

# SCHOLIUM

ANNUAL REPORT & FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
Year Ended 31 March 2017



# SUMMARY INFORMATION

Scholium is engaged in the business of rare books and art. Its primary operating subsidiary is Shapero Rare Books which is one of the leading UK dealers trading internationally in rare and antiquarian books and works on paper.

The group also trades alongside other third party dealers in the broader arts and collectibles business via its subsidiary, Scholium Trading.

## Operational Highlights

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- Stabilisation of core markets after Brexit
- Group turnaround to profitability in the second half of the financial year
- Significant cost cuts implemented to reduce the fixed cost base of the Group by the targeted £320,000 in the new financial year
- Improved trading in the first quarter of the new financial year

## Financial Highlights

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<b>Years Ended 31 March (all figures '000)</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2016</b>
Revenue	6,120	6,742
Gross Profit	2,250	2,376
Gross Margin	37%	35%
Adjusted Operating Profit <sup>1</sup>	(224)	24
Cash	970	1,309
NAV/Share	73.0p	74.6p

<sup>1</sup>Before exceptional costs

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# COMPANY INFORMATION

## Officers of the Company

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Jasper Allen	Chairman
Simon Southwood	Finance Director
Charles Sebag-Montefiore	Senior Independent Non-Executive
Philip Blackwell	Non-Executive
Thomas James Jennings CBE	Non-Executive
Graham Noble	Non-Executive
Amanda Bateman	Company Secretary

## Registered Office

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32 St George Street  
London W1S 2EA

## Solicitors

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Gordon Dadds LLP  
80 Brook Street  
London  
W1K 5DD

## Broker & Nominated Adviser

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W H Ireland  
24 Martin Lane  
London EC4R 0DR

## Registrars

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Capita Registrars Limited  
The Registry  
34 Beckenham Road  
Beckenham  
BR3 4TU

## Auditors

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Wenn Townsend  
30 Giles Street  
Oxford OX1 3LE

## Company Website

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<http://scholiumgroup.com/>

## Registration Number

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Registered in England and Wales with  
Number 08833975

# CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT

I am pleased to report that the business returned to profitability in the second half of the financial year, despite the setback caused by customers' hesitancy (experienced by all traders in this market) following the UK vote on EU membership in the first half of the year. The market in our core areas has stabilised, and the upward momentum seen in the second half of the financial year to 31 March 2017 has, I am delighted to report, continued into the beginning of the current financial year.

## Business Review

At the end of the 2015/16 financial year, the Group's ambition was to build on the profitability of the prior year. The second half of the 2016/17 financial year showed continued progress, but the loss in the first half of the year, caused by the effect of customer indecision following the UK referendum on EU Membership marred the year as a whole.

We have continued to attend major trade fairs as in previous years. Whilst many of these have been profitable, and particularly important for customer acquisition, in the coming year we have taken the decision to reduce the cost of certain major art fairs and reallocate this expenditure to fairs that

The Group remains well capitalised with strong stock, approximately £0.97 million in cash and no debt. Furthermore, the business is well placed in the current financial year to benefit from the cost savings we outlined in the interim report, as well as from the recent admission to the Antiquarian Booksellers' Association ("ABA") and the various international fairs that can now be accessed by the Group.

are now available to the group by virtue of the new membership of the ABA. We are also pleased with the results achieved generally through the circulation to customers of high quality catalogues.

Scholium Trading performed strongly in the year – it delivered a healthy contribution to the 2016/17 financial year, and we continue to see opportunities from dealers we have worked with in the past.

Revenue for the year of £6.1 million (2016: £6.7 million) generated an adjusted operating loss of £0.2 million (2016: profit of £0.02 million). Of particular note is the increase in revenue of 88% in the second half of the financial year as compared to the first half.

## Staff

As ever, our dedicated employees have contributed significantly to the restoration of operating profitability of the Group in the year and I would

like to take this opportunity of thanking them again for their hard work and effort in what has been a challenging year.

## Board Changes

Simon Southwood is stepping down from the board of the Company in August 2017 and his roles and responsibilities as Finance Director will be taken on by Peter Floyd in a part time capacity. We are

grateful for Simon's considerable assistance in recent years and wish him well in his new ventures; and we look forward to welcoming Peter to the board.

## Current Trading and Prospects

The start to the new financial year has been strong – the trend in trading from the second half has continued. Furthermore, the business remains well capitalised with high quality stock and, at the year end, had net assets of £9.9 million including £0.97 million of cash as at 31 March 2017, equivalent to 73.0p and 7.1p per ordinary share respectively.

The upward momentum seen in the second half of 2016/17, combined with the effect of the cost savings now fully implemented, mean that the Group is materially ahead of the equivalent position at the end of June 2016.

Whilst we have reduced the operating costs in the Modern & Contemporary division, we continue to maintain a presence in that market and continue to seek viable trading opportunities in Scholium Trading.



**Jasper Allen**

7 July 2017

# STRATEGIC REPORT

This report provides an overview of our strategy and of our business model; gives a review of the performance of the business and of our financial position at the year-end; and sets out the principal

risks to which the Group is exposed. In addition, it comments on the future prospects of the business.

## Principal Activities & Review of the Business

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The Group is engaged in the business of fine art and collectibles. It is typically engaged as a dealer – buying, owning and selling rare & collectible items objects for a profit. It does this on its own or alongside third party dealers in rare and collectible goods.

**Shapero Rare Books** is the core business of the Group. It is a leading international dealer in rare and collectible antiquarian books and works on paper with special expertise in Natural History, Russian and Travel books. It is also developing its Shapero Modern brand which deals in modern and

contemporary prints and editions by better-known artists who already have commercial success.

**Scholium Trading** is the trading arm of the Group. Based upon recognition that art dealers are often undercapitalised, it works alongside these dealers in the broader rare and collectibles market where they have the expertise and the clients, but not the capital, to trade in their markets.

The Group maintains value from ownership of its stock and generates value through its expertise, astute buying and the profitable sale of stock.

## Strategy & Key Objectives

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The Company is seeking to grow its businesses organically through reinvestment of profits in high quality stock. Our key objectives are to:

- Increase the profitable trade of Shapero Rare Books and Shapero Modern through increased sales, selective purchasing and management of the cost base;
- Develop Scholium Trading to be the 'first call' for dealers in high value rare and collectible

items seeking support in their trading items which exceed their immediate financial capacity; and

- Seek to expand the group by encouraging new teams – that have specialist expertise in their markets and are seeking a well-capitalised company from which to trade – to join Scholium.

## Review of the Year From Continuing Operations

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In keeping with the experience in the broader UK business environment, the business showed a marked upturn in its fortunes in the second half of 2016/17: revenue increased by 88% and gross profit increased by 49%, compared with the first half of the year; and the Group returned to profitability in that period.

The loss for the year is attributable to the weak first half associated with uncertainty around the UK referendum on EU membership.

Notwithstanding the stronger second half of the year, we took the view that the fixed cost base of the business was too high and we have taken significant steps to bring the cost base in line with the overall

performance of the Company. We have realigned employee incentives and sought to reduce costs not associated with revenue or necessary for governance and reporting requirements.

We have reduced the group's fixed cost base by approximately £320,000 on an annualized basis. This is after accounting for new fairs that the business will attend that are operated by or in association with the Antiquarian Booksellers' Association, which Shapero Rare Books has joined. We are also delighted to be exhibiting at Frieze Masters in 2017 which is the premier London art fair for livres d'artistes (artists' books) in which the Group deals.

**Group Performance for the 12 months ending 31 March 2017 analysed by Half Year**

<b>6 months ended (all figures £'000)</b>	<b>H1 (unaudited)</b>	<b>H2</b>	<b>Variance</b>
Revenue	2,127	3,993	88%
Gross Profit	903	1,347	49%
(Loss)/Profit Before Tax	-239	15	n/a

**Key Performance Indicators**

The Group is managed and reports on a number of Key Performance Indicators.

Our current principal KPIs are:

- Gross margin, EBITDA, earnings per share;
- The breadth and distribution of the stock of assets held by the Group (analysed by type, department, category, area of expertise and age);
- Stock turnover of assets and gross yield (again, analysed by type, etc.); and

- Various key risk indicators including capital resources, portfolio allocation and cash.

We do not report on all of these KPIs as they would create an overly long and complex document.

Where the performance of any book category does not meet expected returns, the business actively seeks to re-allocate capital to categories and/or interests that are more fashionable and saleable.

**Key Performance Indicators**

<b>Years Ended 31 March (all figures £'000)</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>Variance</b>
Revenue	6,120	6,742	-9.2%
Gross Profit	2,250	2,376	-5.3%
Gross Margin	37%	35%	+1.5%
Stock Turnover (months)	23.91	20.64	-15.8%
Gross Profit on stock	29%	32%	-3%

**Group Performance****Shapero Rare Books**

The books department had a difficult first half of 2016/17 due to the uncertainty immediately following the referendum. It was clear that customers, in particular international customers, were not prepared to commit to material purchases whilst the Referendum created uncertainty in UK markets. Fortunately, the consequent weakness in Sterling created significant opportunities for international buyers and the second half of the financial year saw a material strengthening in the book department's core markets. To put this in context, revenue for the book department increased from £1.9 million in the first half of the year to £3.3 million in the second half of the year and gross profit increased from £0.8 million to £1.2 million. The gross margin in the second half of the year reflects the normal operation of the

business.

Notwithstanding the improvement in performance in the second half of the year, the management of the department volunteered to reduce materially the fixed cost base of the Group. This has entailed reductions in the salaries of the senior management (and the introduction of appropriate incentive arrangements), withdrawal from non-performing art/collectibles fairs and reorganisation of the group's sales, marketing and PR strategy.

We are grateful to management for the consensual way this has been agreed and implemented. The cost savings were implemented as of 1 April 2017, and will be evident in the performance of the rare book department in the Group's next interim report.

### **Scholium Trading**

Scholium Trading performed strongly in the year – it continues to provide a very valuable contribution to Group performance. We find that partners are supportive of the offering – we are a sophisticated, discrete and relatively well capitalised dealer to trade alongside. The yield on average capital commitment through the year is approximately 42%; gross margin is volatile as

the structure of transactions changes from trade to trade. Gross profit for the year of £269K (2016: £204k) represents growth of 32% as compared to the prior year.

Group costs are not allocated to the trading division and, as such, this has not had any associated cost reductions.

### **Central Costs**

Central costs include the cost of all board members as well as the those associated with an AIM listing. These costs are normally fixed but may include discretionary costs associated with governance. The variance in central costs as compared to the prior year is the consequence of an independent

review of the business commissioned by the non-executive directors in the context of first half performance.

Consistent with the rest of the Group, central costs in the coming year will be reduced due to voluntary salary reductions by all the directors.

### **Year ending March 2017 (all figures £'000)**

	<b>Shapero Rare Books</b>	<b>Scholium Trading</b>	<b>Central</b>	<b>Consolidated</b>
Revenue	5,197	923	-	6,120
Gross Profit	1,981	269	-	2,250
Gross Margin	38%	29%	0%	37%
Adjusted Operating Profit	(69)	241	(397)	(225)

### **Year ending March 2016 (all figures £'000)**

	<b>Shapero Rare Books</b>	<b>Scholium Trading</b>	<b>Central</b>	<b>Consolidated</b>
Revenue	5,609	1,133	0	6,742
Gross Profit	2,172	204	0	2,376
Gross Margin	39%	18%	n/a	35%
Adjusted Operating Profit	192	188	(356)	24

### **Dividend**

The Board does not propose to declare a final dividend for the 2016/17 financial year.

### **Principal Risks & Uncertainties**

#### **Supply of antiquarian books and other items**

By definition, rare and antiquarian books and other works on paper are rare. The availability of fresh stock of such items is often driven by major life events, such as inheritance, unrecovered debt, divorce or downsizing due to economic malaise. The business of Shapero Rare Books is reliant upon individual works and collections of works coming

onto the market and upon the Group being able to access those business opportunities. There is no guarantee that fresh stock will come onto the market in sufficient quantities to meet the Group's plans for continued growth.



When works become available for sale or purchase, such sales are often dealt with privately and discretely and, accordingly, there is no guarantee that the Group's employees will be able to access

### ***Reliance on key international trade fairs***

A significant proportion of the Group's sales are made at international trade fairs, and in particular The European Fine Art Fair. If this fair were to be discontinued it would have a material effect on the ability of the Group to sell goods. There are a limited number of stands at international

### ***Competition***

The market in the books and other items in which the Group trades is competitive. In the market for antiquarian books and other items in which Shapero Rare Books trades, the Group faces various competitive pressures including from the major auctioneers, Sotheby's, Christie's and Bonhams, as well as smaller auctioneers and a large number of dealers and smaller operators.

The Group is likely to face continued and/or increased competition in the future both from

### ***Co-owned rare and collectible goods***

In the case of high value items or collections, the Group will often acquire the items jointly with another bookseller and if not expressly provided for there is a risk that the Group will not be able to sell the entire asset without the agreement of all joint-owners. In this and other respects the Group relies on the honesty and integrity of other dealers. Whilst the Group takes care to deal only with established counterparties and

### ***Stock valuation and liquidity***

The Group will trade in rare and collectible items, which may be highly illiquid. The value of goods acquired is difficult to assess and it may not be possible for management to sell the assets at or

### ***Theft, loss or damage***

Rare and collectible items are highly mobile goods. Furthermore such goods are frequently transported internationally for trade shows or other marketing opportunities. Whilst precautions are taken to

such business opportunities or to negotiate successfully the purchase of fresh stock coming onto the market.

trade fairs and as a result places are highly sought after. Whilst members of the Group have been exhibiting at these fairs for many years, there can be no certainty that it will continue to secure a place in the future.

established competitors and/or from new entrants to the market. The Group's competitors include businesses with greater financial and other resources than the Group. Such competitors may be in a better position than the Group to compete for future business opportunities. If the Group is unable to compete effectively in any of the markets in which it operates, it could lead to material adverse effect on the Group's business, financial condition, and operations.

experienced dealers who are well known to senior management and/or the Directors, there can be no guarantee that co-owners will comply with the agreed terms (including, for example not charging the items) or that such co-owners will not enter into administration or other insolvency procedure, and in the event there is a loss of the co-owned goods it is not certain that the Group could claim under its insurance policy in relation thereto.

above the price for which they were acquired. The value of assets in the balance sheet may not represent the actual resale value achievable.

ensure safe passage, the Group's assets may be lost, damaged or stolen. While the Group carries specialist insurance, there is no guarantee that the Group's insurance cover will be adequate in all

circumstances. Assets of the Group will be placed with third parties for sale on commission. While the Group intends to take appropriate precautions when placing assets with third parties, there is a

### ***Authenticity and export authority***

The Directors of the Company will ensure that due diligence is undertaken on the authenticity of the assets acquired for sale. Nonetheless fakes and forgeries do exist in the market and despite due diligence the Group may acquire these believing them to be authentic. Further, the attribution of works to a writer or artist is not always exact science, and there can be no guarantee that

### ***Insurance***

The Group carries a specialist insurance policy under the Antiquarian Booksellers Association Insurance Scheme which covers each of the businesses. The Directors believe that the Group carries appropriate insurance for a business of its size and nature but there can be no guarantee that the extent or value of the cover will be sufficient, in relation to stock in transit or on consignment. The Directors review the Group's insurance

### ***Premises***

Like many of the established dealers in the market, the Group has a publicly accessible gallery in Mayfair, London from where Shapero Rare Books

### ***Terms of sale***

To date, the contractual arrangements which the Group has entered into with clients, customers and other dealers have not always included (amongst other things) terms dealing specifically with

1. transfer of ownership and risk,
2. contract formation,
3. price and payment,
4. limitations and exclusions of liability, and
5. governing law and jurisdiction.

In light of the foregoing, there can be no guarantee that the Group's arrangements with its customers will not be terminated on short notice or that the Group will not at some future time face challenges

risk that these assets outside of the Group's direct control may be stolen or replaced by unscrupulous third parties with fakes or forgeries.

assets of the Group will not have been mistakenly attributed in this way. Lack of authenticity is not covered by the Group's insurance. Whilst the Group takes appropriate care when acquiring works which may be of material importance in the state of origin, there can be no guarantee that works acquired by the Group are not subject to restrictions on export or sale.

arrangements on an annual basis and endeavour to insure its stock adequately, but there is no certainty that future claims will not fall within the exclusions under the policy or that the insurer will pay out any claim if made. Further, there can be no guarantee that the necessary insurance will be available to the Group in the future at an acceptable cost or at all.

operates. The Directors believe that the location is highly desirable and an important factor in the success of the business as a whole.

or disputes in relation to the contractual or other arrangements with its clients.

If the Group became involved in a contractual dispute and/or a third party was successful in any contractual dispute with the Group, any resultant loss of revenues or exposure to litigation costs or other claims could have a material adverse effect on the Group's reputation, business, financial condition and/or operations or financial results. The Group has revised its standard terms of sale to seek to ensure that, going forward, the arrangements with clients, customers, dealers and others will include terms dealing with each of the aforementioned areas.

**Employees**

The Group is reliant on a small group of key employees for their knowledge and the reliance customers place on their integrity and service.

In the event that a key employee were to leave the business may suffer a short term decrease in performance whilst it adjusts.

**Currency risk**

The Directors anticipate that the Group will conduct certain of its transactions other than in Pounds Sterling, the Company's functional currency. As a result, movements in foreign exchange rates may impact the Group's performance. The Group does not contract any hedging arrangements in respect of currency positions.

**For and on behalf of the Board**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'SSM', is written over a light grey rectangular background.

**Simon Southwood**

Finance Director

7 July 2017

# DIRECTORS' REPORT

The Directors present their annual report and the audited financial statements for the period ended 31 March 2017.

## Results, Future Developments And Dividend

The results of the Group are discussed in the Strategic Report. Further details are shown in the consolidated statement of comprehensive income on page 16 and the related notes.

The directors intend to adopt a dividend policy that takes into account the Group's expected future profitability, underlying growth prospects, availability of cash and distributable reserves, and

the need for funding to support the development of the business.

The Directors' strategy and plans for the future development of the Group are set out in the Strategic Report on page 4.

The Board will not declare a final dividend for the 2016/17 financial year (2016: no dividend).

## Capital Structure

The Company has no outstanding options over the share capital of the Company to members of the Board and to certain current and ex-employees (2016: 352,000 ordinary shares). No new share options were issued in the year. See also Directors' interests below and notes 23 and 24.

The shares of the Company are admitted to trading on AIM, a market operated by the London Stock Exchange plc.

Each share carries the right to one vote at general meetings of the Company. The percentage of the issued nominal value of the ordinary shares is 100% of the total issued nominal value of all share capital. There are no specific restrictions on the size of a holding nor on the transfer of shares, which are both governed by the general provisions of the

articles of association and prevailing legislation. The directors are not aware of any agreements between holders of the Company's shares that may result in restrictions on the transfer of securities or on voting rights.

There are no current employee share schemes. No person has any special rights of control over the Company's share capital and all issued shares are fully paid. With regard to the appointment and replacement of directors, the Company is governed by its articles of association, the Companies Act 2006 and related legislation. The articles themselves may be amended by special resolution of the shareholders. The powers of directors are described in the main board terms of reference, copies of which are available on request and the corporate governance statement on page 14.

## Directors

*The Directors of the Company are:*

<b>Name</b>	<b>Function</b>
Jasper Allen <sup>123</sup>	Chairman
Simon Southwood	Finance Director
Charles Sebag-Montefiore <sup>13</sup>	Senior Independent Non-Executive Director
Philip Blackwell	Non-Executive Director
Thomas James Jennings CBE <sup>2</sup>	Non-Executive Director
Graham Noble <sup>123</sup>	Non-Executive Director

\*1 Member of the remuneration committee

\*2 Member of the nominations committee

\*3 Member of the audit committee

**Directors' interests in the Company**

<b>Director</b>	<b>Number of ordinary shares 2017</b>	<b>Percentage of issued share capital 2017</b>	<b>Number of ordinary shares 2016</b>	<b>Percentage of issued share capital 2016</b>
Jasper Allen	100,000	0.8	100,000	0.8
Philip Blackwell	1,983,466	14.6	1,983,466	14.6
Simon Southwood	20,000	0.1	20,000	0.1
Charles Sebag-Montefiore	40,000	0.3	40,000	0.3
Thomas James Jennings CBE	2,931,320	21.6	2,931,320	21.6
Graham Noble	-	-	-	-

As at the date of these financial statements the following options over the ordinary shares of the Company were held by the Directors (see also note 25):

<b>Director</b>	<b>Number of incentivisation share options 2017</b>	<b>Number of incentivisation share options 2016</b>
Jasper Allen	-	21,000
Philip Blackwell	-	73,000
Simon Southwood	-	21,000
Charles Sebag-Montefiore	-	-
Thomas James Jennings CBE	-	7,000
Graham Noble	-	7,000

**Directors' remuneration for the year to 31 March 2017:**

<b>Director</b>	<b>Salary/fees £</b>	<b>Benefits £</b>	<b>Bonus £</b>	<b>Total £</b>
Jasper Allen	70,000	2,388	-	72,388
Philip Blackwell	21,875	1,518	-	23,393
Simon Southwood	75,000	628	-	75,628
Charles Sebag-Montefiore	23,752	-	-	23,752
Thomas James Jennings CBE	21,875	-	-	21,875
Graham Noble	21,875	-	-	21,875
	234,377	4,534	-	238,911

**Directors' remuneration for the year to 31 March 2016:**

<b>Director</b>	<b>Salary/fees £</b>	<b>Benefits £</b>	<b>Bonus £</b>	<b>Total £</b>
Jasper Allen	69,167	1,414	0	70,581
Philip Blackwell	49,000	894	0	49,894
Simon Southwood	72,917	387	0	73,304
Charles Sebag-Montefiore	25,002	0	0	25,002
Thomas James Jennings CBE	25,000	0	0	25,000
Graham Noble	25,000	0	0	25,000
	266,086	2,695	-	268,781

## Political and Charitable Donations

The Group made no charitable donations in the year (2016: £1,150).

## Post-Balance Sheet Events

There have been no material events directly affecting the Group since the balance sheet date.

## Major Shareholders

Those shareholders with disclosable interests were as follows:

	<b>No. of Shares</b>	<b>% holding June 2016</b>	<b>Shares June 2015</b>	<b>% holding June 2015</b>
Thomas James (Shamus) Jennings CBE	2,931,320	21.55%	2,931,320	21.55%
Livingbridge (formerly ISIS EP LLP)	2,000,000	14.71%	2,000,000	14.71%
Philip Blackwell	1,983,466	14.58%	1,983,466	14.58%
Bateman Street Investments LLP	1,495,574	11.00%	1,495,574	11.00%
City Asset Management	-	0%	554,842	4.08%
Peter Gyllenhammar	741,336	5.45%	-	0%

## Auditor

In the case of each person who was a Director at the time this report was approved:

- so far as he was aware, there was no relevant available information of which the Company's auditor is unaware: and
  - that Director has taken all steps that he ought to have taken as a Director to make himself aware of any relevant audit information and
- to establish that the Company's auditor was aware of that information.
- A resolution to reappoint Wenn Townsend as auditor to the Company will be proposed at the forthcoming Annual General Meeting.

## Internal Financial Control

The Directors recognise the importance of corporate governance and have introduced procedures to enable the Company to comply with the provisions of the "Corporate Governance Code for Small and Mid-Sized Quoted Companies 2013" published by the Quoted Companies Alliance.

The Board is responsible for formulating, reviewing and approving the Company's strategy, budgets and corporate actions. The Board holds meetings at least 8 times each financial year, and at any other times as and when required.

The Company has established properly constituted audit, remuneration and nomination committees of the Board with formally delegated duties and responsibilities.

The audit committee has primary responsibility for monitoring the quality of internal controls ensuring that the financial performance of the

Company is properly measured and reported on. It receives and review reports from the Company's management and auditors relating to the interim and annual accounts and the accounting and internal control systems in use throughout the Company. The audit committee meets no less than three times each financial year and has unrestricted access to the Company's auditors. The audit committee comprises Charles Sebag-Montefiore (as Chairman), Jasper Allen and Graham Noble.

The remuneration committee reviews the performance of executive Directors and makes recommendations to the Board on matters relating to their remuneration and terms of employment. The committee also makes recommendations to the Board on proposals for the granting of share options and other equity incentives pursuant to any share option scheme or equity incentive scheme in operation at the time. The remuneration

committee comprises Jasper Allen (as Chairman), Graham Noble and Charles Sebag-Montefiore.

The nomination committee meets whenever there is business to discuss. The committee will consider appointments to the Board and be responsible for nominating candidates to fill Board vacancies and for making recommendations on

Board composition. The nomination committee comprises Graham Noble (as Chairman), Thomas James Jennings CBE and Jasper Allen.

The directors' attendance at scheduled Board meetings and Board committees during the financial year is detailed in the table below:

<b>Director</b>	<b>Board meeting</b>	<b>Audit Committee Meeting</b>	<b>Remuneration Committee meeting</b>
Jasper Allen	8	2	2
Philip Blackwell	7	2	-
Shamus Jennings	8	-	-
Graham Noble	8	0	2
Charles Sebag-Montefiore	8	-	2
Simon Southwood	8	2	-
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>2<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>2</b>

<sup>2</sup>In attendance

## Annual General Meeting

Notice of the Annual General Meeting of the Company for 2017 is on page 42.

### On behalf of the Board



**Simon Southwood**

Director

7 July 2017

# STATEMENT OF DIRECTORS' RESPONSIBILITIES

The Directors are responsible for preparing the Directors' report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and regulations.

Company law requires the Directors to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under that law the Directors have elected to prepare the Group financial statements in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards as adopted by the European Union and have also elected to prepare the parent company financial statements in accordance with those standards. Under company law, the Directors must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Group and Company and of the profit or loss of the Group and Company for that period. The Directors are also required to prepare financial statements in accordance with the rules of the London Stock Exchange for companies trading securities on the Alternative Investment Market. In preparing these financial statements the Directors are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether the financial statements have been prepared in accordance with IFRSs as adopted by the European Union; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to assume that the Company and the Group will continue in business.

The Directors are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the Company's and Group's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Company and the Group and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006.

They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Company and the Group and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The Directors are responsible for ensuring that the Annual Report and Financial Statements are made available on a website.

The Directors are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the Company's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of the financial statements and other information included in annual reports may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions. The Directors' responsibility also extends to ongoing integrity of the financial statements contained therein.

The directors are responsible for preparing the annual report in accordance with applicable law and regulations. The directors consider the annual report and the financial statements, taken as a whole, provide the information necessary to assess the company's performance, business model and strategy and are fair, balanced and understandable.

To the best of our knowledge:

- the group financial statements, prepared in accordance with IFRSs as adopted by the European Union, give a true and fair view of the assets, liabilities, financial position and profit or loss of the company and the undertakings included in the consolidation taken as a whole; and
- the Strategic Report and Directors' Report include a fair review of the development and performance of the business and the position of the company and the undertakings included in the consolidation taken as a whole, together with a description of the principal risks and uncertainties that they face.

**On behalf of the Board**



**Simon Southwood**

Director

7 July 2017



# INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF SCHOLIUM GROUP PLC

We have audited the financial statements of Scholium Group Plc for the year ended 31 March 2017 which comprise the consolidated statement of comprehensive income, the consolidated statement of financial position, the consolidated statement of changes in equity, the consolidated statement of cash flows, the Company statement of financial position, the Company statement of changes in equity, the Company statement of cash flows and the related notes. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRSs) as adopted by the European Union and, as regards the parent company financial statements, as applied in accordance with the provisions of the Companies Act 2006.

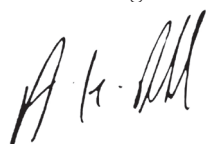
This report is made solely to the Company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the Company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the Company and the Company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

## ***Respective responsibilities of Directors and Auditors***

As explained more fully in the Directors' Responsibilities Statement, the Directors are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view. Our responsibility is to audit and express an opinion on the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland). Those standards require us to comply with the Auditing Practices Board's Ethical Standards for Auditors.

## ***Scope of the audit of the financial statements***

A description of the scope of an audit of financial statements is provided on the FRC's website at [www.frc.org.uk/auditscopeukprivate](http://www.frc.org.uk/auditscopeukprivate).



Ajay Bahl BA FCA (Senior statutory auditor)

For and on behalf of Wenn Townsend Chartered Accountants (Statutory auditor)

Date: 7 July 2017

## ***Opinion on financial statements***

In our opinion:

- the financial statements give a true and fair view of the state of the Group's and the parent Company's affairs as at 31 March 2017 and of the Group's loss for the year then ended;
- the Group financial statements have been properly prepared in accordance with IFRSs as adopted by the European Union;
- the parent Company financial statements have been properly prepared in accordance with IFRSs as adopted by the European Union and as applied in accordance with the provisions of the Companies Act 2006; and
- the financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

## ***Opinion on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006***

In our opinion the information given in the strategic report and Directors' report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements.

## ***Matters on which we are required to report by exception***

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters where the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept by the parent company, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the parent company financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of Directors' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

# CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

		Year ended 31 Mar 2017 £000	Year ended 31 Mar 2016 £000
	Note		
<b>Revenue</b>	5	6,120	6,742
Cost of Sales		(3,870)	(4,366)
<b>Gross profit</b>		<u>2,250</u>	<u>2,376</u>
Distribution expenses		-	-
		<u>(427)</u>	<u>(345)</u>
Administrative expenses		(2,048)	(2,007)
<i>Exceptional items:</i>			
Loss of office	11	-	(24)
<b>Total administrative expenses</b>		<u>(2,048)</u>	<u>(2,031)</u>
Profit/(Loss) from operations		(225)	(0)
Exceptional Items		-	24
Adjusted Operating Profit		(225)	24
<b>Profit/(Loss) from operations</b>		(225)	(0)
Financial income	12	1	2
Financial expenses	13	-	(5)
<b>Profit/(loss) before taxation</b>		<u>(224)</u>	<u>(3)</u>
Income tax credit/(expense)	14	-	(3)
<b>Profit/(Loss) for the year from continuing operations</b>		(224)	(6)
<b>Discontinued operations</b>			
Profit/(loss) on sale of discontinued operations		-	(10)
<b>Profit/(Loss) for the year and total comprehensive income attributable to equity holders of the parent company</b>		<u>(224)</u>	<u>(16)</u>
<b>Basic and diluted loss per share:</b>			
From continued operations - pence	15	(1.66)	(0.05)
From discontinued operations - pence		-	(0.07)
<b>Total Diluted (loss)/profit per share - pence</b>		<u>(1.66)</u>	<u>(0.12)</u>

The notes on pages 23 to 41 form part of these financial statements.

# CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

		31 Mar 2017 £000	31 Mar 2016 £000
<b>Assets</b>			
<b>Non-current assets</b>			
Property, plant and equipment	16	55	92
Deferred corporation tax asset	18	277	277
		<u>332</u>	<u>369</u>
<b>Current assets</b>			
Inventories	19	7,873	7,550
Trade and other receivables	20	2,050	2,034
Cash and cash equivalents		970	1,309
		<u>10,893</u>	<u>10,893</u>
<b>Total assets</b>		<u>11,225</u>	<u>11,262</u>
<b>Current liabilities</b>			
Trade and other payables	22	1,302	1,115
Total current liabilities		<u>1,302</u>	<u>1,115</u>
<b>Total liabilities</b>		<u>1,302</u>	<u>1,115</u>
<b>Net assets/liabilities</b>		<u>9,923</u>	<u>10,147</u>
<b>Equity and liabilities</b>			
<b>Equity attributable to owners of the parent</b>			
Ordinary shares	23	136	136
Share Premium		9,516	9,516
Merger reserve		82	82
Retained earnings/(deficit)		189	413
<b>Total equity</b>		<u>9,923</u>	<u>10,147</u>

The notes on pages 23 to 41 form part of these financial statements.

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Directors and authorised for issue on 7 July 2017.



**Simon Southwood**

Director

# CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY

	Share Capital £000	Share Premium £000	Merger reserve £000	Retained deficit £000	Total equity £000	Total equity £000
<b>Balance at 1 Apr 2014</b>	132	9,458	82	1,109	10,781	10,781
Loss for the year from continued and discontinued operations	-	-	-	(476)	(476)	(476)
<b>Total comprehensive income for the period</b>	-	-	-	(476)	(476)	(476)
Shares issued in the period	4	58	-	-	62	62
Dividends paid	-	-	-	(204)	(204)	(204)
<b>Balance at 31 Mar 2015</b>	136	9,516	82	429	10,163	10,163
Loss for the year from continued and discontinued operations	-	-	-	(16)	(16)	(16)
<b>Total comprehensive income for the period</b>	-	-	-	(16)	(16)	(16)
<b>Balance at 31 March 2016</b>	136	9,516	82	413	10,147	10,147
Loss for the year from continued and discontinued operations	-	-	-	(224)	(224)	(224)
<b>Total comprehensive income for the period</b>	-	-	-	(224)	(224)	(224)
<b>Balance at 31 March 2017</b>	136	9,516	82	189	9,923	9,923

There were no transactions with owners in the year.  
The following describes the nature and purpose of each reserve within owners' equity:

**Share capital**

Amount subscribed for shares at nominal value.

Amount subscribed for share capital in excess of nominal value less attributable share-issue expenses

**Share premium**

Amounts attributable to equity in respect of merged subsidiary undertakings.

**Merger reserve.**

Cumulative profit/(loss) of the Group attributable to equity shareholders

**Retained earnings/(deficit).**

The notes on pages 23 to 41 form part of these financial statements.

# CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

	<b>31 Mar 2017 £000</b>	<b>31 Mar 2016 £000</b>
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>		
(Loss)/profit before tax	(224)	(16)
Depreciation of property, plant and equipment	27	31
Reclassification of Fixed Assets	19	-
Profit/(loss) on disposal of discontinued operation	-	(8)
	<u>(178)</u>	<u>7</u>
Decrease/(increase) in inventories	(323)	(79)
Decrease/(increase) in trade and other receivables	(16)	(337)
Increase/(decrease) in trade and other payables	186	(514)
Increase/(decrease) in trade and other payables from discontinued operations		
	<u>(331)</u>	<u>(923)</u>
<b>Cash flows from investing activities</b>		
Purchase of property, plant and equipment	(8)	(31)
Disposal of discontinued operation	-	146
	<u>(8)</u>	<u>115</u>
<b>Cash flows from financing activities</b>		
Interest paid	-	(5)
	-	(5)
<b>Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents</b>	<b>(339)</b>	<b>(812)</b>
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year</b>	<b>1,309</b>	<b>2,122</b>
	<u><b>970</b></u>	<u><b>1,309</b></u>

The notes on pages 23 to 41 form part of these financial statements.

# COMPANY STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

	Note	31 Mar 2017 £000	31 Mar 2016 £000
<b>Assets</b>			
<b>Non-current assets</b>			
Group Investments	17	5,200	5,200
Deferred Tax Asset		62	
		<u>5,262</u>	<u>5,200</u>
<b>Current assets</b>			
Trade and other receivables	20	6,524	6,322
Cash and cash equivalents		452	913
		<u>6,976</u>	<u>7,235</u>
<b>Total assets</b>		<u><u>12,238</u></u>	<u><u>12,435</u></u>
<b>Current liabilities</b>			
Trade and other payables	22	78	91
<b>Total current liabilities</b>		<u>78</u>	<u>91</u>
<b>Total liabilities</b>		<u>78</u>	<u>91</u>
<b>Net assets/liabilities</b>		<u><u>12,160</u></u>	<u><u>12,344</u></u>
<b>Equity and liabilities</b>			
<b>Equity attributable to owners of the parent</b>			
Ordinary shares	23	136	136
Share Premium		9,516	9,516
Merger reserve		2,809	2,809
Retained earnings/(deficit)		(301)	(117)
<b>Total equity</b>		<u><u>12,160</u></u>	<u><u>12,344</u></u>

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Directors and authorised for issue on 7 July 2017.



**Simon Southwood**  
Director

The notes on pages 23 to 41 form part of these financial statements.

# STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN COMPANY EQUITY

	Share Capital £	Share Premium £000	Merger reserve £000	Retained deficit £000	Total equity £000
<b>Balance at 1 Apr 2014</b>	132	9,458	2,809	165	12,564
Profit for the year	-	-	-	191	191
<b>Total comprehensive income for the period</b>	-	-	-	191	191
Shares issued in the period	4	58	-	-	62
Dividends paid	-	-	-	(204)	(204)
<b>Balance at 31 March 2015</b>	<b>136</b>	<b>9,516</b>	<b>2,809</b>	<b>152</b>	<b>12,613</b>
Loss for the year	-	-	-	(269)	(269)
<b>Total comprehensive income for the period</b>	-	-	-	(269)	(269)
<b>Balance at 31 March 2016</b>	<b>136</b>	<b>9,516</b>	<b>2,809</b>	<b>(117)</b>	<b>12,344</b>
Loss for the year	-	-	-	(184)	(184)
<b>Total comprehensive income for the period</b>	-	-	-	(184)	(184)
<b>Balance at 31 March 2017</b>	<b>136</b>	<b>9,516</b>	<b>2,809</b>	<b>(301)</b>	<b>12,160</b>

The following describes the nature and purpose of each reserve within owners' equity:

<b>Share capital</b>	Amount subscribed for shares at nominal value.
<b>Share premium</b>	Amount subscribed for share capital in excess of nominal value less attributable share-issue expenses.
<b>Merger reserve</b>	Amounts attributable to equity in respect of merged subsidiary undertakings.
<b>Retained earnings/(deficit)</b>	Cumulative profit/(loss) of the Group attributable to equity shareholders.

The notes on pages 23 to 41 form part of these financial statements.

# COMPANY CASHFLOW

	<b>31 Mar 2017 £000</b>	<b>31 Mar 2016 £000</b>
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>		
(Loss)/profit before tax	(246)	(269)
	<u>(246)</u>	<u>(269)</u>
Decrease/(increase) in trade and other receivables	(202)	(795)
Increase/(decrease) in trade and other payables	(13)	12
	<u>(461)</u>	<u>(1,052)</u>
<b>Net cash generated from operating activities</b>		
Cash flows from investing activities		
Interest received	(0)	(0)
	<u>(0)</u>	<u>(0)</u>
<b>Net cash used in investing activities</b>		
<b>Cash flows from financing activities</b>		
Interest paid	-	0
	<u>-</u>	<u>0</u>
<b>Net cash (used)/generated from financing activities</b>		
<b>Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents</b>	<b>(461)</b>	<b>(1,052)</b>
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year</b>	<b>913</b>	<b>1,965</b>
	<u>452</u>	<u>913</u>
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year</b>		

The notes on pages 23 to 41 form part of these financial statements.



# NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

## 1 General Information

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Scholium Group plc and its subsidiaries (together 'the Group') are engaged in the trading and retailing of rare and antiquarian books and works on paper primarily in the United Kingdom. The Company is a public company domiciled and incorporated in England and Wales (registered number 08833975). The address of its registered office is 32 St George Street, London W1S 2EA.

## 2 Basis of Preparation and Accounting Policies

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The consolidated financial information, which represents the results of the Company and its subsidiaries, has been prepared in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards and IFRIC Interpretations issued by the International Accounting Standards Board (together "IFRSs") as adopted by the European Union (EU) and as applied in accordance with the provisions of the Companies Act 2006. The Company financial statements have been also been prepared in accordance with IFRSs.

The consolidated and Company financial statements have been prepared on an historic cost basis.

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with IFRSs requires the use of certain accounting estimates. It also requires management to exercise its judgement in the process of applying the Group's accounting policies. The areas involving a higher degree of judgement or complexity, or areas where assumptions and estimates are significant to the consolidated financial statements are disclosed in note 3 below.

The functional and presentational currency of the Group and the Company is pounds sterling. The financial information is shown to the nearest £1,000.

The principal accounting policies applied by the Group in the preparation of these consolidated financial statements for the years ended 31 March 2016 and 31 March 2017 are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all periods presented.

### ***Going concern***

The directors report that, based on the Group's budgets and financial projections to 31 March 2018, they have satisfied themselves that the business is a going concern.

### ***Companies Act s408 exemption***

The Company has taken advantage of the exemptions allowed under section 408 of the Companies Act 2006 and has not presented its own statement of comprehensive income in these financial statements. The Group loss for the year included a loss on ordinary activities after tax of £184,000 for the Company (2016: a loss on ordinary activities after tax of £269,000).

IFRS in issue but not yet applied in the current financial statements

The IASB and IFRIC have issued the following standards and interpretations with an effective date for periods starting on or after the date on which these financial statements start. IFRS 15 Revenue from Contracts with Customers (effective 1 January 2018)

- IFRS 9 Financial Instruments (2014) (effective 1 January 2018)
- IFRS 15 Revenue from Contracts with Customers (effective 1 January 2018)
- IFRS 16 Leases (effective 1 January 2019)
- Amendments to IAS 12: Recognition of Deferred Tax Assets for Unrealised Losses (effective 1 January 2017)

## NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

- Disclosure Initiative: Amendments to IAS 7 Statement of Cash Flows (effective 1 January 2017)
- Annual Improvements to IFRS 2014-2016 Cycle (effective 1 January 2017)
- IFRIC 22 Foreign Currency Transactions and Advance Consideration (effective 1 January 2018)
- Amendments to IFRS 2: Classification and Measurement of Share-based Payment Transactions (effective 1 January 2018)
- Amendments to IFRS 4: Applying IFRS 9 'Financial Instruments' with IFRS 4 'Insurance Contracts' (effective 1 January 2018)
- Amendments to IAS 40: Transfers of Investment Property (effective 1 January 2018)

The Directors expect that the adoption of the Standards and Interpretations listed below will have a limited impact on the financial statements of the Group in future periods:

IFRS 9 'Financial Instruments' (effective date for accounting periods from 1 January 2018). This standard has not yet been endorsed for use in the EU. IFRS 9 addresses the classification, measurement and derecognition of financial assets and financial liabilities. While the Group has not yet performed a detailed assessment of the classification, measurement and derecognition effects it is not currently expected to have a material impact on the Group.

IFRS 15 'Revenue from contracts with Customers' (effective date for accounting periods from 1 January 2018). The new standard is based on the principle that revenue is recognised when control of a good or service is transferred to a customer. The Group has not yet performed a detailed assessment of recognition effects it and has amended its terms of trade to ensure that no material impact on the Group is expected [current;y under review].

IFRS 16: Leases (effective date for accounting periods from 1 January 2019). This standard has not yet been endorsed for use in the EU. IFRS 16 will result in almost all leases being recognised on the balance sheet, as the distinction between operating and finance leases is removed. Under the new standard as asset (the right to use the leased item or property) and a financial liability to pay rentals are recognised. The only exceptions are short-term and low-value leases. The adoption of this standard is expected to have a material impact on the Group with a new asset for the right to use the Groups premises and a corresponding liability to pay rentals. The effect is currently being evaluated.

There are no other standards that are not yet effective that would be expected to have a material impact on the Group and Company in the current or future reporting periods and on foreseeable future transactions.

### ***Basis of consolidation***

Where the Group has power, either directly or indirectly, to govern the financial and operating policies of an entity so as to obtain benefits from its activities, it is classified as a subsidiary. The statement of financial position at 31 March 2016 incorporates the results of all subsidiaries of the Group for all years and periods, as set out in the basis of preparation.

### ***Capital reorganisation and the merger reserve***

On 7 January 2014 the Company was formed to become the new holding company for the Group. This was put into effect on 20 March 2014 through a share-for-share exchange of one ordinary share of £0.01 in Scholium Group plc for one ordinary share of £0.01 in Shapero Rare Books Limited (formerly Bookbank Limited). The value of one share in the Company was equivalent to the value of one share in Shapero Rare Books Limited.

## NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

The accounting treatment for group reorganisations is scoped out of IFRS3. Accordingly, as required under IAS8 Accounting Policies, Changes in Accounting Estimates and Errors the Group referred to current UK GAAP to assist its judgement in identifying a suitable accounting policy. The introduction of the new holding company was accounted for as a capital reorganisation using the merger accounting principles prescribed under current UK GAAP. Therefore the consolidated financial statements of Scholium Group plc are presented as if Scholium Group plc has always been the holding company for the Group. Share capital in the Company issued on the date of the reorganisation for the purposes of the merger is treated as if already issued in the earliest year presented.

The use of merger accounting principles has resulted in a balance on Group capital and reserves which has been classified as a merger reserve and included in the Group's shareholders' funds. The consolidated financial statements include the results of the Company and all its subsidiary undertakings made up to the same accounting date.

The Company recognised the value of its investment in Shapero Rare Books Limited (formerly Bookbank Limited) at fair-value based upon the initial share placing price on admission to AIM. This was a Level 2 valuation within the fair-value hierarchy. As permitted by S612 of the Companies Act 2006 the amount attributable to share premium has been transferred to the merger reserve.

### ***Revenue Recognition***

Revenue for the Group is measured at the fair value of the consideration received or receivable. The Group recognises revenue for services provided when the amount of revenue can be reliably measured and it is probable that future economic benefits will flow to the entity.

The Group's revenues from the sale of rare and antiquarian books and works on paper are recognised on completion of the relevant transaction and where the right to consideration has been obtained. The Group's commissions and other revenues are recognised when all performance conditions have been satisfied.

### ***Retirement Benefits: Defined contribution schemes***

Contributions to defined contribution schemes are charged to the consolidated statement of comprehensive income in the year to which they relate.

### ***Property, plant and equipment***

Items of property, plant and equipment are initially recognised at cost. As well as the purchase price, cost includes directly attributable costs.

Depreciation is provided on all items of property, plant and equipment so as to write off their carrying value over the expected useful economic lives. It is provided at the following rates:

Bibliography	– 15% on cost per annum
Plant and machinery	– 15% to 33% on cost per annum
Fixtures and fittings	– 15% to 33% on cost per annum
Motor vehicles	– 25% on cost per annum

### ***Inventories***

Inventories are valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value. Cost incurred in bringing each product to its present location and condition is accounted for as follows:

Finished goods – purchase cost on a first-in, first-out basis.

Net realisable value is the estimated selling price in the ordinary course of business.

### ***Loans and receivables***

These assets are non-derivative financial assets with fixed or determinable payments that are not quoted in an active market. They arise principally through the provision of services to customers (e.g. trade receivables), but also incorporate other types of contractual monetary asset. They are initially recognised at fair value plus transactions costs that are directly attributable to their acquisition or issue, and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest rate method, less provision for impairment.

Impairment provisions are recognised when there is objective evidence (such as significant financial difficulties on the part of the counterparty or default or significant delay in payment) that the Group will be unable to collect all of the amounts due under the terms receivable, the amount of such a provision being the difference between the net carrying amount and the present value of the future expected cash flows associated with the impaired receivable.

### ***Cash and cash equivalents***

Cash and cash equivalents comprise cash.

### ***Financial liabilities***

All financial liabilities are recognised initially at fair value and subsequently at amortised cost unless these liabilities are derivative financial instruments which come within the scope of IAS39.

### ***Derivative financial instruments***

Derivative financial instruments within the scope of IAS 39 are classified as financial assets or liabilities at fair-value through the income statement. Changes to fair value are through the income statement. All derivative financial instruments are recognised initially at fair value. The subsequent measurement of derivative financial instruments is also at fair-value. Financial assets at fair value through profit and loss are carried in the statement of financial position at fair value with net changes in fair value recognised in finance costs in the income statement.

### ***Fair Value Hierarchy***

All financial instruments measured at fair value must be classified into one of the levels below:

- Level 1: Quoted prices, in active markets
- Level 2: Level 1 quoted prices are not allowable but fair value is based on observable market data.
- Level 3: Inputs that are not based on observable market data.

### ***Share Capital***

Financial instruments issued by the Group are treated as equity only to the extent that they do not meet the definition of a financial liability. The Group's ordinary shares are classified as equity instruments.

### ***Leased Assets***

Where substantially all of the risks and rewards incidental to ownership are not transferred to the Group (an 'operating lease'), the total rentals payable under the lease are charged to the consolidated statement of comprehensive income on a straight line basis over the lease term. The aggregate benefit of lease incentives is recognised as a reduction of the rental expense over the lease term.

Finance leases, which transfer to the Group substantially all the risks and benefits incidental to ownership of the leased item, are capitalised at the inception of the lease at the fair value of the leased property or, if lower, at the present value of the minimum lease payments. Lease payments are apportioned between the finance charges and reduction of the lease liability so as to achieve a constant rate of interest on the remaining balance of the liability. Finance charges are reflected in profit or loss.

### ***Deferred taxation***

Deferred tax assets and liabilities are recognised where the carrying amount of an asset or liability in the consolidated statement of financial position differs from its tax base, except for differences arising on:

- the initial recognition of goodwill;
- the initial recognition of an asset or liability in a transaction which is not a business combination and at the time of the transaction affects neither accounting or taxable profit; and
- investments in subsidiaries and jointly controlled entities where the Group is able to control the timing of the reversal of the difference and it is probable that the difference will not reverse in the foreseeable future.

Recognition of deferred tax assets is restricted to those instances where it is probable that taxable profit will be available against which the difference can be utilised.

The amount of the asset or liability is determined using tax rates that have been enacted or substantively enacted by the reporting date and are expected to apply when the deferred tax liabilities or assets are settled or recovered. Deferred tax balances are not discounted.

Deferred tax assets and liabilities are offset when the Group has a legally enforceable right to offset current tax assets and liabilities and the deferred tax assets and liabilities relate to taxes levied by the same tax authority on either:

- the same taxable group company; or
- different company entities which intend either to settle current tax assets and liabilities on a net basis, or to realise the assets and settle the liabilities simultaneously, in each future period in which significant amounts of deferred tax assets and liabilities are expected to be settled or recovered.

### ***Share-based payments***

Certain employees (including Directors and senior executives) of the Group receive remuneration in the form of share-based payment transactions, whereby employees render services as consideration for equity instruments ('equity-settled transactions').

The cost of equity-settled transactions with employees is measured by reference to the fair value at the date on which they are granted. The fair value is determined by using an appropriate pricing model.

The cost of equity-settled transactions is recognised, together with a corresponding increase in equity, over the period in which the performance and/or service conditions are fulfilled, ending on the date on which the relevant employees become fully entitled to the award ('the vesting date'). The cumulative expense recognised for equity-settled transactions at each reporting date until the vesting date reflects the extent to which the vesting period has expired and the Group's best estimate of the number of equity instruments that will ultimately vest. The profit or loss charge or credit for a period represents the movement in cumulative expense recognised as at the beginning and end of that period.

No expense is recognised for awards that do not ultimately vest, except for awards where vesting is conditional upon a market condition, which are treated as vesting irrespective of whether or not the market condition is satisfied, provided that all other performance and/or service conditions are satisfied. Where the terms of an equity-settled award are modified, the minimum expense recognised is the expense as if the terms had not been modified. An additional expense is recognised for any modification, which increases the total fair value of the share-based payment arrangement, or is otherwise beneficial to the employee as measured at the date of modification.

Where an equity-settled award is cancelled, it is treated as if it had vested on the date of cancellation, and any expense not yet recognised for the award is recognised immediately. However, if a new award is substituted for the cancelled award, and designated as a replacement award on the date that it is granted, the cancelled and new awards are treated as if they were a modification of the original award, as described in the previous paragraph. The dilutive effect of outstanding options is reflected as additional share dilution in the computation of earnings per share.

### ***Foreign currency***

The individual financial statements of each Group entity are presented in the currency of the primary economic environment in which the entity operates (its functional currency) which is pounds sterling for each entity within the Group. For the purpose of the consolidated financial statements, the results and financial position of each entity within the Group are expressed in pound sterling which is the presentation currency for the Group and Company financial statements. The functional currency of the Company is pound sterling.

In preparing the financial statements of the individual entities, transactions in currencies other than the entity's functional currency (foreign currencies) are recorded at the rates of exchange prevailing on the dates of the transactions. At each balance sheet date, monetary items denominated in foreign currencies are retranslated at the rates prevailing at the balance sheet date.

Exchange differences arising on the settlements of monetary items and on the retranslation of monetary items are included in the income statement for the period.

### ***Operating Segments***

The Board considers that the Group's project activity constitutes one operating and one reporting segment, as defined under IFRS 8.

The total profit measures are operating profit and profit for the year, both disclosed on the face of the consolidated income statement. No differences exist between the basis of preparation of the performance measures used by management and the figures in the Group financial information.

All of the revenues generated relate to the trading and retailing of rare and antiquarian books and works on paper, other quality books, ancillary income including commission receivable and from the repair of books. An analysis of revenues appears in note 5 below. All revenues are wholly generated within the UK. Accordingly there are no additional disclosures provided to the financial information.

### ***Operating profit and loss***

Operating profit and loss comprises revenues less operating costs. Operating costs comprise adjustments for changes in inventories, employee costs including share-based payments, amortisation, depreciation and impairment and other operating expenses.

### ***Expenditure***

Expenditure is recognised in respect of goods and services received when supplied in accordance with contractual terms. Provision is made when an obligation exists for a future liability relating to a past event and where the amount of the obligation can be reasonably estimated.

### ***Exceptional items of expense***

Exceptional items of expense are administrative costs which are large or unusual in nature and are not expected to recur on a regular basis.

## **3 Critical Accounting Estimates and Judgements**

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The Group makes certain estimates and assumptions regarding the future.

The significant estimates or judgements made by the Group include the valuation of its inventories, and the valuation of share-based payment expenses.

The value of the Group's inventory of rare and antiquarian books and works on paper may vary with market conditions and judgement is required in assessing the effect on the carrying values of related expenditure.

The valuation of the Group's share-option incentive plans requires the use of valuation techniques and assumptions including volatility, market interest rates and the future performance of the Company's share price.

Estimates and judgements are continually evaluated based on historical experience and other factors, including the expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances. In the future, actual experience may differ from these estimates and assumptions.

## **4 Financial Instruments – Risk Management**

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The Board has overall responsibility for the determination of the Group's risk management objectives and policies. The overall objective of the Board is to set policies that seek to reduce risk as far as possible without unduly affecting the Group's competitiveness and flexibility. The Group does not use derivative financial instruments such as forward currency contracts, interest rate swaps or similar instruments. The Group does not issue or use financial instruments of a speculative nature.

### ***The Group is exposed to the following financial risks:***

Credit risk

Liquidity risk

Market interest rate risk

To the extent financial instruments are not carried at fair value in the consolidated statement of financial position, book value approximates to fair value at 31 March 2017, 31 March 2016 and 31 March 2015.

Trade and other receivables are measured at book value and amortised cost. Book values and expected cash flows are reviewed by the Board and any impairment charged to the consolidated statement of comprehensive income in the relevant period.

Cash and cash equivalents are held in sterling and placed on deposit in UK banks.

Trade and other payables are measured at book value and amortised cost.

***Credit risk***

Credit risk is the risk of financial loss to the Group if a customer or counterparty to a financial instrument fails to meet its contractual obligations. The Group is mainly exposed to credit risk from credit sales. At 31 March 2017 the Group has trade receivables of £1,779,000 (2016:£ 1,577,000).

The Group is exposed to credit risk in respect of these balances such that, if one or more the customers encounter's financial difficulties, this could materially and adversely affect the Group's financial results. The Group attempts to mitigate credit risk by assessing the credit rating of new customers prior to entering into contracts and by entering contracts with customers with agreed credit terms.

***Liquidity risk***

Liquidity risk arises from the Group's management of working capital. It is the risk that the Group will encounter difficulty in meeting its financial obligations as they fall due. The Group's policy is to ensure that it will always have sufficient cash to allow it to meet its liabilities when they become due. To achieve this aim, it seeks to maintain cash balances to meet its expected cash requirements.

***Market interest rate risk***

Market interest rate risk arises in respect of its cash balances held pending investment in the growth of the Group's operations. The effect of interest rate changes in the Group's interest-bearing assets and liabilities and the re-pricing of its interest-bearing liabilities are set out in note 21.

***Capital Management***

The Group's capital is made up of share capital, share premium, merger reserve and retained earnings totalling £9.923 million (31 March 2016: £10.147 million).

The Group's objectives when maintaining capital are:

- To safeguard the entity's ability to continue as a going concern, so that it can continue to provide returns for shareholders and benefits for other stakeholders; and
- To provide an adequate return to shareholders by pricing products and services commensurately with the level of risk.

The capital structure of the Group consists of shareholders equity as set out in the consolidated statement of changes in equity. All funding required to acquire rare and antiquarian books and works on paper purposes are financed from existing cash resources.



## 5 Revenue

	<b>31 Mar 2017 Group £000</b>	<b>31 Mar 2016 Group £000</b>
Sales of Stock	6,106	6,727
Commissions	12	15
Other income	2	-
	<u>6,120</u>	<u>6,742</u>

All revenues are derived from a single operating segment

## 6 Profit Before Taxation

Profit before taxation is after charging/(crediting):	<b>31 Mar 2017 Group £000</b>	<b>31 Mar 2016 Group £000</b>
Depreciation of property, plant and equipment	27	31
Operating lease rentals	316	338
Foreign currency losses	3	1
Employee costs (note 7)	1,029	1,015
Fees payable to the Company's auditor (note 9)	27	28

## 7 Employee Costs Including Directors

	<b>31 Mar 2017 Group £000</b>	<b>31 Mar 2016 Group £000</b>
Wages	912	884
Social security costs	96	88
Pension costs	12	12
Other employee benefits	9	7
Compensation for loss of office	-	24
	<u>1,029</u>	<u>1,015</u>

All employee costs are included in administrative expenses.

## 8 Average Number of Employees

	<b>31 Mar 2017 Group Number</b>	<b>31 Mar 2016 Group Number</b>
Management	6	6
Operations	11	10
	<u>17</u>	<u>16</u>

## 9 Auditors' Remuneration

	<b>31 Mar 2017 Group £000</b>	<b>31 Mar 2016 Group £000</b>
Fees payable to the Company's auditor for the audit of the Company's consolidated financial statements	8	11
Fees payable to the Company's auditor for the audit of subsidiary undertakings of the Company	19	17
	<u>27</u>	<u>28</u>

## 10 Directors' Remuneration

	<b>31 Mar 2017 Group £000</b>	<b>31 Mar 2016 Group £000</b>
Salaries and fees	234	266
Social security costs	17	18
Other employee benefits	5	3
	<u>256</u>	<u>287</u>
Information regarding the highest paid Director which comprises salary and benefits as follows	<u>75</u>	<u>73</u>

## 11 Exceptional Items of Expenditure

	<b>31 Mar 2017 Group £000</b>	<b>31 Mar 2016 Group £000</b>
Compensation for loss of office for Philip Blackwell	-	24
	<u>-</u>	<u>24</u>

## 12 Financial Income

	<b>31 Mar 2017 Group £000</b>	<b>31 Mar 2016 Group £000</b>
Interest receivable	1	2
	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>

### 13 Financial Expense

	<b>31 Mar 2017 Group £000</b>	<b>31 Mar 2016 Group £000</b>
Interest on bank overdraft	-	5
	<u>-</u>	<u>5</u>

### 14 Income Tax

	<b>31 Mar 2017 £000</b>	<b>31 Mar 2016 £000</b>
<i>Current tax (credit)/expense</i>		
Current tax	-	-
Deferred tax	-	-
Impact of change in UK corporation tax rate	<b>19</b>	0
Origination and reversal of temporary differences	<b>(19)</b>	3
<b>Total tax expense</b>	<u>-</u>	<u>3</u>

The charge for the year can be reconciled to the profit/(loss) per the income statement as follows:

	<b>31 Mar 2017 £000</b>	<b>31 Mar 2016 £000</b>
Profit/(loss) before tax	<b>(224)</b>	(3)
Applied corporation tax rates:	<b>20%</b>	20%
Tax at the UK corporation tax rate of 20%:	<b>(45)</b>	(1)
Expenses not deductible for tax purposes	<b>3</b>	1
Utilisation of previously unrecognised tax losses	<b>35</b>	-
Origination and reversal of temporary differences	<b>7</b>	3
<b>Current tax charge</b>	<u><b>0</b></u>	<u>3</u>

## 15 Profit (Loss) Per Share

	<b>31 Mar 2017 Group £000</b>	<b>31 Mar 2016 Group £000</b>
Profit/(loss) used in calculating basic and diluted earning per share attributable to the owners of the parent	<b>(224)</b>	(6)
Profit from discontinued operation	-	(10)
	<b>(224)</b>	<b>(16)</b>
<b>Number of shares</b>		
Weighted average number of shares for the purpose of basic and diluted earnings per share	<b>13.6m</b>	13.6m
Basic (loss)/earnings per share from continuing operations (pence per share)	<b>(1.66)</b>	<b>(0.05)</b>
Basic (loss)/earnings per share from discontinued operations (pence per share)	-	(0.07)
<b>Total basic and diluted earnings per share - pence</b>	<b>(1.66)</b>	<b>(0.12)</b>

All shares shown above are authorised, issued and fully paid up. Ordinary shares carry the right to one vote per share at general meetings of the Company and the rights to share in any distribution of profits or returns of capital and to share in any residual assets available for distribution in the event of a winding up.

**16 Property, Plant & Equipment**

	<b>31 March 2017 Group £000</b>	<b>31 March 2017 Group £000</b>	<b>31 March 2017 Group £000</b>	<b>31 March 2017 Group £000</b>	<b>31 March 2017 Group £000</b>
	Bibliography	Plant & Machinery	Fixtures & Fittings	Motor Vehicles	Total
<b>Cost</b>					
<i>At 1 April 2014</i>	84	74	19	2	179
Acquired in the year	4	11	22	1	38
Disposals	-	(5)	(11)	-	(16)
<i>At 31 March 2015</i>	88	80	30	3	201
Acquired in the period	1	0	30	-	31
Disposals	-	-	-	-	-
<i>At 31 March 2016</i>	89	81	59	3	232
Acquired in the period	3	3	2	-	8
Reclassified	-	-	(19)	-	(19)
<i>At 31 March 2017</i>	<u>92</u>	<u>84</u>	<u>42</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>221</u>
<b>Depreciation</b>	-	-	-		
<i>At 1 April 2014</i>	24	41	9	1	75
Charge for the year	13	25	6	-	44
Reclassification	-	(3)	(7)	-	(10)
<i>At 31 March 2015</i>	37	63	8	1	109
Charge for the period	13	11	6	1	31
Disposals	-	-	-	-	-
<i>At 31 March 2016</i>	50	74	14	2	140
Charge for the period	13	7	6	0	27
Disposals	-	-	-	-	-
<i>At 31 March 2017</i>	<u>63</u>	<u>81</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>167</u>
<b>Net book value</b>	-	-	-	-	-
<i>At 31 March 2017</i>	<u>29</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>22</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>55</u>
<i>At 31 March 2016</i>	<u>39</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>45</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>92</u>
<i>At 31 March 2015</i>	<u>51</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>22</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>92</u>
<i>At 31 March 2014</i>	<u>60</u>	<u>33</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>104</u>
<i>At 31 March 2013</i>	<u>66</u>	<u>38</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>119</u>

There are no items of property, plant and equipment held under finance leases

## 17 Investment in Subsidiaries

	<b>31 Mar 2017 Company £000</b>
At 7 January 2014	
Nominal value of shares issued	28
Fair-value adjustment take to merger reserve	2,809
Deferred consideration	2,363
At 31 March 2014, 31 March 2015, 31 March 2016 and 31 March 2017	<u>5,200</u>

The investments in Group undertakings are recorded at cost which is the fair-value of the consideration paid.

The principal subsidiaries of the Company, all of which have been included in the consolidated financial information, are as follows: Shapero Rare Books Ltd, Scholium Trading Ltd and Scholium (Titan) Ltd, all of which are wholly owned

## 18 Deferred Corporation Tax

	<b>31 Mar 2017 Group £000</b>	<b>31 Mar 2016 Group £000</b>
Balance at the beginning of the year	(277)	(280)
Income statement	-	3
Balance at the end of the year	(277)	(277)
	-	-
<b>The deferred tax asset comprises:</b>	-	-
	-	-
Origination and reversal of temporary differences	<u>(277)</u>	<u>(277)</u>

Deferred tax is calculated in full on temporary differences under the liability method using the tax rates expected for future periods of 19%. The deferred tax asset has arisen due to the availability of trading losses. The Group has unutilised tax allowances, at expected tax rates in future periods, of £357,000 (2016: £352,000) of which £277,000 has been recognised (2016 £277,000 recognised).

## 19 Inventories

	<b>31 Mar 2017 Group £000</b>	<b>31 Mar 2016 Group £000</b>
Finished goods	<u>7,873</u>	7,550
Finished goods expensed in the year	<u>4,215</u>	4,840

## 20 Trade & Other Receivables

	<b>31 Mar 2017 Group £000</b>	<b>31 Mar 2016 Group £000</b>	<b>31 Mar 2017 Company £000</b>	<b>31 Mar 2016 Company £000</b>
Trade debtors	<b>1,779</b>	1,577	-	-
Other debtors	<b>30</b>	15	-	4
Amounts due from Group undertaking	<b>0</b>	0	<b>6,510</b>	6,306
Prepayments and accrued income	<b>241</b>	442	<b>14</b>	12
	<b>2,050</b>	2,034	<b>6,524</b>	6,322

### The age profile trade and other receivables comprise:

	<b>£000</b>
Current	905
One month past due	256
Two months past due	35
Over three months past due	583
Provision for doubtful debts	-
	<u>1,779</u>

As at 31 March 2017, trade receivables of £nil (31st March 2016, 31st March 2015 £nil, 31st March 2014 £4000 and 31st March 2013 £nil) were considered past due and impaired. The other debtor's balances are categorised as loans and receivables. All amounts shown under trade and receivables are due for payment within one year.

Amounts due from Group undertakings are unsecured, interest-free, have no fixed date of repayment and are repayable on demand.

## 21 Financial Assets

The Group's financial assets comprise cash and cash equivalents.

The following table demonstrates the sensitivity to a reasonably possible change in interest rates, with all other variables held constant, of the Group's profit or loss before tax through the impact on bank deposits and cash flows. There is no impact on the Group's equity.

	<b>Change in rate</b>	<b>2017 £000</b>	<b>Change in rate</b>	<b>2016 £000</b>
Bank deposits		<b>970</b>		1,309
	-0.5%	<b>(6)</b>	-0.5%	(7)
	-1.0%	<b>(11)</b>	-1.0%	(13)
	-1.5%	<b>(17)</b>	-1.5%	(20)
	+0.5%	<b>6</b>	+0.5%	7
	+1.0%	<b>11</b>	+1.0%	13
	+1.5%	<b>17</b>	+1.5%	20

## 22 Trade & Other Payables

	<b>31 Mar 2017 Group £000</b>	<b>31 Mar 2016 Group £000</b>	<b>31 Mar 2017 Company £000</b>	<b>31 Mar 2016 Company £000</b>
Trade creditors	958	526	16	28
Other taxes and social security	32	31	5	6
Group payables	0	0	-	-
Accruals and deferred income	269	460	10	18
Other creditors	43	98	47	39
	<b>1,302</b>	1,115	<b>78</b>	91

The directors consider the carrying value of trade and other payables approximate to their fair values.

Amounts due to Group undertakings are unsecured, interest-free, have no fixed date of repayment and are repayable on demand.

## 23 Share Capital

	<b>31 Mar 2017 Group and Company</b>	<b>31 Mar 2016 Group and Company</b>
<i>Ordinary shares of £0.01 each</i>	-	-
At the beginning of the year	136	136
Issued in the year	-	-
At the end of the year	<b>136</b>	136
<b>Number of shares</b>	<b>31 Mar 2017 Group and Company Number</b>	<b>31 Mar 2016 Group and Company Number</b>
<i>Ordinary shares of £0.01 each</i>		
At the beginning of the year	13,600,000	13,600,000
Issued in the year	-	-
Placing of shares on admission to AIM	-	-
At the end of the year	<b>13,600,000</b>	13,600,000

All shares shown above are authorised, issued and fully paid up. Ordinary shares carry the right to one vote per share at general meetings of the Company and the rights to share in any distribution of profits or returns of capital and to share in any residual assets available for distribution in the event of a winding up.



## 24 Share-Based Payment Arrangements

Scholium Group plc operated two equity-settled share based remuneration scheme for employees in the year. Options granted each scheme expired during the year.

The first scheme (EMI performance scheme) and the second scheme combine a long term incentive scheme and an unapproved scheme for certain senior management and executive Directors.

These schemes were put in place on 27 March 2014 but effective from 1 April 2014. The options held under these schemes are subject to performance conditions and vest, subject to annual performance criteria, over three years. None of these options vested in 2017 (2016: nil). The required performance conditions were not achieved.

Equity-settled share-based payments in respect of the first and second schemes were measured on issue at fair value (excluding the effect of non-market-based vesting conditions) as determined through use of the Black-Scholes technique, at the date of grant. The fair value determined at the grant date of the equity-settled share-based payments is expensed on a straight-line basis over the vesting period, based on the Group and Company's estimate of shares that will eventually vest and adjusted for the effect of non-market-based vesting conditions. No options were issued in the years ending 31 March 2016 and 2017 respectively.

	<b>31 Mar 2017 Group Number</b>	<b>31 Mar 2016 Group Number</b>
<b>Employee incentive schemes</b>		
Number of options at the beginning of the period	<b>352,000</b>	704,000
Number of options issued in the year	-	-
Number of options lapsed in the year	<b>(352,000)</b>	(352,000)
Number of options at the end of the year	<u>-</u>	<u>352,000</u>

There is no vesting charge for the year in respect of the employee incentivisation share-option schemes which are based on performance from 1 April 2014 and subsequent periods up to 31 March 2017. In the year 352,000 Employee incentive scheme shares lapsed as the required performance conditions were not achieved.

None of the remaining options are exercisable at 31 March 2017 (31 March 2016 nil).

The amount chargeable in the Company was £nil (2016: £nil).

None of the above options under any scheme were exercised in the period. The actual and weighted average exercise price of outstanding share options was £1.

## 25 Operating Lease Commitments

	<b>31 Mar 2017 Group £000</b>	<b>31 Mar 2016 Group £000</b>
<b>Land and buildings</b>		
Less than one year	344	388
Between one and two years	344	375
Between three and five years	594	969
Over five years	-	-
	<b>1,282</b>	<b>1,732</b>

## 26 Capital Commitments

There were no outstanding capital commitments at 31 March 2017 (31 March 2016: nil).

## 27 Post Balance Sheet Date Events

There have been no material events directly affecting the Group since the balance sheet date.

## 28 Related Party Transactions

### *Bookbank Limited (formerly Blackwell Ventures Limited)*

On 2 April 2015 the Group entered into an agreement for the disposal of its South Kensington operations: South Kensington Books and Ultimate Library to a company controlled by Philip Blackwell a director of the company. The aggregate consideration was £145,802. The resulting profit on the sale after the disposal of the assets before professional fees was approximately £6,000 but, after associated legal and professional costs, the sale resulted in a net loss of £10,869.

During the financial year ending 31 March 2017, Shapero Rare Books sold £23,018 of stock to Bookbank Limited, a company owned by Philip Blackwell. Shapero Rare Books also spent £949 on goods and services provided by Bookbank Limited. Pricing was on an arms-length basis.

Bibliopole Limited (a company in which B Shapero is an investor, a member of the Group's key management personnel):

The Company also paid commission for the sale of Bibliopole Limited's share in books held by the company of £9,974 in the year ended 31st March 2017 (2016: £21,679). The Company also made an interest free loan to Bibliopole Limited, the balance due being at 31st March 2017 £nil (2016: £22,824).

### *Key Management Advances, Credits and Transactions*

During the year, Jasper Allen bought £325 of stock (2016 - £1,848). On 31 March 2017, he owed the Company £1,317 (2016: £1,317).

### *Transactions with subsidiaries of the Company*

In the period the Company made an administrative charge for management expenses to Shapero Rare Books Limited of £80,122 (2016: £66,768) and to Scholium Trading Limited £83,628 (2016: £11,128). At the year- end Scholium Trading owed the Company £945,507 (2016: £1,044,883) and Shapero Rare Books owed the Company £5,563,775 (2016: £5,261,276).

***Repayment of a shareholder investment linked to profit participation on sale of a stock item.***

On 5th December 2011 the company borrowed an aggregate £52,000 from Thomas James Jennings CBE, Philip Blackwell, Graham Noble and John James (the 'map lenders') in order to acquire a half share in an antiquarian map. The half share was sold on 31 March 2016 for an aggregate amount of £200,000, £126,000 of which was paid to the map lenders per the 2011 agreement.

**30 Control**

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The company is controlled by a small number of shareholders, none of whom has overall control.

**THIS DOCUMENT IS IMPORTANT AND REQUIRES YOUR IMMEDIATE ATTENTION. If you are in any doubt as to what action to take, you should consult your stockbroker, solicitor, accountant or other appropriate independent professional adviser authorised under the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000. If you have sold or otherwise transferred all your shares in Scholium Group plc, please forward this document and the accompanying form of proxy to the person through whom the sale or transfer was effected, for transmission to the purchaser or transferee.**

A form of proxy for the Annual General Meeting is enclosed. Whether or not you intend to be present at the meeting, please complete the form of proxy and return it in accordance with the instructions printed on it so as to reach the Company's registrar no later than 10.30 a.m. on Monday, 18 September 2017. Further details are given in the notes to this document on page 4. Completion and return of the form of proxy will not prevent you from attending and voting at the meeting in person, should you so wish.

## **NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**Scholium Group plc**

**(registered in England and Wales No. 8833975)**

Notice is hereby given that the annual general meeting (**AGM**) of Scholium Group plc (**the Company**) will be held at 32 St George Street, London W1S 2EA on Wednesday, 20 September 2017 at 10.30 a.m. for the purposes of considering and, if thought fit, passing the following resolutions, of which resolutions 1-7 shall be proposed as ordinary resolutions and resolutions 8 and 9 shall be proposed as special resolutions:

### **Resolution 1**

To receive and adopt the accounts for the financial year ended 31 March 2017 together with the reports of the directors of the Company and the auditors of the Company thereon.

### **Resolution 2**

To receive and approve the directors' remuneration report for the financial year ended 31 March 2017.

### **Resolution 3**

To re-appoint Wenn Townsend as auditors of the Company, to hold office from the conclusion of this AGM to the conclusion of the next AGM of the Company.

### **Resolution 4**

To authorise the directors to determine the remuneration of the auditors.

### **Resolution 5**

THAT Thomas James Jennings be re-elected a director of the Company.

### **Resolution 6**

THAT Graham Noble be re-elected a director of the Company.

### **Resolution 7**

**THAT** in accordance with section 551 of the Companies Act 2006 (**the Act**), the directors of the Company be and they are hereby generally and unconditionally authorised in substitution for all existing authorities:

- 1) to allot shares in the capital of the Company and to make offers or agreements to allot shares in the Company or to grant rights to subscribe for or to convert any security into shares in the Company (**Relevant Securities**) up to an aggregate nominal amount of £45,288; and

- 2) to allot equity securities (as defined by section 560 of the Act) up to an additional nominal amount of £90,576 (such amount to be reduced by the nominal amount of any Relevant Securities allotted pursuant to the authority conferred in paragraph (a) above) in connection with an offer by way of a rights issue:
  - a) in favour of the holders of ordinary shares in proportion (as nearly as may be practicable) to their respective holdings; and
  - b) in favour of the holders of other equity securities as required by the rights of those securities or as the directors otherwise consider necessary,

but subject to such exclusions or other arrangements as the directors may deem necessary or expedient in relation to treasury shares, fractional entitlements, record dates, legal or practical problems in or under the laws of any territory or the requirements of any regulatory body or stock exchange.

This authority shall expire on the date of the next annual general meeting of the Company or 31 October 2018 whichever is earlier (unless renewed, varied or revoked by the Company prior to or on such date) save that the Company may, before such expiry, make offers or agreements which would or might require Relevant Securities or equity securities as the case may be to be allotted after such expiry and the directors may allot Relevant Securities or equity securities in pursuance of such offer or agreement as if the authority conferred by this resolution had not expired.

#### **Resolution 8**

**THAT** subject to the passing of Resolution 7, the directors be and they are hereby empowered to allot equity securities (as defined by section 560 of the Act) for cash, either pursuant to the authority conferred by resolution 5 or by way of a sale of treasury shares, as if section 561(1) of the Act did not apply to any such allotment, provided that this power shall be limited to:

- 1) the allotment of equity securities in connection with an offer by way of a rights issue:
  - a) in favour of the holders of ordinary shares in proportion (as nearly as may be practicable) to their respective holdings; and
  - b) in favour of the holders of other equity securities as required by the rights of those securities or as the directors otherwise consider necessary,

but subject to such exclusions or other arrangements as the directors may deem necessary or expedient in relation to treasury shares, fractional entitlements, record dates, legal or practical problems in or under the laws of any territory or the requirements of any regulatory body or stock exchange; and

- 2) the allotment of equity securities up to an aggregate nominal amount of £6,800

and shall expire on the date of the next annual general meeting of the Company or 31 October 2018 whichever is earlier (unless renewed, varied or revoked by the Company prior to or on such date) save that the Company may, before such expiry make offers or agreements which would or might require equity securities to be allotted after such expiry and the Directors may allot equity securities in pursuance of any such offer or agreement as if the power conferred by this resolution had not expired.

#### **Resolution 9**

**THAT** the Company be and it is hereby generally and unconditionally authorised for the purposes of Section 701 of the Act to make market purchases (as defined in Section 693 of the Act) of ordinary shares of £0.01 each in the capital of the Company (**Ordinary Shares**) on such terms and in such manner as the directors may from time to time determine provided that:

- 1) the maximum aggregate number of Ordinary Shares which may be purchased is 1,360,000.

- 2) the minimum price (exclusive of expenses) which may be paid for each Ordinary Share is £0.01.
- 3) the maximum price (exclusive of expenses) which may be paid for any Ordinary Share does not exceed 10% of the average of the middle market prices of the Ordinary Shares on the Daily Official List of the UK Listing Authority for the five business days immediate preceding the date on which the Company agrees to buy the shares concerned.

In exercising this authority the Company may purchase shares using any currency, including pounds sterling, US dollars and euros.

This authority shall expire on the conclusion of the next annual general meeting of the Company or on 31 October 2018, whichever is the earlier, provided that, the Company may before such expiry make a contract to purchase Ordinary Shares which will or may be executed or completed after such expiry.

**By order of the Board**

**Amanda Bateman**

Company Secretary

Date: 7 July 2017

**Registered Office:**

32 St George Street

London

W1S 2EA

Registered in England with number: 8833975

## NOTES:

### Entitlement to attend and vote at the AGM

- 1) Only holders of ordinary shares are entitled to attend and vote at the AGM meeting.
- 2) Pursuant to the Uncertificated Securities Regulations 2001, the Company specifies that in order to have the right to attend and vote at the AGM (and also for the purpose of determining how many votes a person entitled to attend and vote may cast), a person must be entered on the register of members of the Company no later than close of business on Monday, 18 September 2017. Changes to entries on the register of members after this time (or after close of business on the day which is two days before any adjourned meeting) shall be disregarded in determining the rights of any person to attend or vote at the meeting.

### Proxies

- 3) A member is entitled to appoint another person as his proxy to exercise all or any of his rights to attend, to speak and to vote at the AGM. A member may appoint more than one proxy in relation to the meeting, provided that each proxy is appointed to exercise the rights attached to a different share or shares held by him. A proxy need not be a member of the Company. A form of proxy for the meeting is enclosed with this notice.
- 4) To be valid any proxy form or other instrument appointing a proxy must be received by post or by hand (during normal business hours only) by the Company's registrar, Capita Asset Services at: PXS 1, The Registry, 34 Beckenham Road, Kent BR3 4ZF, no later than 10.30 am on Monday, 18 September 2017 or not less than 48 hours before the time of commencement of any adjourned meeting. If you are a CREST member, see note 7 below.
- 5) Completion of a form of proxy, or other instrument appointing a proxy or any CREST Proxy Instruction will not preclude a member attending and voting in person at the meeting if he/she wishes to do so.
- 6) Alternatively, if you are a member of CREST, you may register the appointment of a proxy by using the CREST electronic proxy appointment service. Further details are contained below.
- 7) CREST members who wish to appoint a proxy or proxies through the CREST electronic proxy appointment service may do so for the AGM and any adjournment(s) thereof by using the procedures, and to the address, described in the CREST Manual (available via [www.euroclear.com/CREST](http://www.euroclear.com/CREST)) subject to the provisions of the Company's articles of association. CREST personal members or other CREST sponsored members, and those CREST members who have appointed a voting service provider(s), should refer to their CREST sponsor or voting service provider(s), who will be able to take the appropriate action on their behalf.

In order for a proxy appointment or instruction made using the CREST service to be valid, the appropriate CREST message (a **CREST Proxy Instruction**) must be properly authenticated in accordance with Euroclear UK and Ireland Limited's (**Euroclear**) specifications and must contain the information required for such instructions, as described in the CREST Manual. The message, regardless of whether it constitutes the appointment of a proxy or an amendment to the instruction given to a previously appointed proxy, must, in order to be valid, be transmitted so as to be received by the issuer's agent (IDRA10) by the latest time(s) for receipt of proxy appointments specified in the notice of the AGM. For this purpose, the time of receipt will be taken to be the time (as determined by the time stamp applied to the message by the CREST Applications Host) from which the issuer's agent is able to retrieve the message by enquiry to CREST in the manner prescribed by CREST. After this time any change of instructions to proxies appointed through CREST should be communicated to the appointee through other means.

CREST members and, where applicable, their CREST sponsors or voting service provider(s) should note that Euroclear does not make available special procedures in CREST for any particular messages. Normal system timings and limitations will therefore apply in relation to the input of CREST Proxy Instructions. It is the responsibility of the CREST member concerned to take (or, if the CREST member is a CREST personal member or sponsored member or has appointed a voting service provider(s), to procure that his CREST sponsor or voting service provider(s) take(s)) such action as shall be necessary to ensure that a message is transmitted by means of the CREST system by any particular time. In this connection, CREST members and, where applicable, their CREST sponsors or voting service provider(s) are referred, in particular, to those sections of the CREST Manual concerning practical limitations of the CREST system and timings.

The Company may treat as invalid a CREST Proxy Instruction in the circumstances set out in Regulation 35(5)(a) of the Uncertificated Securities Regulations 2001.

### **Corporate Representatives**

- 8) Any corporation which is a member can appoint one or more corporate representatives who may exercise on its behalf all of its powers as a member provided that they do not do so in relation to the same shares.

### **Right to ask Questions at the AGM**

- 9) Any member attending the AGM has the right to ask questions. The Company must cause to be answered any such question relating to the business being dealt with at the meeting but no such answer need be given if (a) to do so would interfere unduly with the preparation for the meeting or involve the disclosure of confidential information, (b) the answer has already been given on a website in the form of an answer to a question, or (c) it is undesirable in the interests of the Company or the good order of the meeting that the question be answered.

### **Documents available for inspection**

- 10) Copies of executive directors' service agreements, copies of the terms and conditions of appointment of non-executive directors and a copy of the existing memorandum and articles of association will be available for inspection at the Company's registered office during normal business hours from the date of this notice until the close of the AGM (Saturdays, Sundays and public holidays excepted) and will be available for inspection at the place of the meeting for at least 15 minutes prior to and during the meeting. A copy of this notice can be found at [www.scholiumgroup.com](http://www.scholiumgroup.com).

### **Issued share capital and total voting rights**

- 11) As at 6 July 2017 (being the last practicable date prior to the publication of this notice) the Company's issued share capital consisted of 13,600,000 ordinary shares, carrying one vote each. Therefore, the total voting rights in the Company as at that date are 13,600,000.

### **Electronic Communications**

- 12) You may not use any electronic address (within the meaning of section 333(4) of the Act) provided in this Notice of Meeting (or in any related documents including the proxy form) to communicate with the Company for any purposes other than those expressly stated.



## EXPLANATORY NOTES:

### Explanatory notes to the Resolutions to be proposed to shareholders at the AGM are set out below:

**Resolution 1.** This resolution is to receive the Company's audited financial statements for the financial year ended 31 March 2017 as well as the reports of the Company's directors and the Company's auditors thereon. You can find the directors' report on pages 10 to 13 and the auditors' report on page 17 of the annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 March 2017.

**Resolution 2.** This resolution is to approve the directors' remuneration report for the financial year ended on 31 March 2017. You can find the remuneration report on page 11 of the annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 March 2017.

**Resolutions 3 and 4.** These resolutions are for the re-appointment of Wenn Townsend as the Company's auditors to hold office until the next annual general meeting of the Company and to authorise the directors to fix their remuneration.

**Resolutions 5 and 6.** These resolutions are for the re-election of Thomas James Jennings and Graham Noble as directors of the Company.

**Resolution 7.** This resolution, which is an ordinary resolution, is to renew the directors' authority to allot Relevant Securities in the Company in accordance with section 551 of the Act. This resolution complies with guidance issued by the Association of British Insurers ('ABI') in December 2008 (and revised in November 2009) and will, if passed, authorise the directors to allot:

Relevant Securities up to a maximum nominal amount of £45,288 which represents approximately 33.3% of the Company's issued ordinary shares (excluding treasury shares) as at 6 July 2017.

In relation to a pre-emptive rights issue only, equity securities (as defined by section 560 of the Act) up to a maximum nominal amount of £90,576 which represents approximately 66.6% of the Company's issued ordinary shares (excluding treasury shares) as at 6 July 2017. This maximum is reduced by the nominal amount of any equity securities allotted under the authority set out paragraph (a).

Therefore, the maximum nominal amount of Relevant Securities (including equity securities) which may be allotted under this resolution is £90,576.

As at close of business on 6 July 2017, the Company did not hold any treasury shares.

The authority granted by this Resolution will expire on the date of the next annual general meeting of the Company or 31 October 2018 whichever is earlier.

The directors have no present intention to exercise this authority.

In this Note, 'Relevant Securities' has the meanings set out in Resolution 5

**Resolution 8.** This resolution will, if passed, give the directors power, pursuant to the authority to allot granted by Resolution 7, to allot equity securities (as defined by section 560 of the Act) or allot shares for cash without first offering them to existing shareholders in proportion to their existing holdings:

(a) in relation to a rights issue or other pre-emptive offer; and

in any other case up to a maximum nominal amount of £6,800 which represents approximately 5% of the Company's issued ordinary shares (excluding treasury shares) as at 6 July 2017.

In compliance with the guidelines issued by the Pre-emption Group, the directors will ensure that, other than in relation to a rights issue, no more than 7.5% of the issued ordinary shares (excluding treasury shares) will be allotted for cash on a non pre-emptive basis over a rolling three year period unless shareholders have been notified and consulted in advance.

This Resolution complies with relevant guidance issued by the Pre-emption Group and the Association of British Insurers.

The power granted by this Resolution will expire on the date of the next annual general meeting of the Company or 31 October 2018 whichever is earlier.

The directors consider the authority in Resolution 8 to be appropriate in order to allow the Company flexibility to finance business opportunities or to conduct a pre-emptive offer or rights issue without the need to comply with the strict guidelines of the statutory pre-emption provisions.

**Resolution 9.** Authority is sought in Resolution 9 for the Company to be able to make market purchases of its own shares.

If passed, Resolution 9 will give the Company authority to purchase up to 1,360,000 of its ordinary shares, representing 10% of its issued share capital as at 6 July 2017 by way of market purchases.

Ordinary shares will not be purchased for a price less than one pence per share being the nominal value of each share, nor for more than 5% above the average middle market quotations of the ordinary shares over the preceding five business days nor will they be purchased during any period in which the Company is otherwise prohibited from making market purchases. Purchases will be made using available reserves. Once purchased Ordinary Shares will be cancelled and the number of shares in issue will be reduced accordingly.

The directors will only exercise this authority if they believe that the effect of such purchases will be to increase the underlying value per Ordinary Shares having regard to the interest of shareholders generally.

The authority granted by this Resolution will expire on the date of the next annual general meeting of the Company or 31 October 2018 whichever is earlier.

The Directors have no present intention of purchasing any shares pursuant to this authority.







