

CORPUS OF ROMANESQUE SCULPTURE IN GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND

ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Year ending 31 December 2023

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CORPUS OF ROMANESQUE SCULPTURE IN GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND

TRUSTEES AND PROFESSIONAL ADVISERS

Trustees	Nicola Coldstream, MA, PhD, FSA Katherine Davey, MA, MA Catherine English, BA, MA, FSA Jill Franklin, PhD, FSA* Professor Eric Fernie, CBE, FBA, FRSE, Hon VPSA, FSA (Scot), Hon DLitt James King, BA, MA, FSA Professor Neil Stratford, BA, MA, FSA
Charity Secretary	Simon Kirsop, BA, MA, FSA
Charity Treasurer	Susan Nettle, MSc, MA
Contact Address	122 Woburn Drive Hale WA15 8NF
Bankers	Barclays PLC Hounslow, Middlesex
Independent Auditors	Gary Dolphin GHD Finance Ltd 8 Huxtable Rise Worcester WR4 0NX

* Dr Jill Franklin died on 27th October 2023.

PRINCIPAL ACTIVITIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE TRUSTEES

The Trustees are responsible for ensuring that the principal activities of the Corpus are undertaken, namely, to create and maintain a publicly available record of Romanesque sculpture in Great Britain and Ireland between c1050 and c1200 through the establishment, maintenance and promotion of a permanent record and archive of such sculpture (www.crsbi.ac.uk); to advance the public knowledge of all such sculpture through engagement and education; and to assist in the preservation of such sculpture for the public benefit in such ways as the Trustees shall from time to time determine.

The Trustees are also responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity (Registered Charity No. 1168535). In addition, the Trustees are responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity hence for taking reasonable steps for ensuring the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The Trustees met in person on 30 October.

The Trustees are assisted in undertaking their responsibilities by the Management Board.

The Trustees wish to show their appreciation for the work that Dr Jill Franklin undertook while a Trustee of the Corpus.

RESULTS

The financial results for the period 1 January – 31 December 2023 and the Charity's financial position at the end of the year are shown in the attached financial statement.

Susan Nettle

Treasurer

MANAGEMENT BOARD REPORT

Year end 31 December 2023

The members of the Management Board have pleasure in presenting their report and the financial statement of the Corpus for the year ended 31 December 2023.

The Management Board met via Zoom on 20 October.

Dr Xavier Dectot resigned as Chair of the Management Committee during February 2023 and Dr John Munns, Associate Professor of History and Art History at Magdalene College, Cambridge was appointed to succeed him in December 2023.

1. Financial matters

The single largest expenditure during the year was the one-off hosting fee for the digital asset management system hosted by iBase; this will remain an ongoing cost into the future.

The British Academy continued with its support of the on-going work of the Corpus. We benefitted from £5,000 given by the British Academy.

We thank all our supporters and donors, past and present, who have enabled and sustained the aims and development of the Corpus over the years and pledged to support us into the future.

2. Development of the Romanesque dataset during 2023

The database is now fully operational and available on-line to external visitors with new features and much enhanced searchability.

By the end of 2023, 3,229 were online and work was nearing completion of a further 800 sites. Support from our donors in 2023 enabled volunteers to visit some of the more distant sites. Of note, Lincolnshire, the third highest-ranked county by number of Romanesque sites in England, now has 139 sites listed on the database. Derbyshire, with 95 sites, is now virtually complete and includes the important churches of Steetley and Melbourne. County Durham, by comparison, has just one site added in the past year, Durham Castle Chapel.

In April an iBase training session was held at the Courtauld Institute and provided instruction and support for five volunteers and editors.

3. Public engagement

CRSBI was delighted to be able to assist in a recent English Heritage project at Bury St Edmunds, in the course of which the Research Director was able to add new material to the website from sites not easily accessible. Suffolk Archaeology was also involved, and a blog about our work at Bury was published on their website at <https://heritagesuffolk.wordpress.com/2022/03/25/romanesque-bury-abbey/>

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In addition, Steven Brindle gave a fascinating lecture on the project for the Royal Archaeological Institute and the British Archaeological Association, during which he generously acknowledged our contribution. This can be seen at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dWmJlixMb3Q>

The CRSBI *Newsletter* was published online twice during 2023 in addition to the regular Twitter feed which aims to drive traffic to the site via link click-throughs; highlight useful site functionalities; and generally raise awareness of and engagement with the project/site itself. Some 1,890 followers are now aware of updates to the Corpus site.

On 24 April 2023 the CRSBI Annual lecture was held at the Courtauld Institute in front of a live audience, Dr Richard Plant, spoke on the subject of 'Reflections on the Cushion Capital'. To date, the lecture has been accessed over 250 times on-line.

During the year several publications or articles appeared written or edited by members of the Corpus community. These included:

Ron Baxter, 'Changing the Face of Romanesque Sculpture: Prior and Gardner and the Corpus of Romanesque Sculpture in Britain and Ireland', in P.Lindley and M. Hale (ed.), *Nationalism, medievalism and the study of sculpture: Prior and Gardner's 'Account' reassessed*, (Donington 2023), 40-44.

Malcolm Thurlby, 'The Romanesque Abbey Church of Malmsbury: Patronage and Date', *Wilts Art and Nat Hist*, vol 112, 121-155.

In addition, the Corpus was thanked by the editors in the book '*900 years of St Bartholomew the Great*' for permission to use photographs. Publication of which coincided with a 1-day conference at St Bartholomew's during which Dr Jill Franklin gave a paper and also spoke inside the Priory Church.

4. The Future

We welcome Dr John Munns into his new role of Chair of the Management Board and very much look forward to working with him, to secure funding to support the future of CRSBI.

The priorities for 2024 remain recruiting new volunteer fieldworkers, especially in areas where there is a dearth of site coverage; current fieldworkers are having to travel greater distances to access these sites. All fieldworkers will continue to be offered enhanced data-entry training enabling them to upload new site reports for consideration by the editorial team. With the introduction of a more intuitive search facility on the website, it is hoped students, researchers, academics, and visitors, will find the site helpful when searching for items of Romanesque sculpture.

It has become apparent that the present online configuration of the Corpus database on iBase is not suitable for mobile phone users, and it is hoped that during 2024 an upgrade to the system can be made to create a more user-friendly format for current sites.

We continue to seek support from current and new donors to support the ongoing work of the Corpus as we move towards the initial completion of the dataset.

Finally, we wish to thank all our donors, most especially the British Academy, and together with our volunteers for their continuing support.

CORPUS OF ROMANESQUE SCULPTURE IN GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

1st January 2023 to year end 31st December 2023

INCOME	2023	2022
	£	£
Donations restricted	0	0
Donations unrestricted	5,000	10,900
EXPENDITURE		
Editing	(541)	(2,446)
Fieldworking	(1,438)	(1,935)
Wales	(0)	(0)
Travel to meetings	(117)	(89)
Annual Donor Dinner	(177)	(257)
Events Coordinator	(0)	(0)
Web-Editor	(300)	(675)
Website Hosting fee	(4,536)	(4,320)
Website Development fee	(0)	(0)
IMC Leeds	(0)	(1,137)
Publicity	(890)	(269)
Training event	(320)	(664)
Sundries	(0)	(0)
Fund balance brought forward at 1 st January 2023	16,871	17,764
Fund balance carried forward at 31 st December 2023	13,544	16,871

CORPUS OF ROMANESQUE SCULPTURE IN GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND

BALANCE SHEET

31st December 2023

	2023	2022
	£	£
Bank account	13,544	16,871
Represented by:		
Reserves	13,544	16,871

These financial statements were approved by the Trustees on the 6th March 2024 and signed on their behalf by:

Chair