

Society for Latin American Studies

Treasurer's Report on 2015 Finances for 2016 AGM

PREAMBLE

1. This report covers the calendar year (2015)
2. Pence have been rounded down (1-50) or up (51-99) to the nearest £
3. Reserves at 1 January 2015 stood at £105,648

INCOME

Income in 2015 totalled £64,513, an increase of £1,506 over 2014. As usual, by far the largest element (86.6%) consisted of payments received from Wiley – in total £55,875 (an increase of £3,581), of which £49,901 was SLAS' share of the BLAR profits for the previous year, and the balance (£5,974) was the contribution towards the salary of the BLAR Editorial Assistant. Wiley also contributed towards the cost of a reception at the Annual Conference, although this was paid directly to the University of Aberdeen.

The Aberdeen Conference generated a surplus for SLAS of £7,042 - £2,031 less than in 2014 - which covered the bulk (92.7%) - of the awards for participation in the Conference made to 23 pgr/post-doc participants and four scholars from Latin America. Profound thanks are due to Professor Patience Schell and her team for the efficient organisation of the event.

'Donations' in the form of uncanceled standing orders yielded £621 (£40 less than in 2014)

Bank interest of £975 from a fixed term bond of £75,000 (@1.3%) with Triodos Bank was £975. The same amount has been reinvested in a new bond (@1.2%) to mature in November 2016

EXPENDITURE

Expenditure on *BLAR* totalled £20,678, an increase of £1,239 compared with 2014. As usual, the greater part, £18,058, was the recharge from the University of Liverpool for the Editorial Assistant's remuneration for the period 1/8/14-31/7/15; an additional £1,000 was paid to

him directly from SLAS for overtime. Once these costs were deducted from the Wiley income, a net figure of £35,197 (an increase of £2,351 from 2014) remained available to fund the Society's other activities

The principal beneficiaries were postgraduate research students registered at UK institutions, who received in total £21,718 (61.7%) of the residual income for various schemes. Nineteen awards of £600 each (total £11,400) were made to support fieldwork visits to Latin America; a twentieth was offered but not claimed. Six awards of £500 each (total £3,000) were made to assist pgrs with the costs of presenting papers at overseas conferences. Eighteen bursaries of £200 each (total £3,600) supported pgrs giving papers at the Annual Conference; 20 were offered, but two were not claimed. Expenditure on PILAS, primarily to support its Annual Conference, held this year in Cambridge, was £3,118.

Five bursaries of £250 each were awarded to postdoctoral participants in the Aberdeen Conference.

Four awards of £1,000 each were paid to scholars from Latin America participating in the Annual Conference; a fifth was offered but not taken up.

'Events' awards totalling £2,718 were paid for conferences and workshops at the Universities of Cambridge, Lancaster, London (ILAS x 2), and Nottingham. A further award to Edinburgh was not claimed from SLAS.

Committee expenses - primarily reimbursements for travel, subsistence, and accommodation - incurred by members attending the four meetings held in Aberdeen (two) and Newcastle (two), as well as the Aberdeen Conference registration fees for those giving papers and without access to alternative funding - totalled £7,898 (an increase of £372 over 2014).

Expenditure of £2,191 on the website was made up of £1,566 (77 hours@£18) paid to a professional assistant (Christy Palmer) and £625 for the purchase of software that she uses for the production/distribution of the monthly Newsletters.

The Blakemore Prize (£600) was awarded to Desiree Poets (University of Aberystwyth)

Subscriptions of £100 each were paid for SLAS' Membership of the University Council of Modern Languages and the UK Council for Area Studies Associations (UKCASA), and NatWest Bank charged £1 for one transaction

SUMMARY

INCOME

Annual Conference: £7,042; Bank Interest: £975; Donations: £621; Wiley: £55,875.

Total Income: £64,513

EXPENDITURE

Bank Charge: £1; Blakemore Prize: £600; BLAR: £20,678; Committee Expenses: £7,898; Events: £2,718; Latin American Scholars: £4,000; PILAS: £3,118; Postdoctoral Bursaries (Annual Conference): £1,250; Postgraduate Bursaries (Annual Conference): £3,600; Postgraduate Bursaries (Overseas Conferences): £3,000; Postgraduate Fieldwork Awards: £11,600; Subscriptions: £200; Website: £2,191.

Total expenditure: £60,654

CONCLUSION

Income of £64,513 and expenditure of £60,654 created a net movement of funds of £3,860, thereby increasing reserves to £109,508 (Triodos Bank: £75,000; NatWest Bank: £32,914; Cash-in-hand: £1,594).

THE INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

The Independent Examiner -Dr Paul Henderson (University of Wolverhampton) has signed the necessary certificate for the Charity Commission, confirming that this report complies with the accounting records and with the accounting requirements of the Commission. I thank him most sincerely for his many years of service to SLAS as Independent Examiner.

John Fisher

20 February 2016

