

## Design History Society

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#### 1. Chair's Report 2007-08

The Society has been extremely active this year. It has embarked on a number of very important initiatives to overhaul and scrutinise the Society's governance, to review the 'brand' design and its associated visual communication, to highlight the importance of learning and teaching in design history, and agree clear protocols and formal procedures for the Society's annual conference. This report summarises the Society's activities in 2007-8, and it acts as an introduction to the specific briefs of the Society's Executive.

##### 1. Treasurer's report

- i. This report demonstrates the more effective utilisation of Society funds as recommended by Charity Commission guidelines. The Society has worked hard to support and develop design history using a variety of means. It has actively encouraged collaborative publishing projects to this end such as the forthcoming anthology of the DHS-sponsored Reyner Banham lectures.
- ii. Particularly notable this year has been the systematic examination of the Society's governance in order to bring it into line with the Charity Commission's and other relevant models of good practice. This has included a review of the roles, terms of reference, and periods of office of all those working for the Design History Society.

##### 2. The Journal of Design History

- i. The Journal of Design History has made the successful transition to the web-based electronic editing system Manuscript Central. It has recruited two new members to the editorial board
- ii. In part, this new editorial system has contributed to a strategic review of the Journal: this has covered the nature of the journal (its articles, the

function of special issues, and governance ( recruitment, terms of office, and roles of the EB)

- iii. The Society has committed itself to a major re-design of the Journal. This aims to enhance its 'market' position, improve its 'design' and visual appeal and increase the interest in and endurance of the print version.
3. Conference
    - i. The Society now has in place formal procedures and protocols for the proposing, hosting and managing of the conference.
    - ii. These aim to be transparent and fair so as to make the application process to host obvious, straightforward, and accessible.
  4. Membership
    - i. The membership total is the highest since 2002; this represents a growing number of personal members partly stimulated by membership-building offers as seen at Delft (2006) and Kingston (2007).
    - ii. Membership perks such as access to entire back archive have also helped to stimulate growth in membership.
  5. Two research projects are currently on-going
    - i. Oral History Project run by Linda Sandino, Senior Research Fellow at Camberwell School of Art. The oral history project is now consolidated and gathering pace, although on the look out for interviewers in the north
    - ii. the Design History PhD studentship at Northumbria University., whilst the PhD project has entered its second year with the student successfully progressing at Northumbria University's critical Mid Point Review stage.
  6. Events: We continue to collaborate, organise and participate in a number of events; the Banham Lecture is the prestigious annual lecture organised in collaboration with the Victoria and Albert Museum and the Royal College of Art. This year, we celebrate over 30 years of the Design History Society and over 20 years of its journal, the *Journal of Design History*. This will be take place during the annual Design History conference at Falmouth.
  7. Prizes and Awards: the newly constituted prizes and awards scheme worked well this year, and there were good number of applicants for the essay prize. This was also a good year for postgraduate entries to this award. The research award attracted high quality applicants from the universities of Ulster, Southampton, Wolverhampton as well as further afield from California College of Art and Marymount University.
  8. Communication and Branding: The process of rebranding has been completed following agreement with members reached at Kingston and following consultation with the membership. Outstanding at the moment is the re-design of the *Journal of Design History*.

9. Learning and Teaching: this is a new role undertaken by Kirsten Hardie in 2008. The role is under development, but fundamentally it aims to promote learning and teaching in design history, and to forge closer links with the ADM HEA.
10. The L & T Data-base is now being established. Accessible via a link to the DHS web-site, it will provide information about all courses that include design history modules and elements in the UK HEI sector. This aims to demonstrate the relevance and extent of design history modules on degree courses that do not include the name 'design history' in the title, and it is a resource for those interested in the subject. A prompt for this was growing recognition that design history was increasingly invisible in HEIs.

Many thanks to my colleagues: on the Design History Society Executive, on the editorial board of the *Journal of Design History* and of course, the Society's membership. It is a pleasure to work with you all to further the aims of the Design History Society.

*Cheryl Buckley, Chair, 1 September 2008*

## **2. Treasurer's Report for Financial Year ending 31 December 2007**

The dynamic work of the Executive Committee continued throughout 2007, and the Society's income supported its constitutional aims of promoting the study of and research into design history. The three year comparison shown in Table 1 highlights the changes which have occurred over this time.

Year	Income	Expenditure	% of Income Utilised
2005	£26112	£17240	66
2006	£29973	£14718	49
2007	£37533	£25794	69

Income and Expenditure Totals from 2005-2007

The income of the Society from 2005 has steadily increased, thanks in the main to the excellent work of the Editorial Board of the *Journal of Design History*, published by Oxford University Press. The profits from the *Journal* facilitate much of the work of the Society and in line with guidance from the Charity Commission for England and Wales the Trustees recognise the general legal duty to apply the income of their charity for its purposes within a reasonable period of receipt (as outlined in OG43 B2). The figure ' % of Income Utilised ' illustrates how much of the Society's income was spent over each of the last three years. (Whilst not all income is applied to immediate purposes the Trustees have also established that the Society needs to retain some of its reserve of income to ensure the continued furtherance of its objects).

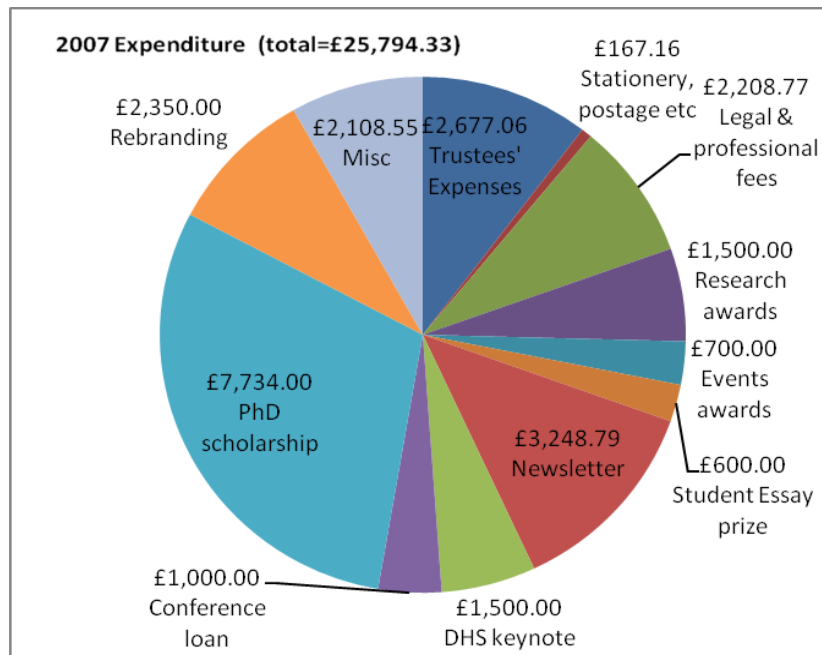


Figure 1 Expenditure in 2007

Figure 1 gives a breakdown by expenditure from 2007. Notable expenses include £2350 on rebranding, promoting the Society's place at the helm of design history. A large component of the 'legal and professional fees' category was the oral history project, which will chart the development of the discipline over the last thirty years through an on-going series of life histories and interviews with historians and writers who have played a significant role in establishing our discipline.

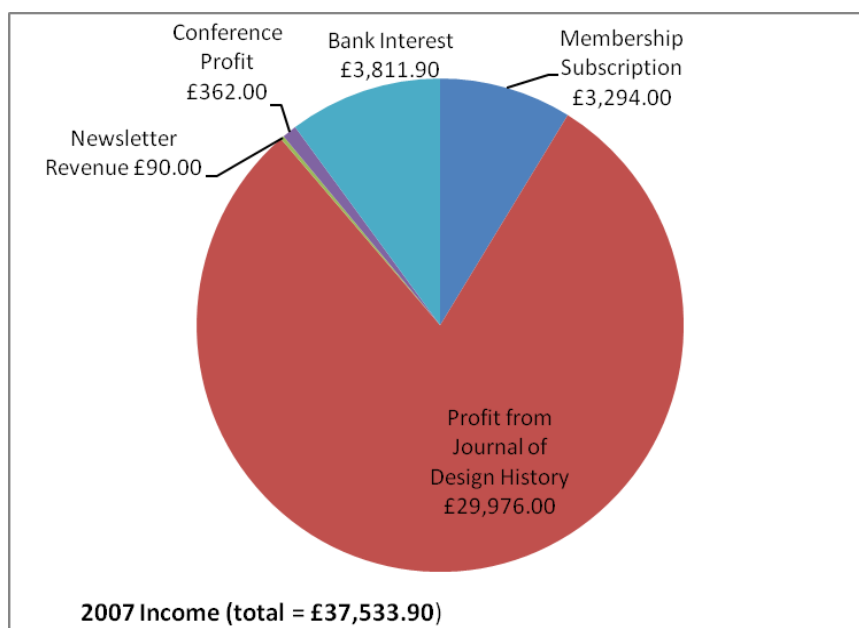


Figure 2 Income in 2007

The profile of the Society's income has changed little in 2007, with the exception of the profit from the 2004 annual conference 'The Politics of Design.

Transfer of banking to Abbey was completed this year and this has proved a successful shift with improved interest rates and service. This brief report should provide an overview of what's going on at the Design History Society, however, if you require any more information please feel free to contact me or any other Trustee. Similarly, the schedule to the statement of financial activities, as prepared by the Society's accountant, is available to all Members of the Society, please contact me at [l.dennis@ulster.ac.uk](mailto:l.dennis@ulster.ac.uk) if you require a copy.

*Lorraine Dennis, Treasurer, August 2008*

### **3. Journal Report**

The Journal of Design History, published four times a year by Oxford University Press by agreement with the Design History Society since 1988, is in its 21<sup>st</sup> year. ([www.oxfordjournals.org/jdh](http://www.oxfordjournals.org/jdh)). The entire back archive is accessible on-line to members of the Society.

In 2007 the Journal was taken by 51 corporations and 1840 academic institutions on a paid basis, and requested by an additional 519 institutions in developing countries, where it is made available gratis under an access scheme operated by OUP. Usage is genuinely global, roughly equally spread between Europe, North America and the 'rest of world'.

Income to the Society from its 50% share of profits continues to rise with the inclusion of the Journal in OUP's consortium agreements with institutions, and increased on-line demand for access by individuals. 1331 individuals have signed up for electronic notification of contents, a 13% increase on 2006. There were upwards of 2000 homepage hits and 1000 pdf full text downloads per month. The percentage of articles viewed on JSTOR ( a pay-per view system primarily involving USA-based users) for which downloads are ordered was over 76%, some 8% above the sector average for art and cultural history journals.

The Journal held a strategic review during the past year in conjunction with the DHS Executive and OUP which agreed the JDH should seek to extend the academic and professional reach of design history internationally and to earlier periods while consolidating quality. Publication in the Journal is highly selective and there should be collaboration with other Society activities in extending opportunities for authorship. In conjunction with the DHS Executive and the RCA/V&A MA course the Journal has chosen to commemorate a significant anniversary through a colloquium which addresses global perspectives on design history, of which EB member Dr. Giorgio Riello of Warwick University is co-organiser along with DHS Executive Dr Glenn Adamson of the V&A. EB member Dr. Paul Atkinson of Sheffield Hallam University has proposed to

work in liaison with the Executive to develop stronger links with the design professions. (The JDH has some professional currency already; it was recently placed in the group of journals with the greatest research importance to the design professions in a submission by the Deans of faculties of Design and Built Environment to the Australian Research Council.)

The strategic review believed the Journal should be open to both longer and shorter articles. It already has 'other sections' pieces with shorter lengths, including a series of articles re-focusing perspectives on design history in relation to design practice. EB member Dr Nic Maffei has proposed to re-launch the series of short articles concerned with archives and collections and extend it to include curatorial practice. Such thematic sections complement the role of JDH Special Issues in shaping the field of design history, opening new areas and extending involvement in the editorial process. Proposals for Special Issues, including abstracts of papers may be made for consideration by EB, which also invites proposals in priority areas of development for the subject.

Article submissions are received from a range of geographical and disciplinary locations. At least four referees reports are required for all submissions, including those for special issues and other sections, with two reviewers normally external to the Board. An electronic manuscript management system facilitates double blind refereeing by widely spread editors and referees. Members of the Society are invited to register their expertise in the referees' database. ([www.mc.manuscriptcentral.com/oup/jdh](http://www.mc.manuscriptcentral.com/oup/jdh)) The MMS, which has been in operation for over a year is enabling editors to undertake more programmatic and developmental roles. The role and membership of the Journal's Advisory Board is currently being re-evaluated in relation to these new arrangements. Dr Deborah Sugg-Ryan of UC Falmouth is taking the lead on this.

The Editorial Board comprises eight influential scholars who are selected in agreement with the Design History Society from annual applications to serve terms of five years, complemented by co-options for balance and continuity. The Board aims to maintain a balance between Professors/Readers and younger scholars, as well as representing a spread of sub-disciplinary areas and countries. In 2008 two applications to join the Editorial Board were approved: Dr Javier Gimeno Martinez of the University of Leuven and Dr. Artemis Yagou, an independent scholar based in Athens. Dr. Viviana Narotzky of the RCA has retired from the Board and Dr. Grace Lees-Maffei of the University of Hertfordshire will be retiring in the Autumn of 2008. (Following a period of maternity focus, she intends to apply for re-election to the EB with a particular brief to identify articles published in other languages suitable to appear in the Journal in English translation). To provide for balance of expertise and the development of roles it is proposed that the term of Dr Paul Atkinson is continued until conference 2009 and that of Dr Nick Maffei to conference 2010, with the election of one new EB member in each of those years. The term of the current Chair, Prof Tim Putnam, will come to an end in December 2010, and it is proposed that a replacement is sought by open application a year previously, in order to provide time for selection and handover.

The strategic review agreed that it would be timely to reshape the design of the JDH after twenty-one years. A larger format with typography which relates more closely to the DHS re-branding is being adopted, with a one-column setting for articles to provide a fresher look and give greater prominence to illustrations. Colour reproduction of images is now employed in the online edition, with selective use of colour in print. It has been agreed by the Journal stakeholders that these changes to the Journal's design are important in maintaining its upward trajectory, although they will increase production costs and may marginally reduce the Society's income in the short term.

*Tim Putnam, Chair, Journal of Design History Editorial Board, August 2008*

#### 4. Membership Report –

##### 4.1.i Total Membership for January 1<sup>st</sup> – December 31<sup>st</sup> 2007 (see Table 1)

Total membership for 2007 stood at 256 (not including one institutional member who purchased two subscriptions); the highest total membership since 2002.

Membership comprised of:

- 21 (8%) Institutional Members
  - 193 (75%) Personal Members
  - 40 (17%) Student Members
- and
- 2 (1%) Reduced Members (concessions).

For 2007, the number of Institutional members remained static, there was a small increase in the number of Student and Reduced members and a significant increase in the number of Personal members.

**Table 1: Membership categories – numbers and percentages for January 1<sup>st</sup> – December 31<sup>st</sup> 2002 – 2007**

Membership Category	January – December 2002		January – December 2003		January – December 2004	
	<b>Institutional</b>	17	9%	15	8%	18
<b>Personal</b>	140	71%	149	78%	168	72%
<b>Student</b>	40	20%	27	14%	48	21%
<b>Reduced*</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>n197</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>n 191</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>n234</b>	<b>101%</b>

Membership Category	January – December 2005		January – December 2006		January – December 31 <sup>st</sup> 2007	
	<b>Institutional</b>	16	7%	21	10%	21
<b>Personal</b>	170	78%	161	73%	193	75%

<b>Student</b>	33	15%	38	17%	40	17%
<b>Reduced*</b>	0	0	1	0%	2	1%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>n219</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>n221</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>n256</b>	<b>101</b>

\* New category for 2006

Sources: Figures for 2003, 2004, 2005 and 2006: OUP January 2007. Figures for 2002 Membership Report, September 2004. Figures for 2007: OUP, November 2007.

#### 4.1.ii Institutional Membership

In 2007, Institutional Membership accounted for approximately 8% of the total membership. Twenty-one institutions (including separate departments from within the same institution) were represented, with the majority (n12) from the educational sector. Museums and libraries made up the other sectors within this category.

#### 4.1.iii Personal (individual) Membership

Personal Membership accounted for 75% (193) of the total membership, a positive increase on 2006 figures.

#### 4.1.iv Student Membership

Student Membership accounted for 17% (40) of the total membership, a slight increase in the number of Student members for 2006.

#### 4.1.v Reduced Membership

The Reduced category was first introduced in 2006 and includes the retired and unwaged. The number of members in this category accounted for just under 1% of the total membership or 2 members in total (an increase of 100% on 2006 figures).

### 4.2 Geographical location of society members for January 1<sup>st</sup> – December 31<sup>st</sup> 2007

Membership continued to be both international and geographically diverse. A total of 203 members (79%) came from Europe and 54 members (21%) from the Rest of the World. Membership attracted subscribers from 26 countries (including Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland).

Countries with significant or growing membership included: the UK, the Netherlands and Republic of Ireland (within Europe), and the United States, Canada, Australia and Japan (from the Rest of the World). The high number of members from Netherlands was possibly due to the location of the 2006 annual conference, which was held in Delft.

#### 4.2.ii Membership for January – August 4<sup>th</sup> 2008

Although latest figures for 2008 show a slight decline in the total number of members when compared to mid-year figures for 2007, the number of Student and Reduced members has continued to increase.

<b>Membership Category</b>	<b>January – July 31<sup>st</sup> 2007</b>	<b>January – August 4<sup>th</sup> 2008</b>



<b>Institutional</b>	21	8%	19	8%
<b>Personal</b>	189	75%	157	70%
<b>Student</b>	40	16%	44	20%
<b>Reduced</b>	2	1%	4	2%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>n252</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>n224</b>	<b>100%</b>

A detailed Membership Report for January – December 2008 will be published in January 2009.

*Nichola Hebditch, Membership Secretary, August 22<sup>nd</sup> 2008*

### 5. Essay Prize Report

This year has prize has attracted 23 entries in total, of which only three did not qualify as design history even in its most elastic form. Fifteen BA entries were submitted from courses around the country including Brighton University, Dun Laoghaire College of Design and Technology, John Moores University, the National College of Art and Design in Dublin, Nottingham Trent University, and the University of the Arts London.

Fashion and clothing were well represented, and other topics included button collecting, Irish sex campaigns, the craft of spoonmaking, and Scandinavian design. Three essays focused on urban design and planning, and it was one of these that has won this year's BA prize: 'A study of the *gecekondu* in Istanbul, Turkey: Innovative Urbanism for the West and the Global Urban Poor' by Miranda Iossifides, a student on the Graphic and Media Design BA at the London College of Communication, University of the Arts London. Drawing on primary and wide-ranging secondary sources, the ambitious essay provided a thoughtful account of the complexities of the *gecekondu's* history and design, proposing it as a model of hybrid urbanization.

This was best year so far for the number of postgraduate entries, eight in total, which were all of a very high standard, so making the decision was difficult. Submitting institutions were Bristol University, Sotheby's Institute, the RCA/V&A, and University College Falmouth. Subjects ranged from 18C porcelain, and 17C silverware, science and the Festival of Britain, the British housewife, a re-reading of Le Corbusier 'modern decorative art' thesis, and modernist urban planning. However, the winning essay 'Design Change in American Motels, 1945- 1970' by Elizabeth Bisley from the RCA/V&A course stood out in its elegant integration of sources from film and literature, to a discussion of issues of materiality, gender, and race, the last two of which led to a careful reassessment of Augé non-place thesis.

This is my last year as the Essay Prize Officer. Over the last three years, I am glad that the prizes have included submissions from practice-based students who have shown a commitment and engagement with issues in design history that demonstrate the interconnections between history and practice. Although the Essay Prize is an important commitment of the Society to fostering emerging historians it is also a means whereby the Society is able to document the wide-ranging interests and intellectual breadth of current students. It also casts light on the different approaches and

understandings of what constitutes design history in the submitting institutions. As such it provides invaluable insights into our discipline.

*Linda Sandino, Essay Prize Officer, August 2008*

## **6. Oral History Project Report**

This year the oral history project has begun to consolidate its promise. We recruited Dr Harriet Atkinson as an interviewer and she has been able to complete interviews with Adrian Forty and Tim Benton. Dr Sonia Ashmore is currently recording Jonathan Woodham, having completed an interview with Bridget Wilkins. Future interviewees are in discussion as I write.

Given that our interviewers are only part-time, and have other scholarly responsibilities, the Society has been discussing the recruitment of one or two interviewers who live in the North of England since there are several recordings which need to be done 'up there'!

Although I have now served my three years on the Executive Committee (as Essay Prize Officer), the Society requested that I continue to manage the oral history project. Since the archive is accessed through the vivavoices website, this does seem to make sense even though I have felt at times that the amount of work involved can be excessive because so time consuming. However, the Society has agreed to fund support for the Contents Management System builder, and for a co-worker on the project to help with preparing content, and design-related matters. Our aim is to create a standard web protocol in line with the interviewing procedure and guidelines so that the project can continue indefinitely, with other personnel in the future.

Interviews listed on the website so far [by the date of the conference] will include: Tim Benton, Alan Crawford, Adrian Forty, Gillian Naylor, Penny Sparke, and Bridget Wilkins. Substantial extracts, in accordance with the interviewees' consent, will be available. I'm pleased to say that vivavoices has been selected for inclusion by Intute "a free online service that provides the public with access to the very best Web resources for education and research, selected and evaluated by a network of subject specialists" [[www.intute.ac.uk](http://www.intute.ac.uk)].

*Linda Sandino, August 2008*

## **7. Research Award Report –**

Applications to the Research Grant programme of the DHS this year were limited in number but high in quality, and varied in their geographical origin. Five applicants submitted proposals in the Jan. 15 round, and all were given all or part of the funds requested:

Cathal McLaughlin (University of Ulster), "Prisons Memory Archive: exhibition design and interpretation" Kate Strasdin (University of Southampton), "A Royal Wardrobe Unlocked: A Biographical Analysis of the Surviving Garments of Queen Alexandra" Karen Fiss (California College of Art), "Brand the Beloved Country: National Identity and the Politics of Place in Post-Apartheid South Africa" Bridget May (Marymount University), "Raison d'Etire: Crafting an Historical Narrative of the Evolution of Interior Design " Margaret Ponsonby (University of Wolverhampton), "Textiles and Time: : the use of textiles in the interpretation of historic interiors open to the public".  
The total amount allocated in this round was £3,200.

In addition, funds have been allocated to a forthcoming volume anthologizing the Rayner Banham lectures, which have been supported by the DHS and the V&A/RCA Course in the History of Design. The book will mark the 20th anniversary of the lecture series, and will be edited by Prof. Jeremy Aynsley and Dr. Harriet Atkinson of the RCA and published by Berg Publishers, Oxford.

A further round of application for the Research Grant will close on Sept. 15.

*Glenn Adamson, Research Award Officer, August 2008*

## **8. Learning and teaching Officer's Report – Kirsten Hardie**

The creation of the new DHS post of Learning and Teaching Officer was agreed by the Executive Committee in 2008 and Kirsten Hardie took up post, transferring her role from Regional Representatives Co-ordinator. The role of Regional Representatives Co-ordinator was retired as evidence via the Membership Questionnaire, representatives' activities and the recommendations of the co-ordinator that the a regional coordinator was not necessary. Please refer to AGM Annual Report 2007 and KH recommendations and reports to the Executive Committee (1.12.06; Jan 07)

K. Hardie proposed the role of Learning and Teaching Coordinator in 2007 and subsequently produced papers, the outline proposal and role specification. The Committee agreed the role in 2008 (Please refer to role specification 2008). The officer presented a session regarding the ADMHEA Learning and Teaching Fellowship Scheme with ADMHEA colleague Carolyn Bew at the DHS *Design / Body / Sense Conference*, 2007

The officer has established contact and worked with numerous international learning and teaching organisations, comparable society officers etc to develop contacts, materials and references which can help to inform and support DHS members accordingly. The information is to be published via the newsletter and website later in 2008/9.

### **Newsletter contributions**

The officer has continued to contribute to the DHS newsletter throughout 2007/8 by providing news on Design History events nationally and conference reviews eg review of the DHS sponsored *Love Objects* Conference, Dublin College of Art and Design, 14.02.08).

### **International Members**

The committee recognises the need to promote the Society internationally and to encourage and support more international members. The officer proposed the development of an international DHS Representatives Network. Throughout 2007/8 the officer has liaised with international contacts to develop DHS membership and to develop networking opportunities.

### **DHS Student Prize: *Design History in Practice***

The officer proposed the development of a new DHS Student Award that offers an alternative submission/approach to the DHS essay award. The officer produced a proposal and full outline in January 2008. The new **Student Prize: *Design History in Practice*** aims to encourage wider student participation in design history and the DHS. This prize recognises that communication about design history can take different forms and that students' engage with design history across a range of contexts and in a variety of ways. The Student Prize: *Design History in Practice* aims to complement the established Student Essay Prize.

The aims and outcomes of the proposed prize:

- to encourage students to consider and explore design history
- to provide an opportunity for students to communicate their ideas, perceptions and research of design history through their design practice
- to integrate design history & theory and design practice
- to develop students knowledge and appreciation of design history
- to celebrate student learning
- to open up opportunities for students to engage with design history
- to raise awareness and increase membership of the Design History Society

The proposal was welcomed by the Executive Committee and discussed accordingly.

It is exciting that the role of Learning and Teaching Officer was formally agreed in March 2008. The officer created the role specifications and has undertaken work to develop work accordingly, notably developing close links with the ADM HEA. The officer aims to make significant contribution and to create important opportunities to support DHS members accordingly. Thanks go to the Regional Representatives. It is hoped that new activities will develop which will further inform and support the Society and its members internationally.

*Kirsten Hardie, August 2008*

## **9. Student Representative Report**

This year I further developed the database project, which will go live in September 2008. This will be accessed via a link to the DHS website and designed to hold details on courses that use design history in UK higher education. This will form the basis of a project that will eventually be expanded to international membership.

The database will also offer the society a bank of contacts to help us reach students to publicise society activities. The committee has agreed to back the project and has committed funds to build the database which being developed by *Kerve*.

It is hoped that many aspects of the committee's work will benefit from the database, as subscription will mean DHS student prizes and bursary opportunities can reach more students, a broader range of HEIs can access award opportunities, and we can publicise the annual conference more effectively. It also has the potential to boost institutional membership; Members working in higher education may be attracted to the database to market courses.

It is presently difficult to reach students, especially as their experience of design history is not necessarily on a design history degree, but more likely to be a sub-discipline in a related area like design practice or visual culture. The current project reaches students who are not necessarily on design history courses, enables us to reclaim its role in a range of disciplines in higher education and generates interest in and awareness of the role of design historical scholarship nationally.

*Jane Tynan, Student Representative, August 2008*

## **10. Conference Liaison Officer Report**

### **Proposing to host the Design History Society Annual Conference**

Since 2007 the Society has implemented a formal procedure for institutions and Society members to propose to host and convene the Society's annual conference. This process encourages potential conveners to consider carefully the implications of hosting the Annual Conference (especially if considered in conjunction with the Conference Operational and Financial Guidelines, as below) and enables the Society to manage its selection of host and convener in a fair and transparent manner. An application form, with notes for completing the form, are available from [d.bhagat@londonmet.ac.uk](mailto:d.bhagat@londonmet.ac.uk) and will be available online shortly. All proposals for hosting the Annual Conference are received and considered 24-18 months in advance of the event.

### **The Design History Society Annual Conference Guidelines**

In conjunction with the formal process for proposing and applying to host the Society's Annual Conference, formal Operational and Financial Guidelines and Codes of Practice have been drawn up for conference conveners. Operational Guidelines offer conveners

advice on key aspects of convening, organising and hosting the Conference; Financial Guidelines offer conveners advice on the financial aspects of the Conference, and Codes of Practice detail what the Society expects of any convener and institution hosting its Annual Conference. These guidelines are thus intended to aid conveners in the demanding and complex task of hosting a Conference, as well as ensure a standard of rigorous and transparent practice in all academic and financial aspects of each DHS Conference. For example, the Operational Guidelines include a code that all abstracts, submitted in response to a Conference call for papers, must be blind refereed by a panel of anonymous peer reviewers working to uniform and agreed assessment criteria. Attendance of Executive Committee and Editorial Board members is also refined, as are the terms and conditions for appointing the Design History Society Keynote Speaker. The Financial Guidelines also clarify key fiscal aspects of the Conference: e.g. drawing up of a feasible budget and conference fee structure, submission of accounts by the host institution to the Society and equitable arrangement of profits/loss between the Society and host institution.

The Operational and Financial Guidelines are available from [d.bhagat@londonmet.ac.uk](mailto:d.bhagat@londonmet.ac.uk), and will be available online shortly.

### **2007, 2008, 2009 Conferences**

Trevor Keeble, at Kingston University, convened the **2007** Annual Conference, Design/Body/Sense. The Conference explored histories of bodily and sensual experiences of design and, while it was a smaller event than anticipated, proved of lasting importance to design history colleagues at Kingston University.

Fiona Hackney has convened the **2008** Annual Conference at Falmouth University College. The theme, *Networks of Design*, responds to recent academic interest in the fields of design history, technology and the social sciences in the 'networks' of interactions that inform knowledge formation and design. The DHS Keynote Speaker at *Networks of Design* is Bruno Latour.

This year, the Society has added to *Networks of Design* by hosting an evening reception at Pendennis Castle, Falmouth, to celebrate the **31<sup>st</sup>** anniversary of the founding of the Design History Society and the **25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Journal of Design History**. The reception also afforded the official launch of the website of the Oral History Project that records the development of the discipline over the last thirty years through an on-going series of life histories and interviews with historians and writers who have played a significant role in establishing our discipline. The project and website has been managed by Linda Sandino. Essay prize winners are also announced at the reception.

The **2009** Annual Conference is themed: *Writing Design: Object, Process, Discourse, Translation*, to be hosted by the tVAD Research Group at the University of Hertfordshire, Hatfield, UK, 3-5 September 2009, and convened by Grace Lees-Maffei and Jessica Kelly.

*Dipti Bhagat, Conference Liaison Officer, August 2008*