

The British Epigraphy Society
(otherwise known as 'The Epigraphy Society')
Charity commission registration number 1090249

ANNUAL REPORT FOR YEAR 1 OCTOBER 2012 TO 30 SEPTEMBER 2013

Registered office: 44 Rectory Green, Beckenham, Kent BR3 4HX

Bankers: Santander UK plc, Registered Office: 2 Triton Square, Regent's Place, London NW1 3AN, England, Registered Number: 2294747

Trustees: John Davies, Abigail Graham, Polly A. Low, Nicholas P. Milner, Roger Tomlin, Jonathan R.W. Prag, Ulrike Roth, Charlotte L. Tupman.

1. General

The society's purposes and administration are regulated by the constitution adopted on 11 November 2000 and amended on 10 November 2001. Its object, as stated in clause 3 of which, is 'the advancement of public education within the subjects of archaeology and history, particularly the study of inscriptions, texts, and historical documents.' Members of the steering committee are trustees of the charity. Membership of the steering committee is governed by clause 7 of the society's constitution, which specifies that, in addition to the honorary officers (the President, Secretary, and Treasurer) elected by general meeting of the membership, at any one time the committee may comprise up to six more members either similarly elected or (up to a maximum of three) co-opted by the committee. In order to meet all contingencies, it has been decided not to let reserves fall below £2,000.

2. Main activities and achievements in relation to the charity's objects

The society holds meetings to provide a forum for the public discussion and advancement of knowledge of inscriptions, texts and historical documents, where students, scholars, and others can mix. The society supports and helps organise workshops, conferences and summer schools to provide training for younger scholars, and to promote interest in epigraphy to the public. The society produces and distributes a news digest to disseminate information about epigraphic discoveries, meetings, workshops, and other matters of related interest, and provides members twice a month through e-mail shots with information of epigraphic interest. The Society provides speakers and instructors for schools, epigraphic training and summer courses.

The main meetings programme for this year included:

- 17 November Autumn Colloquium: Epigraphy in Action / XVI Annual General Meeting held at the ICS/London.
- 4 May Spring Meeting held at the University of Vienna: 'Epigraphy and Religion'

The main programme for 2013/2014 will include the Autumn Colloquium in London, and the Society's Spring Meeting 2014. In addition, we anticipate to support numerous epigraphic events and activities, including talks to school groups and summer schools. The Society is also setting aside some funds for bursaries for students attending training schools in Greek and Latin Epigraphy, and for the Autumn Colloquium and Spring Meeting.

3. Grants awarded from assets of the Charity 2012-13:

The Society regularly awards grants in aid of epigraphic meetings as well as bursaries especially to students to help with attendance at epigraphic workshops and training events. This year these included the following:

The Society awarded grants of a total of £375 to enable five students – Valeria di Cola (Rome) £100; Juan Lewis (Edinburgh) £75; Fiona Mowat (Edinburgh) £75; Tatjana Sandon (Edinburgh) £100; Ghislaine van der Ploeg (Warwick) £25 – to attend the Autumn Colloquium in London on 17 November 2012.

The Society awarded grants of a total of £300 to enable three students – Andrea Zerbini (RHUL), Miriam Hay (Warwick), and Liam Gale (Dublin) – to attend the British School at Athens postgraduate course in epigraphy in the summer of 2013.

The Society supported the Materiality of Texts conference organised by Dr Andrej Petrovic at Durham in September 2012 with a grant of £150; the EpiDoc Workshop organised by Dr Gabriel Bodard in April 2013 with a grant of £250; the Greek Law Conference organised by Dr Mirko Canevaro in October 2013 with a grant of £100;

4. Donations to the Society from individuals and grants received from other bodies

The Society received a number of very generous donations and grants in support of its activities - including:

The bids for grants-in-aid of the Autumn Colloquium in November 2012 (for the purpose of student bursaries and assistance with speakers' expenses): £200 from the Classical Association; £100 from the Hellenic Society; and £200 from the Roman Society: a total of £500.

A gift of £1 from an individual member.

These gifts and grants exemplify the Society's recognised activity in assisting especially students with enhancing their knowledge and expertise in the field of epigraphy.


5. Statement of Public Benefit

In setting objectives and planning activities, the Steering Committee has given careful consideration to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit and in particular to its supplementary guidance on the advancement of education.

As the Society is a charity, its donors and sponsors have the assurance that the income of the charity is applied to educational purposes. The Society enjoys tax exemption on its charitable activities and investment income and gains, provided these are applied to the charitable objects. The financial benefits received from these tax exemptions are all applied to the Society's educational purposes and indirectly help it to maintain its support for research and training.

As a sponsor, enabler, and, to the extent permitted by its resources, funder of lectures, seminars, newsletters, and training in the relevant subject areas, the charity gives a public benefit by providing a forum for adding to the collective knowledge and understanding of specific fields of study and expertise, and the training of students in the acquisition of such skills. Students may also be assisted to attend such academic events so that they are not excluded for impecuniosity, and our lecture meetings are open to all, including non-members, for a modest daily charge.

Date: 30 September 2013

Signed:  (Honorary Secretary)
(Dr U. Roth)