**DRAFT MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF**

**THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION FOR JAPANESE STUDIES**

Held via Zoom

11 September 2020, 4pm

**COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT**

Chair: Dr Christopher Hood

Council Members

Dr Erica Baffelli (Honorary Secretary)

Dr Ian Rapley (Honorary Treasurer)

Dr Bill Mihalopoulous (Editor of *Japan Forum*)

Dr Helen Macnaughtan (Chair of the JRC at SOAS)

Dr Mara Patessio (Secretariat)

Dr Victoria Young (Ordinary member)

Dr Jennifer Coates (Co-opted member)

**18 BAJS members in attendance including Council Members**

1. **MINUTES OF THE 2019 AGM:**

Minutes from the previous AGM held at the University of Edinburgh in September 2019 were accepted as a true record.

1. **MATTERS ARISING:**

There were no matters arising that were not already covered in the agenda.

**3. PRESIDENT’S REPORT:**

3.1 It is a great shame that members cannot meet in person. Originally, this AGM was supposed to be held in Norwich, then it was moved to SOAS, but even that had to be cancelled. Hopefully we will be able to meet in person soon. Please keep BAJS Council updated on what is happening to members and at their institutions. BAJS has some funding available for students and if colleagues and their departments need support we want to help.

3.2 The Japan Foundation will be doing one of its regular surveys about the state of Japanese Studies. Please get involve with that.

Michael Salter provided further information:

‘The last survey was done in 2015 and resulted in a document of 200+ pages. This year it has been slimmed down and divided into three parts. One survey will be sent to the HoDs in Japanese Studies or East Asian Studies and will be asking for institutional figures; one will be sent to every academic having to do with Japan in their research and it will not take longer than 10 minutes to fill in; and one will be for students. The documents will be sent out by the end of the current month and all data published by April 2021. This survey will be carried on all over the world and budgets will be allocated based on its results.’

CPH will be working with The Japan Foundation to write a final report.

3.3 The 5-year term of the current *Japan Forum* editorial team, largely based at SOAS, will come to an end in 2021. BAJS received three bids of interest in forming the next team, from the University of Sheffield, the University of Edinburgh, and the University of East Anglia. CPH will contact the three teams to discuss options and will update the membership as soon as possible.

3.4 There is currently a podcast series run as part of *Japan Forum*. The series has become important enough to warrant a dedicated space linked to but not necessarily solely focussed on the journal, and with a team working specifically on it*.* BAJS will soon be putting forward a call for bids*.*

3.5 The judge of the Ivan Morris Prize has selected the following students’ works. The first prize goes to Tom Sutton (Durham), and there is a joint second prize going to Tessa Rizzoli (Cambridge) and Daniel Francis (Sheffield). Congratulations to all of them.

**4. HONORARY SECRETARY’S REPORT:**

4.1 We have a total of 234 members, of which:

36 tier 1

19 tier 2

41 tier 3

17 honorary

112 student/unwaged

9 no information available



4.2 We have been involved in the nominations for the REF. We have put forward again (after the suspension due to Covid-19) Dr. Peter Cave’s application but do not have more information at the moment.

4.3 This is my last AGM as Honorary Secretary, it has been a pleasure to work in this role for the last four years. Everyone thanked Erica for her hard work and dedication.

**5. HONORARY TREASURER’S REPORT**

5.1 The 2019 Accounts have been signed and sent to the Charity Commission.

5.2 BAJS took in nearly £66000 and spent £59000 in 2019 so there is a modest surplus. Year on year the total reserves have gone up modestly from £58000 to £64000. We are at a healthy level.

5.3 Please make sure that your Ph.D. students apply for the John Crump Scholarship, the only financial support that we can give to students at the moment.

**6. JAPAN FORUM**

6.1 There is nothing particular to report. The work has been steady, submissions are good, the team has been wonderful.

6.2 The 2019 Ian Nish Prize winner is Kumiko Endo from the New School of Social Science (NY). We had a number of very good submissions but hers was the best.

**7. HONORARY SECRETARY’S REPORT:**

* 1. BAJS started 2020 really nicely by a) awarding 7 John Crump studentships in January

b) organising the usual BAJS-JF joint one-day postgraduate workshop in February.

7.2 Given that after that BAJS activities have slowed down considerably MP has concentrated on building its social platforms. Members are asked to contact MP if they want to publicise their work or any other information related to Japanese Studies.

**8. BAJS JAPAN CHAPTER**

8.1 Report provided in advance as Robert Aspinall was unable to attend the AGM due to the time difference to Japan’ “The Japan Chapter helped organise two online conferences based at Kyushu University in July 2020: “Heritage, conflicted sites and bordered memories in Asia” Part 1: "Materials and Modes for Narrating the Past"; and Part 2: "Contesting and Memorializing Sites of Heritage".

8.2 The Japan Chapter will also be supporting another event in Kyushu: ‘Contesting Memorial Spaces in the Asia Pacific’, and the Anthropology of Japan in Japan meeting at Temple University, Tokyo, in December.

8.3 Given that the Japan Chapter has not used the £1000 budget for the 2020 (British) academic year, it has been decided that it will receive a budget of £2000 in 2021.

**9. CONFERENCES:**

9.1

Sep 2021 – AGM only (at SOAS/video-conference)

Sep 2022 – Although it is very difficult to commit to it at the moment, the University of Manchester, which had previously been selected to host the conference in 2021 but had to be postponed, would like to host the BAJS Conference if possible.

Sept 2023 – JEASC most likely.

It is not clear what the EAJS committee is considering for its next conference after 2021.

9.2 Given that postgraduate students will be the ones most impacted by the above changes, the BAJS Council has agreed to look at having an extended JF/BAJS Workshop in Spring 2021 so that the result is more that of a mini conference. This will be discussed with the Japan Foundation and Sasakawa.

**10. COUNCIL ELECTIONS:**

Dr. Erica Baffelli has done an amazing job for BAJS, she has been a fabulous colleague. Council would like to recommend that Dr. Jennifer Coates, who has volunteered, takes over the role of Honorary Secretary. CPH proposes her, Dr. Margaret Mehl seconds the vote. Everyone is very pleased to have Dr. Coates as the new Honorary Secretary.