

JERSEY HERITAGE TRUST.

*Lodged au Greffe on 4th November, 1980 by the Finance and
Economics Committee.*



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REPORT

1. Over the years, several attempts have been made to improve co-ordination of the various efforts being directed towards the provision of museum and arts facilities in the Island.

2. On the 10th June, 1975, the Finance and Economics Committee made a statement to the States stressing its concern at the growing demand made on the public purse, and drawing attention to the plans for expanding and improving the museum and arts facilities provided by La Société Jersiaise, which could only be brought to fruition with the assistance of the States and through the allocation of monies from the Le Maistre bequest (now amounting to £87,690). The Committee also pointed out that the Public Works Committee had an interest in this bequest which had to be used to establish an art gallery for enjoyment by the general public of the Island. The Committee had therefore decided not to make any firm recommendations to the States regarding the future use of these monies until a further attempt had been made to effect proper co-ordination between the activities of La Société Jersiaise, the Public Works Committee and the Education Committee in the provision of museum and arts facilities.

3. The Finance and Economics Committee went on to say that discussions had taken place between La Société and the Public Works Committee over a long period of time which had served first to identify areas of common ground and, secondly, to indicate the importance of a continuing close and harmonious relationship between the States and La Société. It had therefore been suggested to the Executive Committee of La Société that a Committee should be formed with broad terms of reference, mainly to establish the future museum and arts policy of the Island. It was further proposed that the Committee should consist of seven members, three nominated by the Committees of the States and three by La Société with an independent chairman, and that Sir Robert Le Masurier D.S.C. had agreed to act as Chairman.

4. This co-ordinating Committee, after considerable discussion and after an abortive attempt to appoint a Museum's Director on a contract basis, accepted an offer made by La Société, namely that its curator, Mr. Richard Higginbottom, should be seconded to the Committee for a period of two years with the main responsibility of producing a comprehensive report on the future museum and arts policy for the Island. The offer was accepted and the secondment commenced as from 1st January, 1979, but Mr. Higginbottom has since resigned and has taken up a post in the United Kingdom.

5. However, Mr. Higginbottom completed his report,* which accompanies this report for the information of members, and the Museums and Arts Policy Committee gave consideration to the general principles set out therein. Although all the States and Société representatives were agreed that full implementation of the Report was not desirable, at least at this stage, it was felt that the general principles of the Report formed a sound basis for consideration, and the following was agreed—

- (a) that there would be a better use of museum resources if there were greater co-ordination between the Public Works Committee and La Société;
- (b) that there should be set up a body known as the Jersey Heritage Trust as a co-ordinating Committee consisting of States and La Société representatives with a museum adviser as executive officer;
- (c) that the museum assets of the States and La Société should remain in their existing ownership and that the employees concerned should continue to be employed by the respective organisations;
- (d) that the Trust would advise the States and La Société on the collection, preservation and exhibition of historical resources;
- (e) that monies which have previously been voted annually by the States to La Société and the Public Works Committee for the collection, preservation and exhibition of museum resources should, in future, be placed at the disposal of the Trust for allocation as it considers appropriate;
- (f) that the Trust should retain ownership of any assets purchased under (e) above and loaned to either La Société or the States;
- (g) that any future recommendations leading to a more formal organisational structure would depend upon the experience gained from the proposals now made.

6. The Finance and Economics Committee, therefore, proposes—

- (1) That there should be established a body to be known as the Jersey Heritage Trust consisting of seven members, three nominated by La Société Jersiaise,

* Copy of this report may be seen at the States' Greffe.

one each nominated by the Public Works, Education and Tourism Committees of the States, with an independent chairman appointed by the States on the recommendation of the Finance and Economics Committee.

- (2) That the Trust, with a Museums Adviser as Executive Officer, should co-ordinate the various museum and art resources in the Island and, in particular, the activities of La Société Jersiaise and the Public Works Committee, whose existing assets would remain in their ownership and employees concerned would continue to be employed by the respective authorities.
- (3) That the monies which have previously been voted annually by the States to La Société Jersiaise and the Public Works Committee for the collection, preservation and exhibition of museum resources should, in future, be placed at the disposal of the Trust for use as it considers appropriate.
- (4) That the Trust should examine ways and means of evolving over a period of time a more effective and co-ordinated museum and arts service for the Island and to make recommendations thereon.

PROPOSITION

The States are asked to decide whether they are of opinion—

- (1) to appoint a body to be known as the Jersey Heritage Trust, consisting of three representatives nominated by La Société Jersiaise, one representative nominated by each of the Public Works, Education and Tourism Committees and an independent chairman appointed by the States on the recommendation of the Finance and Economics Committee;
- (2) to agree that the Trust, with a Museums Adviser as Executive Officer, should co-ordinate the various museum and art resources in the Island and, in particular, the activities of La Société Jersiaise and the Public Works Committee, whose existing assets would remain in their ownership and the staff concerned would continue to be employed by the respective authorities;
- (3) to agree that monies which have previously been voted annually by the States to La Société Jersiaise and the Public Works Committee for the collection, preservation and exhibition of museum resources should, in future, be placed at the disposal of the Trust for use as it considers appropriate;
- (4) to agree that the Trust should examine ways and means of evolving over a period of time a more effective and co-ordinated museum and arts service for the Island and to make recommendations thereon.

NOTE: The Establishment Committee approves of the formation of Jersey Heritage Trust as it believes that this uniform approach will result in the most economical use of manpower.

The Committee considers that the Proposition does not involve any increase in the size of the Civil Service.

FINANCE AND ECONOMICS COMMITTEE.