

# The Design History Society AGM Report 2015

Charitable Incorporated  
Organisation: 1155117,  
registered January 2014,  
operational April 2014

Trustees' and Officers' Reports  
Annual General Meeting  
September 2015

California College of the Arts,  
San Francisco, California





**Annual General Meeting  
Report 2015**



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**DHS**

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**Trustee**

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**Reports**

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## Chair's Introduction: 2014-15

This report to the 2015 AGM summarises the activity of the Design History Society since the meeting at the DHS Annual Conference at Kellogg College, University of Oxford in September 2014. The Trustee members of the Executive Committee report their activity below and together they describe in detail the performance and achievements of the DHS in the last year to carry out our objectives to support and promote the teaching of, and study and research in design history and to disseminate scholarship, research and teaching and learning in design history in the UK and internationally across our membership and the wider design history constituency.

The report represents my first as the newly appointed Chair of the Society, a role I took on in January 2015. This followed the extended period of office of the previous Chair, Dr dipti bhagat who stepped down from the role in December 2014. It is therefore fitting that I open by expressing my sincere thanks to dipti on behalf of all Trustees, members of the editorial board of the *Journal of Design History*, as well as individual members of the Society and the wider design history community, for all the tremendous work she put into leading the Society over the past seven years.

dipti's achievements are too numerous to list in detail here. However, among them was her commitment to the continuing development of the international profile and perspective of the Society. Most notably, this was through the expanded geographical range of the conference venue and activities, such as the Society's programme of day symposia and research grants support, which dipti also encouraged to be extended internationally during her term of office.

At its Executive Meeting in November 2014, the last under dipti's chairing, the Society moved to the status of Charitable Incorporated Organisation (see below). Enormous thanks are due to dipti for overseeing the transfer of the Society's status through this, with her meticulous eye for detail. She stands down having secured this important change for the Society, preparing it well for a confident and stable future.

### Objectives and activities for public benefit

The 2015 DHS Annual Conference marks another milestone in the Society's history. As the venue for the first Society conference to take place in the United States, San Francisco seems totally fitting with the theme of "*How we live, and How we might live: Design and the Spirit of Critical Utopianism*". Convened with inspired judgment and enthusiasm by Barry Katz, Professor of Design at Stanford University and California College of the Arts, San Francisco, the event opens new opportunities for the DHS to engage with widened audiences, build further relations and establish new friends. In many ways the theme of the conference promises to be a counterpoint to the 2014 Oxford conference, led by Dr Claire O'Mahony on *Design for War and Peace*. It is timely to consider historical and contemporary cases when designers' abilities to conjure new futures as urgent issues of global conflict and anxiety come to the fore.

The Society's *Journal of Design History* continues to show a lively submissions rate and to launch new initiatives, including its first Virtual Special Issue. The DHS works closely with its publishing partner OUP to ensure prompt and positive responses to a changing journals publishing landscape, to consider ways in which to improve the international reach for the journal and to effectively manage our membership. The Chair of the Editorial Board, Managing Editor and Editorial Board work hard to maintain an excellent publishing momentum and high quality standards.

With our income, from our membership subscriptions and our 50% profit share with OUP, the DHS has, in large part, funded a range of further activities in accordance with our objectives. As given in detail in the individual reports, during 2014-15 Maya Oppenheimer (Teaching and Learning officer) and Sabrina Rahman (Membership officer) introduced an expanded programme of events held at the Society's premises at 70, Cowcross Street, as well as nationally. Harry Leeson (Communications



officer) seamlessly oversaw the re-design of the Society's website in partnership with the design company Ten4, leading to improved communication and archiving opportunities. Cat Rossi (Research Grant officer) streamlined the research grants offered by the Society and introduced new ones. The Society supported a PhD workshop delivered at the University of Oslo in June 2015. As Cheryl Buckley reports, 2014 marked the first Virtual Special issue of the Journal, 'Reframing Australian Design History', a development opening past articles to a wide readership and we look forward to virtual issues on Pedagogy and Gender, currently in preparation.

## Structure, governance and management

The DHS is a charity, which was dissolved as an unincorporated charity at the Executive Meeting in November 2014 and with the assistance of our Solicitors, we applied to remove this listing from the Charity Commission Register. The Society is now registered with the Charity Commission under the listing as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation, number: 1155117. Transfer of the Society's assets to the CIO, including key assets such as our membership of the DHS-OUP publishing contract was completed with due consideration for data protection and to maintain the same terms of partnership with OUP. A new bank account was opened with Barclays in the name of the CIO and it received all funds from old accounts in the reporting year 2014-15. The Society's Constitution remains unchanged from 2014 and is available from the DHS website:

[http://www.designhistorysociety.org/about/charitable\\_incorporated\\_organisation\\_/index.html](http://www.designhistorysociety.org/about/charitable_incorporated_organisation_/index.html)

This document sets out in detail the structure, governance and management of all aspects of the Society. The Executive Committee comprises 11 members: 10 Trustees (of which Chair, Treasurer and Secretary are Honorary Officers) and 1 Student Representative (not a Trustee), and meets quarterly;

during 2014-15, the level of meeting attendance was 75% or more. At Executive Committee meetings, the members agree the broad strategy and areas of activity for the Society, including grants and awards making, financial status, reserves, risk management and performance and achievements; week-week administration is delegated to the Society Administrator. The Chair of the DHS and the Chair of the JDH Editorial Board address fiscal and partnership matters with OUP regarding the Journal of Design History. The strategic management of the JDH is delegated to the Chair of the Editorial Board (a Trustee), to lead the board, which comprises the Chair of the DHS (ex-officio) and further appointed members: a Managing Editor to manage the peer reviews system, a Reviews Editor and other editors. The Editorial Board meets twice a year and the two Chairs and the Managing and Reviews Editors meet with our publishers annually: again these meetings facilitate the agreement of broad strategy and areas of activity for the JDH. As volunteers, the Editorial Board is highly valued and the Executive Committee seeks to support their work for the Society. A summary prepared by the Chair of the Editorial Board is presented at Executive Committee Meetings. Executive Committee members and Editorial Board members are required to disclose all relevant interests and, in accordance with the DHS constitution, withdraw from decisions where a conflict of interest arises.

Members of the Executive Committee and Editorial Board are mindful to support research, scholarship and teaching and learning which seek to advance our subject for the benefit of our members and wider design history constituency. Trustees are asked to exercise their care, skill, expertise and experience in making decisions about the work we support, the people and institutions with whom we collaborate, the ways in which we keep track of developing research, scholarship and teaching and learning in design history and identifying areas of the same which require particular provision to enhance inclusive design histories.

New members of the Executive Committee are recruited by open advertisement, nominees are proposed and seconded by 2 DHS members; they may be co-opted if prior to the AGM (a maximum of 4 may be co-opted), and are always elected by ordinary decision of the members at the Annual General Meeting. Members of the Executive Committee are sought for their experience and for their commitment to the Society and its aims; we aim to keep under review the skills and composition of the Trustee body and succession planning. The Trustees have also developed formal statements of Trustee Roles and Responsibilities and new members of the Executive Committee are welcomed with an induction meeting with the Chair and Administrator to discuss their role and responsibilities and provided with a copy of the Charity Commission's guidance 'The Essential Trustee: What You Need to Know', the DHS Constitution and the last AGM report. All Executive Committee members give of their time freely. No Trustee was paid remuneration in the year; out of pocket expenses incurred in conducting work of the DHS by Executive Committee and Editorial Board members are reimbursed in a timely fashion and these costs are disclosed in the Summary Schedule to the Financial Activities of the DHS, below.

The Executive Committee has advertised in June 2015 to replace 2 members, the Research Grant Officer and Conference Liaison Officer, to be elected by this AGM in September 2015.

## Risk Management

The Trustees are responsible for assessing the major risks to which the DHS is exposed and to establishing procedures to manage/mitigate those risks. To this end the Executive Committee elected (in 2013) to re-organise the Society as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO). The CIO is a new legal form for charities and was created in response to requests from charities for a new legal structure. As a CIO, the DHS has the benefits of a distinct legal personality; this will enable the Society to conduct business in its own name rather than in the name of its Trustees.

CIO status also removes the Society's Trustees and Members from personal liabilities for the Society's debts. The Chair's Report to the AGM in 2013 outlined the process of re-organising as a CIO, its benefits, timing, implications for the membership and costs. The Society has also purchased appropriate Charity and Community Insurance to protect the Society's assets, resources, Trustees and Editorial Board members and other volunteers against loss, damage or liability arising from the risks that all charities face. A reserve policy, reviewed annually, is established to enable the Society to continue core activities, such as grants, awards, bursaries and an annual conference, in the event of the loss of income.

## New Agendas

As incoming Chair, I would like to take this opportunity not only to reflect on the past year but also to project future agendas that lie ahead for the field of Design History. Significantly, these largely concern its location as a subject, its institutional standing and how the Society can contribute towards securing a firm base for growth in the years to come. Areas of strategic importance for the Society that we have identified as the focus of our attention in coming years include:

### 1) Design History as a subject-specific discipline

The evolving character of Design History as a subject taught at school, college and university level, as well as pursued through research in universities, the media, cultural institutions, museums and galleries, remains one of vital significance for the Society. It is also one in which the DHS can make an active contribution. Initially, this will take the form of providing a forum to review the provision of Design History as a taught subject at all levels: School, College, undergraduate and postgraduate in the UK and beyond. The Society is well placed to lead the initiative in this discussion of future curriculum development and identify where the challenges lie.

## **2) Design History's audiences**

Since its foundation in 1977, the Society has had as its aim to disseminate and publish the subject for public benefit. For this, our continued engagement and exchange with communities of designers and those working in museums, galleries and other parts of the cultural sector, which benefit from the work of design history, is key. We will review how the Society serves these sectors with the aim of identifying new channels and means to enhance these relations.

## **3) The Society and international developments**

Across the world, the subject of Design History now has many subject-specialist organisations, among them International Conferences on Design History (ICSDHS); Design History Workshop Japan; Gesellschaft für Designgeschichte (GfDG); A/I/S/ Design Storia e Ricerche; 4T Design and Design History Society Turkey; US Design Studies Forum College Art Association, and DHARN Design History Australia Network (DHARN). The Board of Trustees will consider their co-existence and identify ways in which the DHS can work with and alongside such professional societies to build potential partnerships or collaborations in planning the Society's programme of future events and activities.

Three Trustees step down this year: Dr Sally-Anne Huxtable, Conference Liaison officer; Dr Catharine Rossi, Research Grant officer, and Dr Annebella Pollen, Essay Prize officer. We thank them each for their generous contribution and dedicated work to ensure the continued creative growth and development of the Society.

*Professor Jeremy Aynsley, Chair, September 2015*

## **Acknowledgements**

In my first seven months as Chair, I have been made aware of the extraordinary commitment and level of engagement all Trustees show to the Society. Thanks go to all Executive Committee members who contribute their constant hard work and valuable expert advice - as well as good humour. These efforts would not be realised without the constant support of Michaela Young, the Society's administrator, whose professionalism and patience are reflected in all that she does for the Society and Journal. I would also like to thank Michaela personally for inducting me in this new role.

<b>Incoming Resources</b>	<b>Amount (in pounds)</b>
Incoming resources from generated funds	
Investment income	1,458
Incoming resources from charitable activities	
Publication	57,373
<b>Total incoming resources</b>	<b>58,831</b>

<b>Resources Expended*</b>	<b>Amount (in pounds)</b>
<b>Charitable activities</b>	
Study (incl. T&L event, Student essay prize & Student travel award)	5,965
Research (incl. Research Grant, Strategic Res. Grant, Research Publication Grant, Research Exhibition Grant, Research Travel & Conference Grant, Oral History Project)	4,068
Dissemination (incl. Banham Lectures, Conference Expenditure, Keynote Speakers, Website, Day Symposia)	20,662
Publication (Ed. Board expenses, JDH Translations)	5,701
Outreach (Outreach and promotion costs)	4,241
Governance costs (incl. Trustee's and JDH expenses for meetings)	5,636
<b>Total resources expended</b>	<b>46,273</b>
NET INCOMING RESOURCES	12,558
Other recognised gains/losses	n/a
Assets transferred from unincorporated charity	101,718
Net movement in funds	114,276
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>	<b>114,276</b>

*\*In order to comply with the norms that regulate CIO accounts, please note that Support Costs (Rent, Administration Costs, Bank Charges, Stationary and Equipment, Postage and Packaging, and Legal and Professional Fees) have been equally distributed among and added to charitable activities costs.*

# Treasurer Report for the Financial Year Ending 31 December 2014

This report covers the financial year reported to and independently examined by Stephen Anderson, Knox Cropper Chartered Accountants. It comprises a 9-month period, from 1 April to 31 December 2014 to include the first financial period of the DHS operating as a CIO. The Society's total incoming resources for the 2013/14 financial years (15 months) were £53,133; our total income for the last financial period (9 months) was £58,831. Our total expenditure for the 2013/14 financial year (15 months) was £64,611 while our total expenditure for the last financial period (9 months) was £46,273. In sum, while in 2013/14 period the DHS accounts showed a £11,478 in increased expenditure in contrast to annual income, the last financial period (9 months) showed £12,558 in net incoming resources. The total funds carried forward from December 2014 to January 15 were £114,276. This sum includes monies kept in the Society's reserve that have been partially used since January 15 to cover for the expenses associated with holding a conference abroad, according to the DHS Reserves Policy. Funds carried forward have also been partially used to meet the expenses of DHS charitable activities for the first half of 2015 since DHS incoming resources are only effective from July of each year.

## DHS Reserve Policy

As governed by the Charity Commission, the DHS has to strike a balance between spending its income on its charitable aims and keeping monies in reserve to enable the Society to expand according to its future plans, and to sustain the Society's core activities in the event of the loss of income. Future plans include but are not limited to, for example, the organization of annual conferences abroad in line with the Society's plans for the internationalization of Design History. The DHS reserve policy proposed by the Trustees is to equate three year's of DHS core expenditure as follows. An annual cost for operations to sustain core charitable activities is calculated at £17,302; a three-year reserve based on this is allocated £51,906. The Society's current reserves of approximately £53,956.94 cover the proposed policy. The DHS reserves policy shall be monitored and reviewed yearly.

	1 Year	3 Years
Exec Officers Expenses	1,000	3,000
Conference Costs (incl. Bursary)	5,000	15,000
Awards	10,000	20,000
Professional Fees	702	2106
Insurance	600	1,800
<b>Total</b>	<b>17302</b>	<b>51,906</b>

In 2014 and 2015, the three bank accounts of the old unincorporated society have been closed and the funds transferred to the DHS' Barclay's Community Current Account and Barclay's Active Saver account, where the DHS reserves are kept. The balances in the Society's accounts at the end of 9-month financial period in 2014 were as follows:

**Barclay's Community Current Account**  
£48,996.44

**Barclay's Active Saver Account**  
£65,956.94

The schedule to the statement of financial activities, as prepared by the Society's accountant, can be made available to members. If you would like a copy, please contact the Society's administrator, Michaela Young at: [designhistorysociety@gmail.com](mailto:designhistorysociety@gmail.com).

**Dr. Livia Rezende, Treasurer, September 2015**

## Journal Report

The *Journal of Design History* (JDH) is owned by the Design History Society (DHS). Founded in 1988, it has been published since then by Oxford University Press (OUP) under a five-yearly renewable contract that agrees equal profit share between OUP and the DHS. This year's volume is number 28 and 4 issues are published annually ([www.oxfordjournals.org/jdh](http://www.oxfordjournals.org/jdh)). The profits generated by the Journal of Design History are used to promote study and research in the history of design not just in the UK, but internationally. The current editorial management of the Journal of Design History has been in place since 2011; however within the next two years replacements will be sought for both these positions (Chair in June 2016 and Managing Editor in June 2017). In addition, an advertisement for a replacement Book Reviews Editor is currently underway with an official start date of January 2016 (with a hand-over period beginning October 2015).

A characteristic of the largely successful partnership between the JDH and OUP has been changing personnel at OUP in relation to production, marketing and publishing. This has resulted in some difficulties particularly recently with production, however working in partnership with our publisher Sarah Scutts and the production assistant Nicola Henderson, we are confident that measures are in place to ensure consistent quality. The Virtual Editorial Office (VEO) system implemented at OUP since 2012 has been consolidated with the JDH and it has been well supported by the Virtual Editorial Assistant, Alison Hutchins.

OUP's 2015 *Publisher's Report* outlines a number of developments that have some impact on the JDH including the adoption of US National Information Standards Organization terminology that align OUP with the international academic publishing context, Oxford Language Editing, and on-going Open Access policies.

2014 saw publication of two special issues 'Colour' (27.3) and 'Transnational Modern Design Histories in East Asia' (27.4) It was also in 2014 that the first Virtual

Special issue 'Reframing Australian Design History' was successfully launched. It is pleasing to note that the introductory essay by Daniel J. Huppatz has had a very high number of downloads since publication.

In 2014, JDH institutional circulation grew by 5% to 3,798 subscribers including growth due to the developing countries initiative. Subscriber numbers at the end of May 2015 (5 months) was 3,559 and in line with previous years, the expectation is that this will increase by the end of the year. OUP's view of growth is that JDH benefits from the high quality and modest pricing of OUP journals' consortia sales. On-line access is predominant, with over 80% of subscribing institutions receiving on-line access only; however subscriptions involving receipt of a printed copy have remained significant. Generally JDH circulation has performed well compared to most humanities journals in increasingly competitive, tight market conditions.

- In 2014 total circulation of the Journal remained at similar levels to 2013 at 4,027 (3829 in 2013). This includes 529 (522 in 2013) full-price JDH institutional subscriptions. The figure for 2015 ytd (year to date) in May 2015 was 3835.
- 2238 institutions (2111 in 2013) are part of consortium agreements and 1,031 (972 in 2013) institutions received gratis or discounted subscriptions in developing countries.
- Personal and DHS individual membership subscriptions rose slightly from 224 in 2013 to 229 in 2014 (the ytd figure at May 2015 was 236).
- In 2014 there were 47,310 full text downloads which represents a strong (9%) increase on 2013 (43,211). OUP report that Asia and North America are showing good growth, although Europe still provides almost 50% of eTOC registrants.
- Geographic breakdown of e-alerts (this includes eTOCs and Advance Access) usage shows: Europe 47% (of visits), North America 23%, Asia 18%,

Oceania 6%, Central and South America 3%, Africa 3%.

- Income to the Society, which comes from members' subscriptions and a 50% share of profits, increased to approx £64k for the year ended 31 Dec 2014 (see Treasurer's Report for details).

Submissions to *JDH* are received from a wide range of geographical and disciplinary locations and the number of new submissions in 2014 was 76 with another 45 in revision. The number of manuscripts that went through the *JDH*'s editorial processes in 2014 was 121 in contrast to 113 in 2013, 160 in 2012 and 161 in 2011 (the latter two high due to December 2012 REF census date, we judge). In 2014 roughly 50% of manuscripts were received from authors in the UK and USA; down from 62% in 2013. The Scholar One electronic manuscript management system also facilitates refereeing and revision by geographically diverse editors and referees. The EB comprises eight members (see page 4). The DHS Chair in consultation with the Editorial Chair and ME reviews the composition of the EB in light of workloads.

**Professor Cheryl Buckley, Editorial Chair, *Journal of Design History*, September 2015**

## Membership and Outreach Report

At the end of June 2015, there are 221 members of the Design History Society. 200 are paying members, broken down as follows: 8 institutions, 68 students, 15 seniors, and 109 at the standard individual rate. 21 members are non-paying members, meaning that they are either DHS prize winners or belong to the Advisory Board. We currently have 24 more members than we had at the time of the last AGM in Oxford (197). This significant boost in membership might be attributed to the introduction of new members' only grants.

At present we have members from the following countries outside of the United Kingdom: United States, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, and the Republic of Ireland, nearly all countries in Scandinavia and Western Europe (with especially strong numbers in Norway, Sweden, France, Germany, the Netherlands, and Spain), Slovenia, Mexico, Brazil, Colombia, India, Singapore, and Taiwan. Our global profile is certainly increasing, and we are committed to ensuring that this continues to be the case. This year we also gained several new members who are not university academics, including a number of curators and design practitioners, which speaks to our objective of being an inclusive society.

We have supported three Day Symposia this year, starting with 'Cultural Threads: Transnational Textiles Today', organised by Jessica Hemmings (National College of Art and Design, Dublin) and held at Central Saint Martins in February 2015. In June 2015, Joana Meroz (VU University Amsterdam) and Gabriele Oropallo (University of Oslo) convened 'Design History in Practice: Theory, Method and Materials' at the University of Oslo. A DHS Day Symposium will be taking place in July 2015 as part of DresserFest, held at Teesside University and organised by the Christopher Dresser Society. We welcome and encourage all members to submit proposals; there is no deadline, but applications must be received three months before the event date.

Please contact myself or Michaela Young with any queries.

In May 2015, we piloted our public outreach programme with the launch of our new website, followed by a design walk of Smithfield Market led by Dr Spike Sweeting (Royal College of Art) and a reception at the Gallery at 77 Cowcross Street. The event was well-attended, and starting in autumn 2015 further public events will be taking place, in London as well as in regional centres such as Leeds, Manchester and Newcastle. Our goal with this initiative is to promote design history to academic and non-academic audiences alike.

The DHS Oral History Project has now been completed and is up on the VIVA Voices website. Over the coming year, all interviews will be migrated to the new DHS website, where they will be made freely accessible. We would like to extend a warm thanks to Linda Sandino for her stellar work on this important project and her generous contribution of service to the Society.

***Dr Sabrina Rahman, Membership and Outreach Officer,  
September 2015***



# Conference Liaison Officer's Report

## Proposals for the 2017 Annual Conference

The call for institutions and Society members to propose to host and convene the Society's Annual Conference in 2017 will be sent out August and again in September and November. All applications will be considered by the Society's Executive Committee approximately 18-24 months before the conference is due to be held. The deadline for proposals for convening the 2017 conference is 1 December 2015.

## 2014 Conference

Dr Claire O'Mahony convened the 2014 Annual Conference, 'Design for War and Peace' at the University of Oxford Department for Continuing Education. The conference coincided with and complemented the worldwide commemorations for the centenary of the outbreak of the First World War in 1914. The conference successfully offered a very timely opportunity for design history to engage with and debate the often fraught relationship between war and design, as well as the often fascinating use of design in the name of peace. The papers presented were of a very high standard and displayed a superbly broad approach to the topic. Happily the conference was a financial success and the profit has been shared between the DHS and the University of Oxford.

The annual DHS reception, to which OUP kindly contributed, was held in the galleries of the Ashmolean Museum.

## 2015 Conference

The theme of the 2015 Annual Conference is: "How We Live, and How we Might Live": Design and the Spirit of Critical Utopianism and will be held at California College of the Arts, San Francisco, California, 11-13 September 2015. The conference will be convened by Professor Barry Katz, Professor of Design at Stanford University and at the California College of the Arts in

San Francisco. This is the first Society event to be held in the USA and we very much look forward to seeing familiar faces and welcoming new design historians from the Americas and beyond.

## 2016 Conference

The 2016 DHS Annual Conference will be convened in September (dates TBC) by Professor Anne Massey at Middlesex University and will explore the relationship between Design and Time. As ever, we look forward to contributions from international scholars and practitioners from diverse disciplines. Further details will be posted on the DHS and Middlesex University websites in due course.

*Dr. Sally Anne Huxtable, Conference Liaison Officer, September 2015*

# Communications Report

## Website

In last years report I discussed how the decision was made to have the website redesigned. I am happy to report that this process is now complete; beginning in July 2014 and launching in May this year.

The two primary motives for the redesign were:

- a) To allow us to more effectively communicate with our members and the wider design history community.
- b) For the site to act as an archive for DHS activities and a resource for design historians; one that can facilitate multimedia content.

These two objectives have been achieved with the new design in numerous ways: the website is now responsive and will adjust to fit the screen of mobile and tablet devices, allowing the content to be more accessible. The homepage provides an informative snapshot of DHS activities, the navigation of the site has improved and the website generally communicates the status of the society through good design.

As an archive and resource the site now has the ability to host a variety of content including video and audio recordings. Moving forward in my role as the communications officer I would like to ensure that the potential of this facility is met. I have begun liaising with other members of the Executive committee to ensure that the recording of DHS activities -in various formats- is an essential part of the Society's role as a resource for design historians and students. We are already collating material for Teaching & Learning events and we aim to ensure that the present and future conferences have a larger and more useful presence on the DHS site, with multimedia content allowing the conference to reach beyond its attendees.

The redesign of the site is also allowing the content from the DHS Oral History project to be transferred

from the closing Viva Voices site to the DHS site, and again contributing to my intention of improving the website as an archive and resource.

With the new capabilities of the site some issues are raised with regards to the generating of this content. It has been discussed that this may present an opportunity for students to become involved with the society via ambassadorships. The details of this have yet to be worked out but it does highlight potential for the society to increase its digital presence whilst offering opportunities for students to gain experience.

As part of my role I also aim to ensure that all communications material is consistent with the branding present on the new DHS website. So far I have redesigned the DHS flyer and AGM report to reflect this and will continue to implement the new DHS branding where relevant.

## Newsletter

It was discussed in my previous AGM report that the decision was made to open the newsletter to non-members, to be used as a tool for keeping current members informed on the actions of the DHS and as a way of drawing non-members to the website.

This decision was approved last year but we have had to wait for the launch of the new website for this to take effect. The new site provides numerous opportunities throughout to subscribe quickly and easily. It is too early to draw any conclusions on this decisions impact to newsletter subscriptions but subscriptions have increased and we hope they will continue to do so.

## Social Media

The social media presence of the DHS has taken great strides this year with a large increase of members/ followers on every platform (see table opposite). Special thanks goes to Michaela Young for her exceptional work in this area.

The DHS Social network presence is as follows:

	Members/ Followers 2014	Members/ Followers 2015
Facebook DHS Group:	542	743
Facebook DHS Page:	300	791
Linkedin:	400	754
Twitter:	823	1236

Harry Leeson, Communications Officer, September 2015

# Teaching and Learning Report

This is my second of three years as Teaching & Learning Officer. Over the past year, T&L workshops have grown in number and remit and involved collaboration with fellow trustees to meet the needs of new resources and programs as well as the interests of the membership and attendees previously not affiliated with the DHS. T&L associated over the past year were planned by trustees and include:

**Annual Teaching and Learning Workshop,**  
19 September 2014.

Theme: Sounds of Design History: Podcasting and Audio Broadcasting in Design History

Invited speakers represented a range of expertise in using audio recording and radio to disseminate their research and design-related public engagement projects. Speakers included: Emily Candela (ATOMIC radio), Rebecca Bell (Art on the Underground, the Artliner Project), Dr Juliette Kristensen (Paperweight Radio), Dr Jamie Wilkes (The Thread Radio, Vox Lab, The Listening Post). A recording and audio programme is available via the DHS Soundcloud feed.

**Inaugural Research Funding Workshop,**  
23 April 2015

Co-convended with Dr Catharine Rossi and welcomed speakers from the Arts and Humanities Research Council, British Academy, research development professionals, research fellows who addressed an audience of early career researchers, research staff, curators and tutors presentation slides, two reports and a recording from this event document its proceedings and will be available via the website.

**Publishing Workshop,**  
10 September 2015

Panel speakers confirmed from the Journal of Design History, West 86th, Design & Culture, the Journal of Visual Culture, others TBC hosted at California College of the Arts

These events are conceived to de-mystify processes of organizing, conducting and disseminating research and while they are not solely designed to cater to academics and scholars, this has been the predominant background of attendees. To broaden event audiences, I am working with the Membership & Outreach Officer, Dr Sabrina Rahman, and Communications Officer, Harry Leeson, with guidance from the Board and Chair, to increase the number of events via a strategic calendar of invited collaborations: we aim to build further initiatives that benefit and extend the membership and to attract new audiences, with specific goals of taking events outside London and collaborating with appropriate organisations and partners.

To this effect, a public event was hosted at Cowcross Street to coincide with Clerkenwell Design Week and to celebrate the launch of the new DHS Website:

**Web Launch and Design Walk,**  
19 May 2015

With addresses from Jeremy Aynsley, Sabrina Rahman, Harry Leeson and design walk lead by Dr Spike Sweeting, design historian and tutor on the RCA/V&A History of Design programme.

Plans are in process to compile an Autumn Events scheme with a broad range of both T&L and popular themes considered. Forthcoming plans include a student-centered event co-organized by Betsy Lewis-Holmes, Student Liaison Officer, an event in Leeds and in Oxford, as well as T&L-focused sessions on peer review and archives in design practice.

I aim to work with fellow Trustees to maximize online content drawn from T&L and other activities so as to reach members and interested public and to begin a DHS Teaching and Learning Resources presence online. To this end we are purchasing an event recorder and compiling multimedia to host on the new website in the near future.

**Dr Maya Oppenheimer, Teaching & Learning Officer,**  
September 2015

# Student Representative's Report

The total amount awarded over 2014-5 was £4,499.99. In line with other DHS awards the grant has now been opened internationally. This has resulted in a greater number of applications being received for a broader and more diverse range of topics to further the subject. There is now one annual deadline, in January, which will free time to explore other ways to engage students with the DHS.

The DHS funded bursaries for ten students to attend the Open University Conference 'Forty Years On: The Domain of Design History - Looking Back Looking Forward.'

## DHS Student Travel Grant October 2014

Six applications were received and we awarded £1499.99 to the following projects:

- Anna Wu (PhD in History of Design, RCA/V&A) received £500 to support research visits to China for her doctoral project 'Beyond Chinoiserie: Chinese wallpapers as global visual culture.'
- Artemis Alexiou (PhD at Manchester Institute for Research and Innovation in Art and Design, Manchester Metropolitan University) received £165 to support several research visits from Manchester to London to consult sources relating to her research into graphic design of women's periodicals.
- Alexis Romano (PhD Courtauld Institute) received £500 to support study visits to libraries and archives for her project 'Constructions of Modernity, 1950-1970: Pret-a-Porter, Paris and the Image of Women.'
- Anna Jackman (PhD in Human Geography, University of Exeter) received £334.99 to support study visits to exhibitions in Italy relating to Leonardo da Vinci's machine designs, contributing to her research into the design of biomimetic unmanned technologies.

## DHS Student Travel Grant January 2015

We received seventeen applications and awarded £3,000 to ten students:

Aims for the Forthcoming year:

Continue to promote DHS membership to students working on design history related topics but in other disciplines and work with the Learning and Teaching Officer to deliver events for students.

*Betsy Lewis-Holmes, Student Representative,  
September 2015*

## Essay Prize Report

As is now usual, the call for entries and details of the prize appeared in the DHS newsletter, website and Facebook page and was also widely circulated on Twitter – thank you to Michaela Young and Harry Leeson for helping this to happen. As in previous years there was also a direct approach to Design History tutors and their networks internationally.

There were 15 submissions received this year; this total matched the number submitted in 2012, but was significantly lower than the 23 submissions of 2014 and the all-time high of 26 submissions in 2013. Submissions came from UK, Ireland, Norway and USA. The range of participating institutions comprised, in the UK, University of Brighton; Kingston University; University of the Arts London and the Royal College of Art. Outside the UK, there were submissions from the Institute of Art, Design and Technology, Dublin; Dublin School of Creative Arts; University of Oslo and the School of Visual Arts, New York City. The six entries at undergraduate level were predominantly from studio-based courses, reflecting the limited provision of Design History as a standalone degree path at BA level. Of the nine postgraduate entries, seven were at M-level, and represented a mix of practice and theory pathways. Two essays were from PhD candidates who reworked sections of their theses for submission as a standalone essay.


Two submissions from the overall cohort unfortunately did not conform to the entry criteria required. The remaining thirteen covered an innovative range of topics, examining the design of coffins and Mars space programmes alongside comic strips and architecture. Pressing topics from environmental crisis to piracy in intellectual property were given a fresh design historical angle, and as always, the submissions as a whole probed an extraordinarily wide range of resources, theories and methodological approaches. A full list of titles and students will be published on the Design History Society website in due course.

The work of the two winners for 2015 stood out as particularly deserving, with their well-researched,

well-written, confident and original essays. The undergraduate winner, Rosie Clarke, a BA (Hons) student on the History of Design, Culture and Society degree at University of Brighton, impressed the judges with her sophisticated study of how the new mobilities paradigm in cultural geography can help design historians develop new concepts of home. Rosie's essay, 'Homes on the Move: Caravan Dwelling in Twenty-first Century Britain' was a theoretically sophisticated account that drew on four carefully and deeply researched case studies (circus performers, new travellers, and traveller families on legal and illegal sites). The nominating tutor described the submission as the best piece of undergraduate work she had read in more than twenty years of teaching design history; the external examiner described it as 'truly magnificent'. Essay Prize assessors were also hugely enthusiastic. In their words, the essay was 'accomplished', 'subtle', even 'fantastic'. Overall, they concluded, it was 'a pleasure to read'.

The winner of the postgraduate essay prize, Alison Rees, a recently graduated MA Ceramics and Glass student from the Royal College of Art, also impressed the judges with her innovative essay entitled 'Physical Reminders: Tracing a ceramic mural's presence and absence in postwar London'. Through a highly original piece of writing that blended autobiography and immersive psycho-geography, Alison traced the rise, fall and revival of a single mural, created in 1960 by Dorothy Annan for a London telecommunications centre. Through masterful storytelling and a ceramicist's eye for detail, Alison produced a submission that excited her assessors, who gave it the highest possible marks for originality and communication. As one put it, if there had been an additional category for creativity, it would also have received ten out of ten. Overall, the essay was an exemplary enquiry from a student maker in how to synthesise history, theory and practice.

As Essay Prize Officer, it is my pleasure to reward these students for their efforts and I look forward to presenting them with their prizes at the Design History Society AGM at California College of the Arts,



September 2015. In my third and final year in my role, it has been a privilege to read some absolutely excellent essays and meet some extraordinarily talented researchers; long may they (and their successors) continue to aim so high and achieve so much.

I thank Michaela Young, administrator of the Design History Society, for her invaluable support in receiving and processing submissions again this year. To colleagues enlisted to assess essays, my very grateful thanks also: Damon Taylor, Sabrina Rahman, Zoe Thomas, Maya Oppenheimer, Cat Rossi, Sally-Anne Huxtable, Cheryl Buckley and Lou Taylor.

***Dr Annebella Pollen, DHS Essay Prize Officer,  
September 2015***

# Research Grant Report

## 2015 Research Grants

Last year we decided to diversify the DHS grants and increase the overall funding available annually, in order to most effectively support the field and recognise the changing modes of conducting and disseminating design history research.

There are now 4 new grants, 3 of which have already been awarded. A total of 14 applications have applied for the 3 grants, based in the following locations: Canada: 1; Lebanon: 1; Norway: 1; Slovenia: 1; Turkey: 1; UK: 5; USA: 3. This is a notable diversification in the location of applications, although it still does not represent the global nature of the design history community. The current total is just below the average number of applicants that were received for the previous, single annual Research Grant – we have not yet had the Strategic Grant applications in. All successful applicants are required to submit articles within 6 months of receipt of notification of the award, which are then published on the DHS website and in the DHS newsletter.

We have not had a whole year of the new grants, so a complete review of the grants is not yet possible. It is worth noting that the increase in number of grants does mean that more members of the Executive Committee need to take part more regularly in assessing submissions (normally there are 2 members of the Committee involved, in addition to the Research Grant Officer). This additional workload should be taken into consideration.

It has been a useful and worthwhile exercise to review and revise the provision of grants made available by the DHS. We will need to continually review our offering to ensuring its suitability for a changing research landscape.

i. Research Publication Grant. Deadline: January 15th. Open to all national and international DHS members.

There were 5 applicants for the £3,000 total available. 4 were awarded funding (max £1,000 each):

- Barry Katz, California College of Art. Request: Subvention costs towards Ecosystem of Innovation: The History of Silicon Valley Design (MIT Press) . Award granted: £800
- Kjetil Fallan, University of Oslo. Request: Indexer costs for Designing Modern Norway: A History of Design Discourse (Ashgate). Award granted: £700
- Jilly Traganou, The New School for Design, Reviews Editor of Journal of Design History (2011-present) Request: index and image permissions for Designing the Olympics (Routledge, 2016. Award granted: £700
- Nachabe Taan, Lebanese American University. Request: costs towards production of monograph on Abdulkader Arnaout, Syrian graphic designer (Khatt Books). Award granted: £800

ii. Research Exhibition Grant. Deadline March 15th. Open to all scholars and students anywhere in the world.

There were 3 applications for the total £1,500 available. 2 were awarded funding (max £1,000 each)

- Frances Robertson and Susannah Waters, Glasgow School of Art. Request: Art School in Action (1970s – 1980s) – The Experimental Art School, exhibition at GSA, September 2015. Award granted: £362.48
- Jennifer M. Volland, Curator, Canada. Request: Cabin Fever, exhibition to be held at Vancouver Art Gallery, 2017. Award granted: £823

iii. Research Travel and Conference Grant. Deadline May 15th. Open to all national and international DHS members (except students).

There were 8 applications for the total £3,000 available. 5 were awarded funding (max £1,000 each)



- Sorcha O'Brien, Kingston University. Request: The Electrification of the Rural Irish Home: Siemens Domestic Electrical Products in Ireland in the 1950s and 1960s. Visit to Siemens Archive, Munich. Award granted: £500
- Ksenija Berk, independent scholar, Slovenia. Request: to present paper 'Uneasiness in Urban Space: Design and Notion of Contemporary Heterotopia' at 2015 DHS Conference, Award granted: £700
- Michelle Jones, independent scholar, UK. Request: trip for research into Vogue and the Control and Dissemination of Design in the 1930s. Award granted: £500
- Tugce Karatas, independent scholar, Turkey. Request: to present paper 'Utopia is Possible: 7th ICSID Congress' at 2015 DHS Conference. Award granted: £600
- Emre Gönlügür and Dogan Baskir, Izmir University of Economics, Turkey. Request: to present paper 'From Follies to Forums: The Democratic Horizon of Urban Dissent in the Gezi Park Movement' at 2015 DHS Conference. Award granted: £700

**iv.** Strategic Research Grant. Deadline November 15th. Open to all scholars and students anywhere in the world. £1,000 available in total for individual awards of maximum £500.

## Research Grant Workshop

The inaugural DHS Research Funding event was held in April, organised in conjunction with Maya Oppenheimer, the DHS Teaching and Learning Officer and held at the Cowcross Street site.

We had a total of 5 speakers: Ken Edmond, Head of Research Awards, British Academy; Nicola Froggatt, Research Grants Manager, V&A; Marcia Holmes,

Postdoctoral Researcher, 'Hidden Persuaders', Birkbeck College and the Wellcome Trust; Oliver Moss, Research Fellow/Research Funding Development Manager and Project Manager at Northumbria University; Dr Emma Wakelin, Associate Director of Programmes, AHRC.

The workshop was well attended and suggested that there was an appetite for future, focused events. These could focus on more specific aspects of research and funding such as: collaboration with other disciplines; impact; writing grant applications; publishing PhD research. We are currently working with Harry Leeson, the DHS Communications Officer, to make a selection of material available as resources for the DHS website. I would like to thank Maya, Michaela, Harry and the invited speakers for making the event so successful.

## End of Tenure

I was elected to the DHS Executive Committee as Research Grant Officer at the DHS AGM in 2011, following an earlier elected position as Student Officer. The Research Grant Officer is a four-year post that terminates at the September AGM. I have greatly enjoyed my time on the DHS Executive Committee, and hope that I have made a contribution to the valuable work of the DHS. I would like to thank my fellow committee members past and present, the members of the Journal Editorial Board, and the DHS community for their support throughout my tenure and I wish the Committee, and the new Officer, well for the future.

**Dr Catharine Rossi, Research Grant Officer,  
September 2015**

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# Journal of Design History: Editorial Board, 2015

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**Annual General Meeting  
Report 2015**



