that we now have 500 active members, hold an Annual Conference, provide grants and circulate an Annual Review. He feels that it is vital to promote and expand the Association by raising our profile in the media and ensure that the public knows what we do. To expand the Association it is necessary not only to play to our strengths since we have significant expertise in human osteology, but also to encompass topics across biological anthropology such as modern population genetics, primatology, forensic anthropology, modern hunter-gatherer ethnographics, human evolution, and human anatomical variation. This range should be expressed in the Annual Conference sessions to raise our profile and become more inclusive. Further efforts should include us acting in an impartial advisory role for government bodies as well as providing information to journalists.
4.2	Many measures to promote the Association are already in place. For example: <u>London Anthropology Day, 4th July 2013</u> BABAO hosted a very successful stall and workshop at the London Anthropology Day, which is organised by the Royal Anthropological Society and took place at the British Museum. The event is attended mainly by A-Level students and provides an excellent opportunity to promote the disciplines represented by BABAO. Thanks are

due to Tim Thompson (Publicity Secretary), Stephanie Vincent (Membership Secretary) and Jelena Bekvalac (Representative from a Museum) and a volunteer from Bradford University, Julia Beaumont, for their hard work on the day.

Further representation of the Association was made at the:

4.3

RAI Northern Anthropology and Archaeology Day, 11th July 2013

A free event was hosted at Durham University aimed at Year 11-13 and FE students. Again, the stall organised by Tim Thompson had an overwhelming response from local students.

4.4

Grey Literature Database

It has become clear from numerous requests for grey literature reports on the e-mail discussion list that there is an issue with getting access to unpublished skeletal reports. The Committee has therefore decided to sponsor a searchable database hosted on the ADS website. Tim Thompson is liaising with ADS and work is progressing (see 9.4). The President thanked Tim Thompson for his hard work regarding the Grey Literature Database.

4.5

Database of UK Human Skeletal Collections

To avoid overuse of older and well-known skeletal collections and to disseminate information about recently excavated collections BABAO is funding the Database of UK Human Skeletal Collections. Work on the database is progressing and it is anticipated that it will be available to bona fide members at the end of November this year. However, institutions holding human remains need to be made aware that their collections are included on this database. A vetting process will be implemented to ensure that the information held on the database is used for research purposes. The President thanked Charlotte Roberts and Simon Mays for supplying their databases of human skeletal remains held in Britain.

4.7

Trends in Biological Anthropology

Editorial work on the Bournemouth Conference 2012 manuscripts is progressing, but so far no contributions from the 2011 conference in Edinburgh have been received. The President urged anyone who submitted a manuscript at the Edinburgh conference to send it to Martin Smith at Bournemouth University for inclusion in the first Trends volume.

4.8

BABAO Charity Status

To ensure that BABAO obtains charity status Gundula Müldner (Treasurer) has restructured the existing constitution and our application is currently being assessed by the Charity Commission.

4.9

British Science Festival, 12th September 2013

The British Science Festival was held in Newcastle just prior to the Annual Conference. BABAO's debate entitled 'Plague and Pestilence: Which was the Most Important Infectious Disease to have affected People in the Past?' was sold out and 150 people attended. The event comprised talks by Piers Mitchell, Jelena Bekvalac, Charlotte Roberts and Jo Buckberry and fuelled a lively debate.

4.10	<p><u>BABAO Book Series (Cambridge University Press)</u></p> <p>The CUP book series is aimed at undergraduate/MSc level students to provide a summary of important topics. BABAO members will receive books at a reduced rate and it is envisioned to create a portfolio of 10-12 books.</p>
4.11	<p><u>Collaboration with Human Biology Association (HBA)</u></p> <p>Holger Schutkowski (Bournemouth University) informed the President about the HBA wanting to collaborate with BABAO. A joint symposium on age estimation is planned for next year to establish such collaboration. Nicholas Marquez-Grant (Representative from the Commercial Sector) will act as contact between BABAO and HBA.</p>
4.12	<p><u>Society for Museum Archaeologists</u></p> <p>Charlotte Roberts (Durham University) made the Committee aware of a guidance document (Archaeological Archives and Museums 2012) produced by the Society for Museum Archaeologists that demonstrated a lack of understanding of the value of human skeletal remains in museum collections and pressure to dispose of collections due to the lack of money and space. It is obvious that many museum curators do not have the expertise and understanding to make informed decisions about human skeletal remains collections. BABAO, in conjunction with the Human Remains Subject Specialist Network, will make every effort to educate and support curators.</p>
4.13	<p><u>Committee post members' end of term in office</u></p> <p>This year four committee members completed their term in office and the President on behalf of the Committee and the Membership thanked Evilena Anastasiou (Student Representative), Jelena Bekvalac (Museum Representative), Simon Mays (Representative from a Professional Organisation) and Tim Thompson (Publicity Secretary) for their hard work and commitment to the Association.</p>
5	Grant Report (Jo Buckberry)
	<p>There were 13 applications for the BABAO grants this year, comprising 3 from the commercial sector and 10 from the academic sector. This year the Committee decided to fund one academic and one commercial grant as well as provide partial funding for one further academic application. The winner of the commercial grant is Don Walker from Museum of London Archaeology (MOLA) and the academic grants go to Claudia Garrido Varas from Chile, while Ross Kendall (Durham University) will be part-funded. The winners will present the results of their research at next year's BABAO conference in Durham.</p>
6	Election of Committee Posts (Jo Buckberry)
	<p>This year an unprecedented 11 members stood for election of four Committee posts. A total of 181 members voted in the election (36.2% of total membership) and the following people were elected/re-elected:</p> <p>Simone Lemmers (Student Representative) Simon Mays (re-elected Representative from a Professional Organisation) Rebecca Redfern (Representative from a Museum) Tim Thompson (re-elected Publicity Secretary)</p>

7 Membership (Stefanie Vincent)

Due to Stefanie Vincent's absence, the following report was presented by Tim Thompson (Publicity Secretary).

BABAO currently has **500** active members, which is an increase in numbers from **446** members at the same time last year. The current membership is made up of **208** waged members (41.6%), **240** student members (48.0%) and **52** unwaged members (10.4%). For the first time student members overtake the number of waged members.

BABAO has **61** new members so far this year, with numbers being slightly down from last year (67).

BABAO currently has **109** overseas members who make up 21.8% of the total membership. The majority of overseas members come from Europe (**n=66**), but there are also members from the Americas (**n=33**) and other areas including Australia, New Zealand and Korea (**n=10**).

Overseas members reflect a steady upwards trend and represent roughly one-fifth of our membership. However, many overseas students take UK courses but are registered at UK addresses so do not count towards totals. This year the majority of our overseas members have not actually paid because of pay pal issues.

8 Finance (Gundula Müldner)

BABAO Treasurer's Annual Report 2012

BABAO Accounts

The BABAO account balances on 31st December 2012 were as follows:

Reserve Account Balance: +£10,445.47

Current Account Balance: +£2,862.15

Paypal Account: +£3,311.04

Cheques not yet cleared: **-£99.50**

Total Funds: +£16,519.16

Income and Expenditure 2012

Income:

Membership subscriptions: +£8,469.23

Interest: +£4.80

[BABAO Conference Surplus 2000-2012]: £3000

Total Income 2012: +£8,474.03

With Conference Surplus: +11,474.03

Expenditure:

BABAO Grants 2012: **-£2,308.00**

BABAO Proceedings 2010, Copies for Members (Printing & Postage): **-£3,838.63**

BABAO @London Anthropology Day (Stall Rental, Promotional Material, Travel):
-£1,036.65

BABAO Conference Bournemouth 2012, Student Prizes, Gifts for Organisers: -
£253.97

Website Maintenance 2012: -£360

Committee Travel: -£1,208.95

Total Expenditure 2012: -£9,006.20

Income-Expenditure (1 January – 31 December 2012)

-£532.17

BABAO Treasurer's Report 13 September 2013

BABAO Accounts

The BABAO account balances on 13 September 2013 were as follows:

Reserve Account Balance: +£10,447.52

Current Account Balance: +£3,479.64

Paypal Account: +£3,311.04

Cheques in Transit: -£123

Total Funds: +£17,097.70

Current Financial Year (1 January-13 September 2013)

Income:

Membership subscriptions: +£5,717.64

Total Income 2013 (Jan-September): +£5,717.64

Expenditure:

Committee Travel: -£993.50

London Anthropology Day (Stall Rental, Travel): -£506.30

BABAO Grants 2013: -£2,942.00

BABAO Conference 2013 Start-Up and Bursaries: -£1,500

Total Expenditure 2012 (Jan-Sept): -£5,941.80

	<p><u>Income-Expenditure (1 January – 13 September 2013)</u></p> <p><u>-£226,16</u></p> <p>[Conference start-up partly recoverable]</p>
9	Publicity (Tim Thompson)
9.1	<p><u>General Enquiries</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Over the past year a steady stream of enquiries from the public and from professional organisations were dealt with. • There was a good amount of interest in our Codes of Ethics and Practices from a number of institutions across the world, which can be taken as a good sign.
9.2	<p><u>External Bodies</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have been dealing with other associations over a number of issues, such as the Royal Anthropological Institute of Great Britain and Ireland (RAI), British Association for Forensic Anthropology (BAFA) and the Forensic Science Society (FSSoc). • Negotiated the discount through CUP too. • Dealt with press and radio to raise awareness of the British Science Festival event.
9.3	<p><u>BABAO Website</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remember that there is space on the website for member content. Photos can also be incorporated into the website, and if members have some from conferences (such as this) then do forward them on and I'll upload them for everyone. This includes the studentHUB. • Reminder that important documents are on the website too, including minutes from committee meetings. • Please ensure that you forward me updated details (eg: course weblinks etc) if you want them on the website. • Twitter feed is going well, and thanks to those who contribute to it and interact with it. • Issue with privacy of JISCMail emails (mailing list). Now resolved to ensure that our emails are private. • Have got us on the British Library Web Archive (of public pages).
9.4	<p><u>Grey Literature</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with ADS has been progressing, albeit slowly. Have agreed the

	<p>database structure for the grey literature, the metatags and search terms, the costing and the general workplan. Now need two things:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ An idea of the size of the grey literature out there ○ A selection of reports to trial the system with (already identified)
10	BABAO Conference 2014
	The next BABAO conference will take place from the 12-14 September 2014 in Durham. This meeting is organised by Charlotte Roberts, Becky Gowland, Janet Montgomery, Andrew Millard, Anwen Caffell and Tina Jakob.
11	Any other business
11.1	One member queried whether the proposed expansion of the Association's conference themes would necessitate having parallel sessions. The President does not foresee that this will be necessary but recommended that the situation should be closely monitored.
11.2	<p>The York Conference organisers had to reject almost 50% of the abstracts for podium presentations and the following suggestions were discussed to avoid this from happening again:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Add an additional day to the conference with a start on Thursday afternoon, or add an extra half day, with the conference starting on Friday mornings <p>Contra: Not possible for everyone to attend Thursday / Friday morning sessions and the added costs to the conference fees would be problematic</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Accept more poster contributions and make poster sessions longer