The Anthony Powell Society
Registered Charity No.: 1096873

Minutes of Annual General Meeting
Saturday 22 October 2005
Bethnal Green Museum of Childhood, Cambridge Heath Road, London E2

Present: Patric Dickinson, Dr Derek Hawes, Michael Helm, Stephen Holden, Dr David Lowis, Dr Keith Marshall, Noreen Marshall, Barry Pike, Prue Raper, Tony Robinson, Bob Rollason, Jean Rollason, Victor Spouge, Elwin Taylor

Apologies: Julian Allason, Nick Baker, Dr Christine Berberich, David Butler, Jill Chalmers, Sue Frye, Dominick Harrod, Dr Catherine Hoffmann, Barry Humphries, Mike Jay, Kevin Jewell, Hans Johansson, Catherine Mansel Lewis, Hugh Massingberd, Simon McArthur, Dr Derek Miles, John Monaghan, Carol Rothkopf

1. Welcome & Apologies for Absence

A. The Society Chairman, Patric Dickinson, welcomed everyone to the meeting.
B. The Hon. Secretary, Keith Marshall, indicated that he had received apologies for absence from those members listed above together with 9 proxy votes to be cast in favour of all the motions.

2. Minutes of 2004 AGM

A. The minutes of the 2004 AGM had been circulated in advance of the meeting.
B. There being no matters arising the minutes were approved unanimously and were signed by the Chairman.

3. Receive the Annual Report & Accounts

A. The Annual Report 2005 had been circulated to members in advance and was presented to the meeting by Keith Marshall.
B. As predicted the last year has been one of building for Powell's centenary celebrations which culminate with the Centenary Conference in early December 2005 and Powell's actual birthday on 21 December.
C. Membership non-renewals remain a concern; nevertheless membership remains fairly stable as we continue to attract members especially at conference time.
D. In response to suggestions from members at last year's AGM the Society is now able to accept Bankers' Standing Orders from UK members and recurring credit card transactions from all members. A Centenary Year special offer of five years membership for the price of four is also available. Unfortunately Direct Debit facilities are not available to us as the volumes will be too small to make it viable.

E. The *Newsletter* continues to thrive and expand under Stephen Holden's editorship. A bumper Powell Centenary edition is being planned for issue in early December 2005.
F. The last completed year (1 April 2004 to 31 March 2005) saw the publication of two major works on Powell by Society members: *Anthony Powell: A Life* by Michael Barber and *Understanding Anthony Powell* by Nicholas Birns. In addition Random House have reissued *Dance* and Hilary Spurling's *Invitation to the Dance* in their Arrow paperback imprint for Powell's centenary – the latter at the Society's suggestion.
G. Looking ahead, Powell's centenary is approaching fast and the Centenary Conference is well subscribed and has already met its target audience figures.
H. As previously announced in the *Newsletter*, the Executive is undertaking a major review of Society strategy with the first meeting having been held earlier in the day. The objective is to position the Society to build and grow on the successes of centenary year in a sustainable way. This work will continue into 2006 and members are invited to submit their views through any member of the Executive.
I. The Annual Report 2004 was accepted unanimously.

4. Accounts Year Ending 31 March 2005

A. In the absence of the Hon. Treasurer, Keith Marshall briefly presented the accounts for the last period.
B. Dr Michael Helm, supported by other members, requested that in future years the accounts be independently examined and that a full Balance Sheet be presented. The Hon. Secretary pointed out that the accounts as presented fulfil the legal requirement, but that there would be a need next year for a higher level of examination as the income and expenditure will exceed the Charity Commission's £10,000 limit because of the conference. The Chairman expressed the view that fuller accounts would help the Executive and members understand the dips and swells of the finances caused by the conference. The Chairman and Hon. Secretary agreed to represent members' views to the Hon. Treasurer. **Action: Patric Dickinson/Keith Marshall**
C. A large percentage of the Society's cash has now been deposited in high interest accounts with Charities Aid Foundation who specialise is support for charities.
D. In response to suggestions at last years' AGM the Hon. Treasurer and Hon. Secretary have spent some significant time investigating alternative credit card merchant facilities. No bank has offered the Society more advantageous terms than we currently have with HSBC; many are significantly more expensive. The whole question of banking will however be kept under review as the service we receive from HSBC is far from ideal.
E. Despite a healthy surplus there is no room for complacency especially as many members have paid up to five years subscriptions in advance, so we have an ongoing liability. Nonetheless subscriptions should remain at current levels for at least short to medium term.

F. There being no further questions the accounts were unanimously approved.

5. Appointment of Hugh Massingberd and Julian Allason as Hon. Vice-Presidents

A. The Executive Committee requested the meeting to approve the appointment of Hugh Massingberd and Julian Allason as Society Vice-Presidents. Citations had been circulated in advance in the meeting notice.

B. Hugh Massingberd and Julian Allason were unanimously approved as Society Vice-Presidents.

6. Election of Executive Officers

A. The incumbent officers were nominated as the Executive Officers for the forthcoming year. There being no other nominations received by the due date of 5 August 2005 the officers were duly elected:
Chairman: Patric Dickinson
Hon. Secretary: Dr Keith C Marshall
Hon. Treasurer: Kevin Jewell

7. Election of Executive Committee Members

A. The incumbent committee members were nominated as the Executive Committee Members for the forthcoming year. There being no other nominations received by the due date of 5 August 2005 the six candidates were duly elected: Dr Christine Berberich, Dr Nicholas Birns, Leatrice Fountain, Stephen Holden, Antony Robinson, Prof. Ian Young.

8. Questions from the Floor

A. The Hon. Secretary pointed out that in addition to the elected officers (the Society's legal trustees) there are other roles to be performed and volunteers are required to fill them. Without this there is a limit (already reached) to what can be accomplished by the existing officers and volunteers.

B. The Hon. Secretary replied to a questioner that he had no further information on the Cambridge University Library exhibition but that if any became available it would be included in the next (winter) *Newsletter*.

C. The Chairman expressed thanks to all the members of the Executive Committee for their hard work again this year and to all those present for their attendance.

The formal business of the meeting was followed by:

Anthony Powell: The Firbank Legacy
Dr Richard Canning, University of Sheffield

Guided Tour of Museum of Childhood
Noreen Marshall, V&A Museum of Childhood
