

Design History Society Annual General Meeting 2005

Held on Thursday 8 September 2005, 5.30pm in London Metropolitan University, Goulston Street, London E1

1. **Attendance** Chris Breward (CB) (Chair), Katie Arber (KA) (Secretary), Jo Lewis (JL) (Membership), Tim Putnam (TP), (Journal), Andrea Peach (AP) (regional reps), Claire O'Mahony (CO'M) (membership benefits), Barbara Burman (BB) (conference liaison), Juliette Kristensen, Alan C. Elder, Paul Atkinson, Sonia Ashmore, Rebecca Ireston, Anna Basham, Glenn Adamson, Grace Lees-Maffei, Patricia Lara, Marie-Leen Rychant.

Those attending agreed that the meeting was quorate according to the constitution.

2. **Apologies** Melanie Unwin (MU) (Treasurer), Anthea Winterburn (AW), Elizabeth Darling (ED) (events), Elisabeth Bogdan (EB) (Essay Prize), Kathy Talbot (bursary prize), Kevin Davies (website), Lynne Constable (newsletter)

3. **Minutes of 2004 AGM** were approved.

4. Matters arising

CB reported that the crisis forum on teaching had been held jointly with the Association of Art Historians (AAH) on 26 November 2004 at the University of Central England in Birmingham. Both BB and CB had attended to represent the DHS. At the meeting it was decided to form a join DHS and AAH working party. It was suggested that an advocacy group be formed to represent the interests of the disciplines at a national and international level. The DHS membership will be kept informed via the website.

5. Report of the Chair

CB reported on the year's activities under three headings – communications, events and the awards made.

Communications – The website has been a focus for discussion, particularly with regard to communicating with an international audience. For the past year the website has been managed by Kevin Davies, an independent scholar. The increasing demands of the website have caused the committee to recently consider how best to co-ordinate the website and discussion list for the membership's benefit. In future the day to day management of the website and the discussion list will be handled by a freelance web professional, paid on an hourly basis. Secondly, a new committee post of communications officer is to be created, combining co-ordination of the newsletter and the website, which Juliette Kristensen has agreed to take on (subject to election at today's AGM). Finally, a working party is being formed to explore how best to take communications forward, including the role of the DHS Journal. TP, JK and the Chair will sit on this working party and the first meeting is to be held in January 2006, which will also be attended by KD.

The network of regional reps remains in place and Paul Caffrey has been replaced by Anna Moran. Kirsten Davies to join the committee as regional reps co-ordinator subject to her election at today's AGM. A new £500 DHS event award for regional activities has been proposed by the committee and consideration is currently being given as to how this would operate.

Events – 2004/05 was a quiet year for event although the quality of applications continues to be high. The value of an individual event award was increased to £300. A wide range of institutions and subjects were supported in the year.

Awards – A new award to mark the DHS's 25th anniversary established in 2004 and awards were made to: Dr Deborah Ryan, Dr Alison Matthews David, Dr Yagou Artemis, Dr Giorgio Riello and Dr Grace Lees-Maffei. The committee agreed to continue this award for another year and the closing date for applications is 30 September 2005. To date no applications have been received.

The 2004/05 PhD bursary award was awarded to Helga Gamboa for her research into 'Pottery making among the Kwanhama Women of Southern Angola in the 1930's and Today'. The committee has decided to award two PhD bursary prizes for 2005/06, each to the value of £1,000.

The 2005 scholarship prize was awarded during the conference to Mike Parsons and Mary B Rose for the book *'Invisible on Everest'*. The winners are to be presented with a cheque at the Reyner Banham lecture.

The 2005 essay prize winners were announced during the conference: MA Prize, Katherine Feo, Royal College of Art for her essay *'(In)Visibility: Memory, Masks and Masculinities in the Great War'* and BA Prize, Sian Ball, Loughborough University, School of Art & Design, for her essay, *'Children's Clothing in the 1960s: A Period of Transition'*.

CB in closing his report thanked the retiring committee members, AP, KA, AW, ED, LC, EB and Treasurer, MU for the work they had done for the DHS over recent years. He noted that MU would be standing down from her post mid-year.

Grace Lees-Maffei commented that she felt it was important for an archive of the website to be kept.

6. Treasurer's report

MU was unable to attend the meeting due to her work commitments hence in her absence her report was read by AP and a handout provided to the meeting, providing a summary of financial activity. This includes a summary of the awards made by the Society since the last AGM, an analysis of significant expenditure since the last AGM (pie chart), and an extract from the annual accounts prepared for the year ending 31 December 2003 by Taylor Rushby Accountants. A full set of the annual accounts are available from the Treasurer on request.

This year's income from OUP/Journal of Design History totalled £21,554.45, an increase on last year and reflection of the continued success of the Journal. In addition, the profit of just over £2,000 made by the Norwich conference was received. This increased level of income allows the Executive to continue to support individuals and institutions through our various awards, and has allowed us to increase the essay prize awards to £300 (formerly £250); offer two PhD Bursaries rather than just one; extend the 25th Anniversary Award scheme for an additional year; provide additional funds to support regional events via the Events Award scheme. Availability of funding is also allowing us to review the DHS website with a view to making improvements.

The Treasurer noted that once again she is pleased to be able to finish this report by assuring you that the Society can be confident that it will be able to continue to support the design

history community during what are for many difficult times, and our support of scholarship will hopefully strengthen the discipline.

7. Membership report

JL firstly thanked her predecessor, Nichola Hebditch and then presented the membership report for the year, which was circulated to the meeting.

The membership is currently over 200, with new members joining peaking in June, coinciding with conference registrations. This is less than in 2004 (235). Membership is very international with 67 members based outside the UK. The membership renewal process, which is administered by OUP (publishers of the DHS Journal), is unclear as the invoice issued by OUP does not make it clear that the request is to renew Society membership as well as Journal subscription. The process is to reviewed with OUP, with the wording to be revised and the possibility of a letter being sent from the Chair with the notification.

Membership benefits are also being explored by CO'M and a membership drive being explored to encourage student members.

Suggestions from the floor as to how to improve renewals were noted: sending reminders (perhaps by email) i.e. the equivalent of the red phone bill; making it clearer as to the benefits of membership; changing the timing of renewals being sent. (They currently go out in September although the next Journal is not until March.)

8. Journal report

TP reports was circulated to the meeting. He noted that the Journal continues to extend its reach with electronic publication being particularly relevant to its growth. In addition to 800 print subscriptions, 1,100 institutions now have online access to the Journal through consortia agreements with OUP. Additionally 1,000 people have asked to be informed electronically of the contents of the next issue of the Journal and are then able to purchase individual articles. 5,000 individual articles have been requested in the last year. It is planned to implement an immediate response mechanism to articles via a new link from the DHS website. This has generated £3-5,000 of additional income. However all these developments also have an impact on costs through servicing responses, translation costs, etc.

The Journal Board supports the development of the DHS website and TP raised the possibility of an electronic rather than a printed newsletter.

Comments from the floor were invited. The Society was encouraged to review everything it does from an international perspective, recognising any constraints placed on it by its charitable status. The question was raised as to whether the Society was now of sufficient size to consider having a paid administrator, rather than being run entirely by volunteers. The importance of ensuring that only members benefit from awards and bursaries was noted. The possibility of offering awards for online events was also raised. CB responded that it might be useful to hold an EGM alongside the Banham lecture to debate these issues in greater depth.

9. Election of Officers

The following officers were elected by the meeting:

Chair Cheryl Buckley Proposed by Chris Breward and seconded by Katie Arber and also seconded from the floor by Grace Lees-Maffei.

Secretary Zoë Hendon Proposed by Lesley Hoskins and seconded by Katie Arber and seconded from the floor by Tim Putnam.

Regional Reps Coordinator Kirsten Hardie Proposed by Andrea Peach and seconded by Jo Turney and seconded from the floor by Claire O'Mahony.

Communications Coordinator Juliette Kristensen Proposed by Lynne Constable and seconded by Katie Arber and seconded from the floor by Paul Atkinson.

Additionally the following committee members without portfolio were elected:
Lorraine Dennis Proposed by Melanie Unwin and seconded by Deborah Sugg Ryan and seconded from the floor by Andrea Peach;

Linda Sandino Proposed by Melanie Unwin and seconded by Chris Breward and seconded from the floor by Grace Lees-Maffei. She is likely to take over the essay prize co-ordination.

Jane Tynan was elected Student Rep (which is not a trustee post) and was proposed by Chris Breward and seconded by Andrea Peach.

10. Conference 2005

Next year's conference will be hosted by Delft University of Technology, Faculty of Industrial Design and convened by Timo de Rijk. The dates will be 31 August to 2 September 2006 and the theme will be Evolution and Design.

11. Any other business

On behalf of the membership TP thanked CB for Chairing the DHS with such clarity and enthusiasm for the last three years.

There was no other business and the meeting closed.