**Minutes General Members Meeting Society for Japanese Arts**

Date: 25 June 2023

Location: Scheltema complex, Marktsteeg 1 Leiden

Time: 13:00

Our annual members' meeting, this time at the Scheltema complex in Leiden, was, given the warm weather. reasonably well attended with about 30 members

The following items were discussed:

1. **Chairman's departure**

The chairman opened the meeting by announcing that, despite the pleasant cooperation within the board and the fine events organised by the SJA over the past year (including, in particular, the successful celebration of its 85th anniversary), she regretfully announced her resignation due to private circumstances. The vice-chairman thanked her for her always enthusiastic and emphatic commitment - especially with regard to the splendid-looking new website - and assumed the position for the time being, promising to immediately explore who could become Larisa Alwin’s successor.

2. **Financial report**

The treasurer provided the following report:

The balance sheet and the profit/loss statement over were discussed. The main point of discussion was the fact that the SJA had become subject to VAT as of 2022 and what effect this would have on our income and expenditure.

The committee for financial supervision (Kas commissie) (consisting of Pierre Wijermans and Arie Hartman) approved the annual accounts and the board was discharged for the financial policy pursued. The chairman thanked the committee for its work.

As new members for the Financial Supervision Committee, Kees Berbee and Henk Herwig volunteered, which were unanimously approved.

The revised budget for 2023, now including the VAT effect, was also approved. The budget and balance sheet show that the association is financially healthy and has ample resources for future activities. After some time of financial uncertainty, at the hand of treasurer Cisca van Wonderen, order has been restored, for which many thanks are due.

3. **Death of Elise Wessels**

The chairman dwelt on the sudden death of Elise Wessels, an important member of the association because she and her museum Nihon no Hanga had made an enormous contribution to the dissemination of knowledge of 20th-century Japanese printmaking and had many times opened her museum for guided tours and other SJA activities. The association loses in her an inspirational and powerful member.

4. **Mini-symposium 'China through a Japanese lens'**

Three subsequent speakers provided an interesting afternoon with the following short lectures:

- Larisa Alwin in her contribution discussed 'The Sino-Japanese War in Woodblock Prints’ showing beautiful examples of stunning triptychs and sharply satirical prints that illustrated Japanese war propaganda at the time.

- In the next presentation titled 'Ko-sometsuke - Chinese porselain for the Japanese market’, Paul Ruitenbeek discussed the early 17th-century import of Chinese porcelain where he showed how the problems of the Chinese internal market and porcelain production were in fact solved by the sudden export opportunities to Japan where the demand was huge due to the rise of the popularity of the tea ceremony.

- Ching-Ling Wang brought to life some of the complex interactions between Chinese and Japanese printmaking and painting in his presentation 'Stones from Other Hills: Artistic Intertwine of Print and Painting between China and Japan from 17th to 20th Century'. Most notable and surprising were his examples of Japanese prints and paintings that found direct imitation in China.

- The lectures will be posted on the SJA website by the secretary so that international members in particular can benefit from them.

The meeting ended with drinks, snacks and animated discussions.

The Secretary