

THE ROYAL SOCIETY FOR ASIAN AFFAIRS

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2020

CONTENTS AND CHARITY INFORMATION

CONTENTS:	PAGE:
Trustees' Report	1 - 2
Independent Examiner's Report	3
Statement of Financial Activities	4
Balance Sheet	5
Notes to the Financial Statements	6 - 11

TRUSTEES:

F Slevin (Chair)  
V Easlea  
R Lamb  
D Taylor  
A Steger  
A M Cartwright  
B Omrani  
M Skipper (appointed 10th March 2021)  
S Ibbotson (appointed 3rd May 2021)

CHARITY OFFICES:

1a St Martins House  
Polygon Road  
London  
NW1 1QB

CHARITY REGISTRATION NUMBER: 1179300

CIO NUMBER: CE014710

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER:

Ian W Shipley FCCA  
For and on behalf of:  
Prentis & Co LLP  
Chartered Accountants & Independent Examiners  
115c Milton Road  
Cambridge  
CB4 1XE

BANKERS:

Lloyds Bank  
Pall Mall  
St James Branch  
8-10 Waterloo Place  
London  
SW1Y 1BE

INVESTMENT MANAGERS:

CCLA Investment Management  
Senator House  
85 Queen Victoria Street  
London  
EC4V 4ET

## FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2020

## REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

The Trustees present their annual report and financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31st December 2020. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the accounts and comply with the Charity's trust deed, the Charities Act 2011 and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102) (effective 1st January 2019).

## STRUCTURE GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

The Royal Society for Asian Affairs was reconstituted as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) on 23rd July 2018 reference 1179300, and assets transferred from the old Society on 10th January 2019. The Society was originally established as the Central Asian Society in 1901 and in 1931 received its Royal Patronage. In 1975 the Charity changed its name to The Royal Society for Asian Affairs (known also as RSAA).

The Society is now governed by its trust deed following conversion to CIO status.

Trustees are appointed at the Annual General Meeting for a three year term and are eligible for re-election.

On appointment all Trustees received an induction pack, and are informed of their duties as Trustees.

## OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES FOR THE PUBLIC BENEFIT

The Charity's objectives are to promote learning and advance education in the subject of and with regard to all the countries of Asia.

The Charity aims to achieve this through publishing material, arranging events, tours and courses, maintaining a library and collaboration with other organisations.

The Trustees have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission general guidance on public benefit and continue to do so. The Trustees believe public benefit is satisfied by the advancement of education the Charity undertakes.

## ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

The Society faced a number of challenges in 2020, which necessitated some significant changes to the Society's operations. The COVID-19 pandemic forced the closure of the Society's offices in March 2020 and staff worked from home for the remainder of the year. The lecture programme moved immediately online and, for the first time, was made open, free of charge to the general public. Lectures were delivered weekly from April to July, reverting to a fortnightly sequence from September - a 45% increase to the normal annual programme.

The online format enabled the Society to present speakers from many parts of the world, allowing us to have speakers addressing the Society from Turkey, India, Saudi Arabia, Bangkok (during the unrest), the US and Australia among other places. Average attendance doubled and included regular participation from every continent bar Antarctica. A commissioned series of blogposts devoted to the impact of COVID-19 in a range of Asian countries accompanied the programme.

New, focused use of social media supported the programme. Most 2020 lectures and a large number from previous years were made freely available through YouTube. The largest audience for the Society's YouTube Channel were in India and the United States.

*Asian Affairs*, thanks to efforts by the staff of Taylor & Francis, appeared in print and online with little disruption by the pandemic and continued to perform strongly. Circulation was higher than any previous year except 2018. Digital downloads of articles and book reviews showed a 5% increase over 2019, which was itself a 104% increase over 2018. Asian countries accounted for the highest proportion of downloads.

The Society implemented a re-branding across all its platforms and publications and launched a new website.

COVID-19 related restrictions led to the suspension of the Society's Travel Awards, the JPT Family Trust Medical Science Awards and the annual Schools' Day. A selection of the best RSAA webinars from 2020 was made available to schools instead.

Professor Peter Frankopan became President of the Society in April 2020, the position having been vacant since the end of 2018.

## FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2020

## REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES .....CONT

## FINANCIAL REVIEW

The Society had a surplus of £49,721 for the year (2019: £848,042), following the transfer of assets donated from the previous Society. Investments showed unrealised gains of £49,306 (2019: £104,022). Reserves currently stand at £877,763 (2019: £848,042) and free reserves at £876,219 (2019: £837,956) and the Trustees consider the financial situation of the Charity satisfactory.

## RESERVE POLICY

The Society has no permanent endowment, but has a policy of retaining funds in reserves to support future growth, to allow for future expenditure and to generate ongoing income to support the Society's charitable activities. The Trustees consider the current level of free reserves at £876,000 appropriate to these purposes.

## PLANS FOR FUTURE PERIODS

The Society intends to continue running many of its events online, to build on the additional reach and popularity of the online programme but will resume some events at central London venues when conditions permit.

The Society will continue to run periodic one-day and half-day conferences and to publish the proceedings in special issues of *Asian Affairs*. Opportunities will also be taken to run lectures in series on particular themes.

## KEY PERSONNEL AND PAY POLICY

The Charity is directed and controlled on a day to day basis by a Chief Executive Officer and one assistant, together with support from volunteers. The Trustees are responsible for the strategic direction of the Charity and are not remunerated for their duties as Trustees. The CEO is accountable to the Trustees.

## TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES IN RELATION TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The Charity's Trustees are responsible for preparing a Trustees' annual report and financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

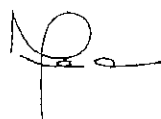
The law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the Charity Trustees to prepare financial statements for each year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources, of the Charity for that period. In preparing the financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the applicable Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures that must be disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.


The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Charity and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the applicable Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations and the provisions of the Trust Deed. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Charity and taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

## APPROVAL

This report was approved by the Trustees on 6 September 2021 and signed on their behalf.



.....  
F SLEVIN  
CHAIRMAN



.....  
A CARTWRIGHT  
HONORARY TREASURER

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2020

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE ROYAL SOCIETY FOR ASIAN AFFAIRS

I report to the Charity Trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charitable company for the year ended 31st December 2020, which are set out on pages 4 to 11.

RESPONSIBILITIES AND BASIS OF REPORT

As the Charity's Trustees of the Charity you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS' STATEMENT

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe:

- (1) accounting records were not kept in respect of the Charity as required by s.310 of the 2011 Act;
- (2) the accounts do not accord with those accounting records;
- (3) the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and contents of the accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or;

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



IAN W SHIPLEY FCCA  
FOR AND ON BEHALF OF:  
PRENTIS & CO LLP  
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS &  
INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS

115c Milton Road  
Cambridge  
CB4 1XE

104 September 2021

## FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2020

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	Note	2020 £	2019 £
INCOME			
Subscriptions, donations and legacies	2	58,879	67,085
Charitable Activities	3	66,065	80,710
Investment Income	4	26,713	29,578
Reserves donated from unincorporated Society		-	760,505
TOTAL INCOME		<u>151,657</u>	<u>937,878</u>
EXPENDITURE			
Charitable Activities	5	159,182	198,033
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		<u>159,182</u>	<u>198,033</u>
NET (EXPENDITURE)/INCOME BEFORE GAINS ON INVESTMENTS		(7,525)	739,845
Net gains on investment assets	10	57,246	108,197
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		<u>49,721</u>	<u>848,042</u>
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS			
Total Funds brought forward		848,042	-
Total Funds carried forward		<u>897,763</u>	<u>848,042</u>


The notes on pages 6 to 11 form part of these financial statements.

## FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2020

## BALANCE SHEET

	Notes	2020 £	£	2019 £	£
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>					
Library	8		1		1
Tangible fixed assets	9		19,982		8,524
Investments	10		793,056		810,810
			<u>813,039</u>		<u>819,335</u>
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>					
Stock	11	1,033		1,080	
Debtors	12	58,420		62,665	
Cash at bank and in hand		64,590		2,679	
		<u>124,043</u>		<u>66,424</u>	
<b>LIABILITIES</b>					
Creditors falling due within one year	13	39,319		37,717	
		<u>39,319</u>		<u>37,717</u>	
Net Current Assets			84,724		28,707
NET ASSETS			<u>897,763</u>		<u>848,042</u>
<b>THE FUNDS OF THE CHARITY</b>					
Unrestricted funds	16		896,202		846,481
Designated funds			1,561		1,561
			<u>897,763</u>		<u>848,042</u>

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees on 6 September 2021 and signed on their behalf.



F SLEVIN  
CHAIRMAN



A CARTWRIGHT  
HONORARY TREASURER

The notes on pages 6 to 11 form part of these financial statements.

## FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2020

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

## 1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

**(a) BASIS OF PREPARATION AND ASSESSMENT OF GOING CONCERN**

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant notes to these financial statements. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued in October 2019 and effective 1st January 2019, and the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011.

The Trust constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

The Trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the Trust's ability to continue as a going concern. The most significant areas of uncertainty that affect the carrying value of assets held by the Trust are the level of investment return and the performance of investment markets.

**(b) INCOME RECOGNITION**

Incoming resources are included when receivable, with the exception of subscriptions which are recognised as income when received, subscriptions in advance however are deferred.

**(c) EXPENDITURE RECOGNITION**

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to that category.

**(d) GOVERNANCE COSTS**

These costs relate to central management and administration costs, management of the Charity's assets, organisational management and compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements.

**(e) SUPPORT COSTS**

Overheads and support costs have been apportioned on an appropriate basis e.g. staff time.

**(f) TAXATION**

The Society is a registered Charity and its income is exempt from Corporation tax as it is applied for charitable purposes.

**(g) DEPRECIATION**

Depreciation is provided to write off the costs of tangible fixed assets on a reducing balance over their useful economic lives at the following rates:-

Office equipment and fittings - 25% reducing balance  
Software - 33% straight line

**(h) FIXED ASSETS INVESTMENTS**

Investments are a form of basic financial instrument and are initially recognised at their transaction value and subsequently measured at their fair value as at the balance sheet date using the closing quoted market price. The Statement of Financial Activities includes the gains and losses arising on the revaluation and disposal throughout the year.

The Charity does not acquire put options, derivatives or other complex financial instruments.

## FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2020

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The main form of financial risk faced by the Charity is that of volatility in equity markets and investment markets due to wider economic conditions, the attitude of investors to investment risk, and changes in sentiment concerning equities and within particular sectors and sub sectors.

**(i) REALISED GAINS AND LOSSES**

All gains and losses are taken to the Statement of Financial Activities as they arise. Realised gains and losses on investments are calculated as the difference between sales proceeds and their opening carrying value or their purchase value if acquired subsequent to the first day of the financial year. Unrealised gains and losses are calculated as the difference between the fair value at the year end and their carrying value. Realised and unrealised investment gains and losses are combined in the Statement of Financial Activities.

**(j) FUND ACCOUNTING**

Funds are incoming resources receivable or generated for the objects of the Charity without further specific purpose and are available as general funds.

Restricted funds are to be used to specific purposes as laid down by the donor.

Designated funds are unrestricted general funds designated by the Trustees to be set aside and expended on a specific purpose.

**(k) STOCK**

Stock is valued at the lower of cost or net realisable value.

**(l) CASH FLOW STATEMENT EXEMPTION**

The Charity has taken advantage of exemptions under Charities SORP and Section 7 of FRS 102 to not produce a Statement of Cash Flows.

2.	SUBSCRIPTIONS, DONATIONS AND LEGACIES	2020	2019
	- Unrestricted	£	£
	Grants	3,500	9,000
	Subscriptions	48,294	57,625
	Donations and legacies	7,085	460
		<u>58,879</u>	<u>67,085</u>
3.	INCOME FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES	2020	2019
	- Unrestricted	£	£
	Secretarial services	3,176	2,382
	Lectures	90	908
	Publications/royalties	62,242	60,604
	Presentations and events	348	14,564
	Tours	-	1,900
	Society shields/ties/notelets	-	101
	Sale of images of archive material	209	251
		<u>66,065</u>	<u>80,710</u>



## FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2020

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

4.	INVESTMENT INCOME	2020	2019
		£	£
	Dividends on listed investments	26,707	29,577
	Interest receivable on cash deposits	6	1
		<u>26,713</u>	<u>29,578</u>
5.	COST OF CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES	2020	2019
		£	£
	Lectures	500	3,674
	Library services	62	327
	Publications	26,138	23,942
	Presentations and events	2,342	26,934
	Ties/shields/notelets	-	128
	Support costs (note 6)	130,140	143,028
		<u>159,182</u>	<u>198,033</u>
6.	SUPPORT COSTS	Charitable	2020
	YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2020	Activities	Total
		£	£
	Staff costs	62,137	62,137
	IT support and consumables	10,815	10,815
	Cleaning	1,350	1,350
	Rent, rates and utilities	33,545	33,545
	Insurance	2,191	2,191
	Repairs to property	2,831	2,831
	Printing, stationery, postage and advertising	3,464	3,464
	Other office costs	355	355
	Telephone	1,127	1,127
	Bank charges	802	802
	Depreciation	4,387	4,387
	Governance (note 7)	-	7,136
		<u>123,004</u>	<u>130,140</u>
	SUPPORT COSTS	Charitable	2019
	PERIOD ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2019	Activities	Total
		£	£
	Staff costs	84,206	84,206
	IT support and consumables	6,315	6,315
	Cleaning	1,605	1,605
	Rent, rates and utilities	33,201	33,201
	Insurance	2,244	2,244
	Repairs to property	1,790	1,790
	Printing, stationery, postage and advertising	4,365	4,365
	Other office costs	698	698
	Telephone	1,247	1,247
	Bank charges	806	806
	Depreciation	2,831	2,831
	Governance (note 7)	-	3,720
		<u>139,308</u>	<u>143,028</u>

## FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2020

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

7.	GOVERNANCE COSTS	2020	2019
		£	£
	Legal and professional costs	-	104
	Independent Examiners fee	1,824	1,800
	Bookkeeping	5,312	1,816
		<u>7,136</u>	<u>3,720</u>
8.	LIBRARY		
	Library assets have not been capitalised other than their inclusion in the balance sheet at a written down net book value of £1.		
9.	TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS		
	YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2020	Software	Office
		£	Equipment
		£	£
	COST		
	Balance at 1st January 2020	5,994	5,362
	Additions	15,168	677
	Balance at 31st December 2020	<u>21,162</u>	<u>6,039</u>
	ACCUMULATED DEPRECIATION		
	Balance at 1st January 2020	1,499	1,333
	Charge for the year	3,262	1,125
	Balance at 31st December 2020	<u>4,761</u>	<u>2,458</u>
	NET BOOK VALUE		
	At 31st December 2020	<u>16,401</u>	<u>3,581</u>
	TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS		
	PERIOD ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2019	Software	Office
		£	Equipment
		£	£
	COST		
	Additions	5,994	5,362
	Balance at 31st December 2019	<u>5,994</u>	<u>5,362</u>
	ACCUMULATED DEPRECIATION		
	Charge for period	1,499	1,333
	Balance at 31st December 2019	<u>1,499</u>	<u>1,333</u>
	NET BOOK VALUE		
	At 31st December 2019	<u>4,495</u>	<u>4,029</u>
10.	INVESTMENTS	2020	2019
	Listed Investments	£	£
	Market value at 1st January 2020	810,810	-
	Additions	-	723,950
	Disposals	(75,000)	(21,337)
	Net realised investment gain	7,940	4,175
	Net unrealised investment gains	49,306	104,022
	Market value at 31st December 2020	<u>793,056</u>	<u>810,810</u>

## FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2020

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Listed investments are revalued at the year end to their market value. The listed investments are held indirectly on behalf of the Society.

The historical cost of listed investments is £651,063 (2019: £706,789). The majority of investment assets are held in the UK and there are no restrictions on the realisation of these investments.

11.	STOCK	2020	2019				
		£	£				
	Inventory	1,033	1,080				
12.	DEBTORS	2020	2019				
		£	£				
	Trade receivables	19,792	22,179				
	Other debtors	27,410	28,324				
	Prepayments	11,218	12,162				
		58,420	62,665				
13.	CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR	2020	2019				
		£	£				
	Social security and other taxes	212	1,723				
	Accruals and deferred income	38,566	35,768				
	Trade creditors	541	226				
		39,319	37,717				
14.	RESERVES						
	YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2020						
	Balance at		Balance at				
	1st January		31st December				
	2020	Income	2020				
	£	£	£				
		Expenditure					
		£					
		Gains					
		£					
		Transfers					
		£					
	Designated	1,561	-	1,561			
	Unrestricted	846,481	151,657	159,182	57,246	-	896,202
		848,042	151,657	159,182	57,246	-	897,763

## RESERVES

## PERIOD ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2019

PERIOD ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2019						
	Balance at 10th January 2019	Income	Expenditure	Gains	Transfers	Balance at 31st December 2019
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Designated	-	-	-	-	1,561	1,561
Unrestricted	-	937,878	198,033	108,197	(1,561)	846,481
	-	937,878	198,033	108,197	-	848,042

The Trustees have designated a sum of money as a book fund.

## FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2020

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

15.	NET ASSETS BY FUND	2020	2019
		£	£
	Library	1	1
	Tangible fixed assets	19,982	8,524
	Investments	793,056	810,810
	Current assets	124,043	66,424
	Current liabilities	(39,319)	(37,717)
	Net Assets	<u>897,763</u>	<u>848,042</u>

## 16. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES

During the year a total of £5 was reimbursed to the Trustees (2019: £Nil).

B Omrani, a Trustee was paid £23,547 (2019: £8,606) during the year for services in relation to editing.