

SPEAKER'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON WORKS OF ART

Annual report to the Finance and Services Committee

Financial Year 2013–14

1. This report covers the financial year 2013–14 and is submitted to the Finance and Services Committee in accordance with the Financial Memorandum governing the Advisory Committee on Works of Art, approved by the Finance and Services Committee on 14 March 2002.
2. A Statement of Accounts for 2013–14 is annexed to this report.

Work of the Committee

3. The following Members served on the Advisory Committee during the period covered by this report:

Mr Frank Doran (Chairman)	Mr Ian Liddell-Grainger
Sir Alan Haselhurst	Alison McGovern
George Hollingbery	Caroline Nokes
Tristram Hunt	Jacob Rees-Mogg
Mr Charles Kennedy	Hywel Williams
Mr David Lammy	

4. The Committee held ten committee meetings between the beginning of April 2013 and the end of March 2014. In addition, on 10 September 2013, the Committee visited the Guildhall Art Gallery, together with the Lords Works of Art Committee, to learn about the Guildhall collection and its conservation and storage facilities for artworks.

Acquisitions and Commissions

5. The Committee was allocated £75,000 for its general Acquisition Fund during 2013-14, with access to a further £25,000 if required and subject to approval by the Finance Director. All works of art purchased during the year have been added to the Permanent Collection of Works of Art in the House of Commons.
6. During the financial year, the following works of art have been acquired:
 - a. Sir Peter Blake's silkscreen print 'River Thames – Regatta'. This print, edition 95 of 100, is part of Blake's London Series.
 - b. A rare portrait of Nicholas Hardinge (1699-1758), attributed to Alan Ramsey. Hardinge served as Clerk of the House of Commons from

1732–1748 and thereafter as MP for the Borough of Eye in Suffolk for the next ten years. This was a significant addition as only a small number of historic holders of the post of Clerk are represented in the Parliamentary Art Collection. The portrait was displayed as part of the exhibition to celebrate the 650th anniversary of the post of the Clerk of the House of Commons.

- c. An important portrait of Sir Winston Churchill by Bernard Hailstone (1955). This rare life study shows Churchill at the age of 81 during his second term as Prime Minister. It was painted during sittings for his last commissioned portrait, as Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports. Hailstone was selected by Churchill for the commission as an artist who would paint a successful image of him, following Churchill's disappointment at the portrait painted by Graham Sutherland the previous year.
 - d. A painting of 'Nelson Mandela's Address to Rhodes Scholars', in Westminster Hall on 2 July 2003 by Michael Noakes, together with a series of supporting sketches. The historic event was hosted by the then Prime Minister Tony Blair and celebrated the centenary of the Rhodes Trust and the establishment of the Mandela Rhodes Foundation. The Committee acknowledges with gratitude the support of the Speaker's Art Fund in funding this highly significant acquisition.
 - e. A World War I satirical cartoon by Bernard Partridge, entitled 'If Parliament were called up'. This cartoon was an original pen and ink drawing for Punch magazine which depicted a large number of parliamentarians. The cartoon is a timely acquisition for the Collection in view of the forthcoming WWI centenary commemorations, to which the Committee lends its full support.
 - f. A photographic print of female Labour MPs from the 1960s, including Barbara Castle, by Lord Snowden.
7. An artist in residence to work on proposals for a work of art to commemorate the women's suffrage movement has been appointed following interviews held in March 2014. The successful candidate was artist Mary Branson.
 8. Progress has continued in year with the portrait commissioning strategy for the Contemporary Collection. Following press comment on the funds spent on commissioning portraits, the Committee produced a press strategy to underline the importance of continuing to record notable parliamentarians for the Parliamentary Art Collection. The strategy also addressed value for money considerations in commissioning artwork and explained the reduction in spending as part of the savings programme.

Loans

9. The Committee loaned two works by Sylvia Pankhurst to the Tate Gallery for a 'spotlight' exhibition on Sylvia Pankhurst: 'Old Fashioned Pottery: Transferring the pattern onto the biscuit' and 'On the pot bank, Staffordshire – Apprentice 'thrower' and his 'baller' at work'.
10. The Committee agreed to loan the oil painting of "The Ruined Council Chamber, House of Commons, May 1941", by John Piper, to an exhibition at Tate Britain.
11. Following the conservation of the Henry Moore's sculpture *Knife Edge Two Piece*, the bronze working model of *Mirror Knife Edge*, a later work by the sculptor, was acquired on loan by the Committee from the Henry Moore Foundation in October 2013 and placed on display in Portcullis House, allowing for comparison between the two related compositions.
12. The Committee agreed to acquire on loan a portrait of 'Mrs Annie Besant' by E Hodgson Smart. The portrait has been displayed as part a re-hang of portraits in the Members' Dining Room.
13. The Committee agreed to acquire on loan two engravings of the Chartist MPs Feargus O'Connor and Thomas Duncombe. A small exhibition was mounted in the 'No' lobby to mark the 175th anniversary of the launch of the People's Charter.
14. The Committee agreed to acquire on loan a portrait of the Marquis of Lansdowne by Thomas Gainsborough, to join the display of portraits of former Prime Ministers in Committee Corridor.

Moves

15. The five statues of medieval kings, which have been on display on the window sills of Westminster Hall since the 1960s, were removed in January 2014 to facilitate the programme of stone cleaning and repair in the Hall. Research will be carried out on the statues, followed by remedial work, in advance of their return to the building.
16. Similarly in March 2014 three of the medieval statues on the south wall were removed temporarily from their niches to allow access for stone cleaning and repair. The opportunity was taken to inspect the statues and carry out minor remedial treatment.

Exhibitions

17. This year the Committee has approved and supported the following exhibitions in Portcullis House, including:
 - a. The 650th anniversary of the post of Clerk of the House of Commons
 - b. The Fire of 1834
 - c. The 'Big Draw' exhibition

- d. Photographic portraits which resulted from the *Connecting Enterprising Women and Girls* project with young women from the Leeds East academies in Portcullis House in February.
 - e. John Wilkes – A friend to liberty?
18. The Committee also agreed to display temporarily in Portcullis House a portrait of Baroness Thatcher painted by Lorna Wadsworth.

Events

19. The Committee supported Parliament Week 2013, whose theme 'Women and Democracy' offered the opportunity to showcase a number of works of art in the Collection. Members of the Committee blogged about their favourite work of art in the Collection connected to the theme for the Parliament Week website.
20. An event was held to commemorate Emily Wilding Davison in June 2013, hosted by Alison McGovern MP. This well-attended event brought together all the public engagement departments of the House as well as external stakeholders, highlighting publicly available resources on the women's suffrage movement.
21. A series of lectures to celebrate Women's History Month began with a lecture on Ellen Wilkinson by Dr Paula Bartley for International Women's Day, followed by talks on: 'The suffragette boycott of the 1911 census'; 'Bow Match Women's Strike'; and 'Women in Parliament in the two World Wars'.
22. The Committee was also delighted to support the Big Draw event in October - November 2013 led by artist Rachel Gadsden, which involved working with families and children to create works based on the four patron saints in Central Lobby. The final pieces of work were displayed in Portcullis House.

Conservation

23. The Committee discussed the presentation and care of the four bronze statues in Members' Lobby (Winston Churchill, Clement Attlee, Margaret Thatcher and David Lloyd George) which are being damaged by touching. The Committee agreed proposals to protect the statues, including introducing a 'do not touch' sign and considering designs for protective barriers.
24. A major textile conservation project was undertaken during the summer recess to ensure the longevity of the contemporary textile works in Portcullis House. The collaborative project involved textile conservation students from Lincoln and Glasgow Universities and culminated in a 'Conservation in Action' public event as part of Open House Weekend in September 2013.

Donations

25. The Committee agreed to accept the donation from the House Magazine of a photographic portrait of Baroness Jill Knight by Michael Waller-Bridge.

26. The Committee agreed to a proposal from the National Secular Society that a portrait bust of Charles Bradlaugh be commissioned by the Society for donation to the House of Commons. It was anticipated that the bust would be completed in 2016.

Public Engagement and Media Strategy

27. The Committee agreed a Media and Communications Strategy, with the objective of raising the profile of the Parliamentary Art Collection and developing new audiences and increasing levels of public engagement.
28. The Committee issued its first newsletter to Members in order to raise the profile of the Collection and how it can be accessed.
29. Specialist Art and Architecture tours were conducted throughout 2013. These tours generated £21,061 in revenue from 971 ticket sales. The tours will be run again this year between March and July 2014, helping to contribute to the revenue raised for the House as part of income generation activity.

Financial position for 2014–15

30. The Committee's general Acquisition Budget for 2014–15 is £75,000, with access to a further £25,000 if required and subject to approval by the Finance Director.

Account for the year ended 31 March 2014

Note: credits are in normal type; debits are in italics

Vote for 2013–14

	<i>£75,000</i>
Additional funding requested	£25,000

Acquisitions

River Thames – Regatta	<i>£2,400</i>
Silkscreen print, by Sir Peter Blake	
Portrait of Nicholas Hardinge	<i>£10,400</i>
Oil on canvas, by Circle of Allan Ramsay	
“If Parliament were called up”	<i>£1,250</i>
Pen, ink and watercolour caricature, by Sir Bernard Partridge	
Portrait study of Sir Winston Churchill	<i>£52,500</i>
Oil on board, by Bernard Hailstone	
Barbara Castle and Women of the Labour Party	<i>£1,140</i>
Photographic print, by Lord Snowdon	

Commissions

Portrait Commissioning Rolling Programme	<i>£5,100</i>
Total income	£100,000
Total expenditure	£72,790
Balance	£27,210