

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

ANNUAL REPORT FOR YEAR 1 OCTOBER 2014 TO 30 SEPTEMBER 2015

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: Simon Corcoran, John Davies, Abigail Graham, Christoph Lundgreen, Nicholas P. Milner, Roger Tomlin, Ulrike Roth, Jim Roy, Benet Salway.

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of public education within the subjects of archaeology and history, particularly the study of inscriptions, texts, and historical documents.'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holds meetings to provide a forum for the public discussion and advancement of knowledge of inscriptions, texts and historical documents, where students, scholars, and others can mix.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 information about epigraphic discoveries, meetings, workshops, and other matters of related interest, typically twice a month to its members through e-mail shots with information of epigraphic interest. The Society provides speakers for schools, epigraphic training and summer courses.

The main meetings programme for this year included:

15 November 2014	Autumn Colloquium: Epigraphy in Action / XVIII Annual General Meeting held at the ICS/London.
9 May 2015	Spring Meeting held at the University of Dresden
3-7 August 2015	BES Epigraphy Summer School held in collaboration with the ICS and the BM in London

The main programme for 2015/2016 will be framed by the Society's twice yearly meetings (the Autumn Colloquium, and the Spring Meeting). As in previous years, we anticipate to support numerous epigraphic events and activities, including talks to school groups, workshops 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 2014-15:

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:

£75 were awarded in the form of a travel bursary to enable Laura Löser (St. Andrews) to attend the Society's Autumn Colloquium.

£120 were granted as a dedicated BES Bursary to the Symposia Iranica conference to enable a speaker on an epigraphic topic to attend the conference.

£400 were awarded to four students and post-docs to assist with travel and accommodation expenses to attend the Society's Spring Meeting in Dresden. (One of the four bursars was not able to take up his bursary in the event.)

12 participants at the Society's Summer School received bursaries to assist with the cost of travel and/or accommodation of up to £250 per person, and to a total sum of £2250.

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 2014 (for the purpose of student bursaries and assistance with speakers' expenses): £150 from the Hellenic Society; and £200 from the Roman Society: a total of £350.

The Society received a very generous grant of £2250 from the Classical Association to provide bursaries for the participants at the Summer School in August 2015.

The Society received generous support from AIEGL in the form of a grant for 500 Euros to assist with speakers' and instructors' expenses at the Summer School in August 2015.

These 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 2015

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