



# **Design History Society**

## **Executive Committee**

### **Annual Report to the AGM: 2014**

**Charity number: Unincorporated Charity: 327326**  
**Charitable Incorporated Organisation: 1155117**, registered December 2013,  
operational from 1 April 2014

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The Design History Society was founded in 1977, to support and promote the teaching of and study and research in design history and to disseminate and publish the results thereof for public benefit, in the UK and internationally.

Members of the Executive Committee of the Design History Society comprise 10 Trustees and 1 Student Representative, who is not Trustee, and present here the annual report and financial statements of the DHS for 2013-2014.

The Trustees of the DHS are responsible for preparing the Executive Committee's Annual Report (which must include financial statements) in accordance with the Constitution/s (both for the unincorporated Society and the CIO) and applicable law, regulation and recommendations (Charities Act 2011, the Charity Accounts and Reports Regulations, 2008 and the Statement of Recommended Practice for Accounting and Reporting, 2005 (SORP)).

This report describes how the Executive Committee has sought to further the objectives of the DHS with care and due regard for the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit; it is approved by the members of the Executive Committee and signed on their behalf by:

*dipti bhagat,*  
*Chair of the Executive Committee*  
*September, 2014*

*Dr Sabrina Rahman*  
*Membership and Outreach Officer*  
*September, 2014*

## Chair's Report

This report to the AGM summarises the activities of the Design History Society during the year since our meeting at the DHS Annual Conference in Ahmedabad, India in September 2013. Members of the Executive Committee of the DHS - Trustees and a Student Representative (not a Trustee) - detail their activities and together they describe well 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 and publish the useful results thereof for public benefit. This report also outlines future plans to enhance the Society's objectives to promote, support, enhance and disseminate research, scholarship and teaching and learning practice in design history in the UK and internationally across our membership and wider design history constituency.

### Objectives and activities for public benefit

The Society's first conference in India was held at the National Institute of Design in Ahmedabad in 2013, convened by Dr Suchitra Balasubrahmanyam, and Tanishka Kachru. Its theme on *Postcolonial Perspectives* in design history has been a very valuable contribution to developing inclusive design histories and offered an excellent opportunity for the Society to work with and support our increasingly international constituency of design history practitioners. NID Press has recently accepted the conveners' proposal to publish the proceedings of the DHS Conference - *Towards Global Histories of Design: Postcolonial Perspectives*, we look forward to this outcome.

The 2014 DHS Annual Conference brings us to Kellogg College, at the University of Oxford. Convened with great energy (and a keen eye for a steady supply of pastry and cake) by Dr Claire O'Mahony, this conference theme is *Design for War and Peace* and coincides with the centenary commemorations of the outbreak of the First World War. We look forward to a range of carefully curated and stimulating work from international delegates this year, again with a strong emphasis on the inter-disciplinarity that undoubtedly underpins design histories of conflict and peace. Members of the Executive Committee and Editorial Board have contributed to the conference's peer reviewing process and will be involved as session chairs. The Society has sponsored keynote speakers and has awarded 12 bursaries in support of post-graduate student speakers; with OUP, our publishing partner, the Society has sponsored the conference reception at the Ashmolean Museum.

The Society's Journal, the *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, including: our annual article translation for the *JDH*, 6 Research Grants, 3 Student Travel Grants, 2 Essay Prizes, our second Early Career workshop on Journals Publishing, a stall at the AHRC Postgraduate Careers Showcase and outreach activity at the ICDHS conference in Aveiro, Portugal.

In the last year the Society has transferred the archive of DHS papers to our Cowcross Street premises (from Northumbria University). These papers had been stored in files and boxes, mostly unsorted and un-labeled. Michaela Young has been tasked with conducting a

full survey of these papers, beginning to sort them where possible and compiling a basic index of potential categories for ordering them. It should be possible then to decide what should be kept, identify gaps in the archive, seek to fill them (where possible) and to determine how it should be ordered, documented and stored. Where appropriate, the DHS Newsletter will include an occasional excerpt from these papers to briefly illuminate the history of the Society's work and the debates it has generated. Once the archive is in good order and well labeled, the Society aims make it available to all members and other interested readers.

### **Structure, governance and management**

The DHS is a charity, at present registered with the Charity Commission under two listings: as an unincorporated charity, number: 327326; and also now as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation, number: 1155117. The unincorporated Society remains for a brief while longer in order to complete the full transfer of all assets to the CIO before the unincorporated Society is dissolved; authority for the Executive Committee to effect dissolution at an appropriate time was granted by single majority vote by the AGM in 2013. Transfer of the Society's assets to the CIO, including key assets such as our membership and the DHS-OUP publishing contract, has been largely completed with due consideration for data protection and to maintain the same terms of partnership with OUP. A new bank account has been opened with Barclays in the name of the CIO and it will receive all funds from old accounts by the end of September 2014. The unincorporated Society will be dissolved at our Executive Meeting in November 2014, and with the assistance of our Solicitors, we will apply to remove this listing from the Charity Commission Register.

The new CIO has succeeded to the name Design History Society; its registered number is 1155117. The DHS has been operating as a CIO since April 2014 and is governed by the Design History Society Constitution, (an 'Association' Model Constitution) dated 23 December 2013, when the CIO was officially registered with the Charity Commission. The Constitution 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 Trustees), and meets quarterly; during 2013-14, 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, Editorial Board is highly valued and the Executive Committee seeks to support their work for the Society. Editorial Board meeting minutes and the publisher's annual report, meeting minutes and accounts will now be tabled 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. In January 2014, following registration as a CIO, the Executive Committee held an exceptional meeting to closely review our new constitution, the Charity Commission's guidance on Public Benefit, and on 'The Essential Trustee: What You Need to Know', to enable members to carry out their duties and makes decisions with due regard for the requirements and guidance therein.

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 co-opted 2 new members in the past year, Zoe Thomas and Betsy Lewis-Holmes as Secretary and Student Representative, respectively; both stand to elected by this AGM, alongside a nominee for the role of Chair of DHS.

### **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 (2013) to reorganise the Society as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO). The CIO is a new legal form for charities and was created (recently) 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 reorganising as a CIO, its benefits, timing, implications for the membership and costs (the latter are listed in the summary schedule below). 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.

## **Acknowledgements**

Executive Committee members have stepped/will be stepping down this year: Paddy O'Shea, Student Representative and myself from the role of Chair of the DHS. I thank Paddy his generous work for the Society.

This is my final report to the AGM, as I step down from the role of Chair in December 2014. I have had the honour of serving as a Trustee for 7 years – 2 years as Conference Liaison Officer and 5 as Chair - and I hope and trust that I have served the Executive Committee, the Editorial Board and Society as a whole to its benefit. I have special thanks to make to all Executive Committee members with whom I have been so privileged to work; they have been exemplary, valuable colleagues, judicious in their expert advice and constant in their hard work, trust and good humour; and to Michaela Young, the Society's administrator, for her extraordinary and unfailing support and patience as the work of the DHS has grown. Finally, I extend my warmest appreciation to the Society membership for its continued commitment and friendship. I wish the next Chair the camaraderie and pleasure of the work I have enjoyed during my term (s!) as Trustee.

*dipti bhagat, Chair, September 2014*

## Treasurer Report for the Financial Year Ending 31 March, 2014

This report summarises the Statement of Financial Activities as independently examined and reported to the Charity Commission, comprising a 15-month period, from 1 January, 2013 to 31 March, 2014 to conclude the accounts for the unincorporated Society. As of 1 April, 2014 the DHS has been operating as a CIO. As an independent examiner, our accountant has not raised any matters for concern with respect to the Charities Act of 2011.

Total **income** (from member subscriptions, 50% profit share from the *JDH*) for the 2012 financial year was **£49,386**; our total income for the last financial period (15 months) was **£53,133** (from member subscriptions, 50% profit share from the *JDH* and conference receipts). This represents a net surplus of £3,747, including 3 extra months in the income sum. Total expenditure for the 2012 financial year was £39,155 while our total expenditure for the last financial period (15 months) was £64,611. This represents a difference of £25,456 in resources spent. In sum, while in 2012 the DHS accounts showed an under-spend of £10,231, in the following period comprising the whole of 2013 plus 3 months of 2014 our accounts show £11,478 in increased expenditure against annual income. This increase in expenditure is explained by the 3 extra months added to the accountancy period and by: the organisation of the 2013 DHS Annual Conference held in Ahmedabad, India; an increase in awards and grants made in 2013; legal fees associated with the Society's incorporation; the purchase of Charity and Community insurance; administrative costs in engaging a freelance administrator on an ongoing basis, and rental fees for a space at a fixed address. Surplus reserve funds have enabled this extra expenditure, and a significant sum of this expenditure will diminish once incorporation is completed.

### Design History Society Summary Statement of Financial Activities for the year January 2013 – 31 March 2014

	Unrestricted Funds 2014	Prior Period Funds 2012
<b>Incoming resources</b>		
<b>Voluntary income</b>		
<i>Member's subscriptions</i>	3,059	2,536
Investment Income		
<i>Bank deposit interest</i>	51	31
Charitable activities	50,023	46,819
<i>JDH profit share</i>	48,063	46,819
<i>Conference receipts</i>	1,960	-
<b>Total incoming resources</b>	<b>53,133</b>	<b>49,386</b>
Costs of Charitable activities	63,909	38,495
Governance costs	702	660
<b>Total resources expended</b>	<b>64,611</b>	<b>39,155</b>
Net movement in funds	(11,478)	10,231
Total funds carried forward	101,718	113,196
<i>Reserve</i>	£65,839	65,382

**Design History Society**  
**Summary Schedule to the Statement of Financial Activities: Resources**  
**Expended.**  
**Charitable Expenditure and costs of activities in furtherance of DHS objectives**  
**January 2013 – 31 March 2014**

	<b>Unrestricted Funds 2013-14</b>	<b>Prior Period Funds 2012</b>	<b>Prior Period Funds 2011</b>
Conference	4,294	14,485	8,841
Trustees & JDH Editors	18,599	11,195	19,110
<i>Trustees</i>	<i>10,131</i>	<i>2,100</i>	<i>6,893</i>
<i>JDH Editors</i>	<i>8,468</i>	<i>9,095</i>	<i>12,217</i>
DHS Awards	11,265	5,611	5,565
Teaching & Learning	1,465	427	3,542
Day Symposium	-	689	2,220
Outreach and Promotion	2841	-	-
Consultancy Fees	-	-	474
Independent Examiner (Auditing)	702	660	660
Legal Fees	12,600	-	-
Administration Fees	8,683	4,206	-
Rent	1,107	-	-
Insurance	576	576	-
Bank Charges	275	320	-
Oral History Project	-	-	275
Newsletter	-	1,250	1,671
JDH Translation	550	-	2,100
Stationery and Postage	1,297	-	-
Website	322	312	570
Sundry expenses	32	-	-
<b>Total expended</b>	<b>64,611</b>	<b>39,155</b>	<b>45,489</b>

All activities derive from continuing operations

## DHS Reserve Policy

As governed by the Charity Commission, the DHS has to strike a balance between spending its income on its charitable objectives and holding a reserve to sustain the Society's core activities in the event of the loss of income. This is particularly important to manage the risk of reliance on a single source of revenue: +80% of the Society's income is received from the 50% profit share with OUP in publishing the *JDH*. The DHS reserve policy proposed by the Trustees is to maintain a balance on unrestricted funds equivalent to three year's of DHS core expenditure on its main objectives: an annual sum of reduced expenses to sustain core charitable activities is calculated at £17,302; a 3 year reserve based on this provides a reserve of £51,906. The Society's current reserve of approximately £65,839.58 more than covers the proposed policy; as it is higher than required, this will be adjusted by diverting surplus to increase DHS public benefit activities. The DHS Reserve Policy shall be reviewed annually.

<b>DHS Reserve</b>	<b>1 year £</b>	<b>3 years £</b>
Executive Officers Expenses	1,000	3,000
Conference Costs (including Bursaries)	5,000	15,000
Awards	10,000	30,000
Professional Fees	702	2,1606
Insurance	600	1,800
<b>Total</b>	<b>17,302</b>	<b>51,906</b>

## Bank accounts and balance

Old accounts for the unincorporated Society - with Scottish Widows and Santander - will be closed and assets transferred to new Charity and Community Bank Account with Barclays under the new CIO registration and charity number. The balance in the Society's accounts at the year ending 31 March, 2014 was as follows:

<i>Scottish Widows Business Fund Deposit Account*</i>	<i>£65,839.58</i>
<i>Santander Business Current Account:</i>	<i>£9,843.19</i>
<i>Santander Business Reserve Account:</i>	<i>£26,344.61</i>

\*In 2012, our account with Scottish Widows was named Scottish Widows' Treasury 60 Day's Notice Deposit Account, but due to internal changes the bank moved DHS funds to the Business Fund Deposit Account.

The law applicable to charities in England and Wales (Charities Act 2011) requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year, which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Society and of the incoming resources and application for public benefit of resources of the Society for that period. A detailed Statement of Financial Activities prepared by our accountant (an independent examiner) was approved by the DHS Trustees at an Executive Committee Meeting on 21 June, 2014 and signed on their behalf by Livia Rezende, Treasurer, before submission to the Charity Commission. This full Statement including the balance sheet, notes and schedule to the statement of financial activities, as prepared by the Society's accountant, can be made available to members: to request a copy please contact the Society Administrator, Michaela Young at [designhistorysociety@gmail.com](mailto:designhistorysociety@gmail.com).

*dipti bhagat, Chair, Dr. Livia Rezende, Treasurer and Michaela Young, DHS Administrator, September 2014.*

## Journal Report

The *Journal of Design History*, published four times a year by Oxford University Press through agreement with the Design History Society since 1988, is in its 27th year ([www.oxfordjournals.org/jdh](http://www.oxfordjournals.org/jdh)). Since becoming Editorial Chair in 2011, there have been many changes of personnel at OUP, and although we have worked hard to make sure that these have not impacted negatively on the running of the journal, this has necessitated careful management by myself, the Managing Editor and the Chair of the Design History Society. Our publisher, currently, Laura Jose is covering for Sarah Scutts' maternity leave.

OUP's 2014 *Publisher's Report* describes overall institutional growth for the *Journal of Design History* within a context of the gradual decline of full price subscriptions. 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. While *JDH* circulation has grown less in 2013 than in the mid-2000s, circulation and income have performed well compared to most humanities journals in difficult market conditions.

- In 2013 total circulation of the Journal remained at similar levels to 2012 at 3829 (3851 in 2012). This includes 522 (534 in 2012) full-price *JDH* institutional subscriptions. Figures for 2014 ytd (year to date) in June 2014 was 3854 and 188.
- 2111 institutions (2101 in 2012) are part of consortium agreements and 972 (978 in 2012) received gratis or discounted subscriptions in developing countries.
- Personal and DHS individual membership subscriptions dropped slightly from 238 in 2012 to 224 in 2013 (the ytd figure at June 2014 was 188). Membership is under review by the DHS Executive.
- Geographic Breakdown of usage shows Europe 41% (of visits), North America 34%, Asia 15%, Australia and New Zealand 6%, Central and South America 3%, Africa 1%.

Income to the Society comes from members' subscriptions (administered by OUP) and a 50% share of profits increased to approx. £53k for 2012, and £56k in 2013. OUP projects modest continued growth in 2014, providing the Society with income in 2014 at about similar levels: £54k (before subscriptions). Oxford Journals have so far been successful in maintaining consortium sales levels and *JDH*-specific institutional subscriptions have remained stable.

Submissions to *JDH* are received from a wide range of geographical and disciplinary locations and the number of new submissions in 2013 was 57 with another 56 in revision. The number of manuscripts that went through the *JDH*'s editorial processes in 2013 was 113 as opposed to 160 in 2012- this large number was artificially high due to REF. In 2013 roughly 62% of manuscripts were received from authors in the UK and USA; the same percentage as in 2012. The Scholar One electronic manuscript management system also facilitates refereeing and revision by geographically diverse editors and referees. The EB comprises eight members. The Editorial Chair, in consultation with DHS Chair, reviews the composition of the EB in light of workloads and expertise.

January 2014 saw the online publication of the *JDH*'s first Virtual Special Issue entitled 'Reframing Australian Design History' and two further are planned (Pedagogy and Gender). The identification and translation of a key article by an influential scholar within the field (overseen by Kjetil Fallan in 2013-14 and published in 27.1 as '110 Volts at Home: the American Lista') continues and in addition to Shininess (26.3), special issues are forthcoming on Colour (27.3), Émigrés, East Asia and Design Dispersed. Proposals for

Special Issues may be made for consideration by EB, which also invites proposals in priority areas of development for the subject.

Following the successful registration of the Design History Society as Charitable Incorporated Organisation, the Strategic Review of the journal will continue. Following discussion last year of the implications of Open Access for academic journals, OUP is now compliant with HEFCE policy through the gold and green routes.

*Professor Cheryl Buckley, Editorial Chair, Journal of Design History, September 2014.*

## Membership and Outreach Report

At the end of July 2014, there were 197 members of the Design History Society. 176 are paying members, broken down as follows: 10 institutions, 41 students, 12 seniors, and 113 at the standard individual rate. The numbers are up from this time last year, when there were 182 members, but they are still lower than two years ago, when there were over 200 members. As the conference bursary is available only to DHS student members, 10 new members joined in a very short period of time.

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 Europe (with especially strong numbers in Scandinavia, France, Germany, the Netherlands, and Spain), Mexico, Brazil, Japan, India, and Singapore. Last year's conference in Ahmedabad certainly increased our global profile, and we are committed to maintaining the DHS's status as the leading international organisation in the field.

The Society is planning to boost membership figures by creating a small number of grants that are open exclusively to members, as well as by liaising with other relevant societies. Over the past year, the DHS has invested in reaching out to both national and international forums. In March 2014 we hosted a stall at the AHRC Postgraduate Careers Showcase in Manchester. This was a pilot event organised by the AHRC, which offered AHRC-funded students the opportunity to attend workshops addressing possible career options outside of academia. The DHS stall displayed information about our awards and research grants as well as recent issues of the *Journal of Design History*, and attracted interest from PhD students in a wide range of disciplines, including history, literature, and media studies. This event also coincided with the Textile Society's yearly Antique Textile Fair in Manchester, where I met with members of their executive committee, who are keen to collaborate with the DHS in the future.

In July 2014, I represented the DHS at the conference of the International Committee for Design History and Studies (ICDHS), held at the University of Aveiro, Portugal. I gave a talk on the history and aims of the DHS at a roundtable discussion on 'The European Province: National approaches and wider issues relating to the global provinces.' As a result of larger discussions on the practice of design history around the world, the DHS hopes to sponsor collaborative events with the Japan Society of Design, the Turkish Design History Society, and the AIS/Design – the Italian Association of Design History. This will hopefully make the DHS more visible and active internationally.

In the next year, the DHS will be introducing a public outreach programme, which will take advantage of the central location of our premises at Cowcross Street to promote design history to academic and non-academic audiences alike. This programme will be co-organised by Maya Oppenheimer (Teaching and Learning Officer), Michaela Young, and myself.

*Dr Sabrina Rahman, Membership and Outreach Officer, September 2014.*

## **Communications Report**

### **DHS Website**

The DHS website is currently running on a difficult html system and has become 'dated' in both its appearance and capabilities. I am happy to report that the redesign of the DHS website is now underway. A detailed brief was created and sent to three design companies of which Ten4 was chosen to take on the project in an Executive Committee meeting on the 5<sup>th</sup> of April 2014.

Ten4 are a London based digital design company with a varied and extensive client list (their website: <http://www.ten4design.co.uk>) and we are confident they will create an easy to use, visually pleasing website that will allow us to expand the material/ resources hosted to represent better the range of work undertaken by the DHS and create a much more user friendly environment for current members to access.

### **Newsletter**

It has been decided that the newsletter should no longer be exclusive to DHS members. It was felt by the Executive Committee that the membership benefits of the newsletter were not clear as the content is available online and it would be best to utilise the newsletter 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 where they will be encouraged to join. It is our belief that by doing this we can largely increase the number of newsletter recipients and ultimately expand the profile, awareness and membership of the Design History Society. Furthermore, members' benefits will be enhanced in other areas of the DHS work (see Research Grants and Membership and Outreach reports).

The Newsletters since the last AGM have all been sent on time and have contained a variety of DHS related content. It is my intention that every newsletter shall have a key feature based on a relevant theme. The previous newsletter took inspiration from the 2014 Design and Resistance conference held at Yaşar University in İzmir, Turkey and featured an extensive report from the conference convenor Bahar Emgin. Currently the newsletters are reaching an average open rate of 60% and a click rate of around 30% which I hope will improve when the website redesign is complete and the newsletter can be promoted to non-members.

### **Social networks**

The DHS social network presence is as follows:

Facebook DHS group: 542 group members

Facebook DHS page: 300 followers

LinkedIn: 370 connections

Twitter: 823 followers

*Harry Leeson, Communications Officer*

## Conference Liaison Report

### Proposals for the 2016 and Future Conferences

The call for institutions and Society members to propose to host and convene the Society's Annual Conference in 2016 went out at the end of August and will go out again in September and November. The Design History Society works towards furthering world-wide dialogues in design history and warmly welcomes proposals from individual members and institutions that support and engage in teaching and research in design history. An application form, with notes for completing the form, is available from [designhistorysociety@gmail.com](mailto:designhistorysociety@gmail.com). All proposals for hosting the Annual Conference are received and considered 24-18 months in advance of the event. All applications will be considered by the Society's Executive Committee approximately 18-20 months before the conference is due to be held. The deadline for proposals for convening the 2016 conference is 1 December, 2014. The Society collaborates very closely with conference conveners, and on acceptance of a conference proposal institutions hosting and convening the DHS Annual Conference enter into an agreement with the Society to confirm that obligations laid out by the Society (in the DHS Conference Guidelines and Code of Practice) will be met and agree a 50% profit/loss share.

### 2013, 2014 and 2015 Conferences

Suchitra Balasubrahmanyam, and Tanishka Kachru convened the 2013 Annual Conference, *Towards Global Histories of Design: Postcolonial Perspectives*. The conference took place from 5 – 8 September, 2013 at the National Institute of Design (NID), Ahmedabad, India. The Society and the conference delegates were made to feel extremely welcome by the staff and students of NID and the hospitality of our hosts and wonderful city of Ahmedabad. The conference was the first DHS event to be held in India (indeed the first outside of Europe) and was regarded as hugely successful. As well as facilitating extremely lively and stimulating debates on design and Postcolonial ideas and practices, the conference it was a truly international event, attracting scholars and practitioners from a number of design-related disciplines from five continents. Design History is just becoming established in India and the conference was regarded as significant in enhancing this development. It attracted a great deal of interest from the media with a number of outlets reporting on the conference, including the Ahmedabad edition of the *Times of India* and Gujarati-language press, as well as a local TV interview with Tanishka Kachru and the DHS Chair. The Society has sponsored keynote speakers and awarded 18 bursaries in support of post-graduate student speakers at the conference in India. Members of the Executive Committee and Editorial Board members contributed to the conference's reviewing process and were involved as session chairs. The Society also launched a strategic grant to support research related to the conference theme. As part of the British Council's curatorial residency at the National Institute of Design in Ahmedabad, Tom Wilson (a DHS student member) also spent a month working with students and faculty to research and develop an exhibition project 'You Are Here: NID Traces' which focused on NID's collection, and formed part of the wrap-around activity at the conference.

Dr Claire O'Mahony at Kellogg College, University of Oxford, has convened the 2014 DHS Annual Conference. The conference theme is *Design for War and Peace* and coincides with the centenary commemorations of the outbreak of the First World War. These remembrances can be seen to mark an apposite moment in which to reflect upon the relationship of design and craft to conflict and peace.

The 2015 DHS Annual Conference will be convened in September 2015, by Professor Barry M. Katz, California College of the Arts, San Francisco. The conference theme is 'How We Live and How We Might Live'. The conference will invite participants to consider design histories of utopia. The broadly imagined topic of design(ed) utopias is strongly linked to the college's foundation as an Arts and Crafts institution, and Professor Katz hopes that proposals for papers will, in part, take up the challenge posed by William Morris in 1884: How have designers contributed to a culture of "burn, sink, and destroy?" Conversely, how have they helped us to envision life as he thought it should be—"pleasant, generous, and beautiful?" The conference is less concerned with the Arts and Crafts Movement per se, than it is with the spirit of critical utopianism that animated it: how have different historical periods in different places imagined utopia/s? The 2015 conference will also offer an opportunity to make connections with the 2013 and 2014 conferences (*Design for War and Peace* and *Towards Global Histories of Design: Postcolonial Perspectives*) where we might consider how people, nations and postcolonies might have designed their imagined futures after war and empire.

As ever we look forward to contributions from international scholars, students and practitioners from diverse disciplines. Further details will be announced at the end of this conference and posted on the DHS and California College of the Arts websites.

*Dr Sally-Anne Huxtable, Conference Liaison Officer, September 2014.*

## Teaching and Learning Report

This is my first of three years as Teaching & Learning Officer, a role assumed in September 2013 following the Archives and Collections in Teaching and Learning workshop.

In preparation for this year's conference at Oxford, I have convened the second DHS Publishing Early Career Workshop (3<sup>rd</sup> September 2014, Kellogg College, Oxford). Following the format from the 2012 Publishing Workshop held prior to the DHS conference at Brighton, this event invites five editors from journal titles that speak to design and design history research and aims to de-mystify for early career researchers the process of article writing and peer reviewing that is part of journal publishing. The journals include *Journal of Design History*, *Journal of Visual Culture*, *Design and Culture*, *Journal of Modern Craft* and *West 86<sup>th</sup>*. A full report from this workshop will be published in the newsletter.

I have also proposed and commenced planning 2 further events to engage students, early career researchers and the DHS membership in teaching and learning in design history:

1) Annual Teaching and Learning Workshop, varied in theme to address important and current issues in T&L landscape. For my tenure, they will all address themes of research communication and dissemination. On September 19<sup>th</sup>, we will host Sounds of Design History, a workshop with invited guests who use podcasts or audio broadcasting in their research practice, followed by an open audio event that plays segments from their work and other design history-related programmes.

2) Annual Conference Early Career Workshop (I), will take place in early next year and will focus on presentation skills for conference papers, including composing abstracts, framing ongoing research and networking.

I aim to maximise online content drawn from T&L activities so as to reach members and interested public and to begin a DHS Teaching and Learning Resources presence online. I also hope to host events beyond the workshop format. Ideas are ongoing and include initiatives that will benefit the membership but also bring in new audiences and raise the profile of the Design History Society's activities.

*Maya Oppenheimer, Teaching & Learning Officer, September 2014*

## Essay Prize Report

As last year, 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 Harry Leeson and Michaela Young for helping this to happen. The eye-catching poster, designed by Ness Wood, former DHS Student Officer, was updated for 2014 and no doubt helped promote interest – many thanks to Ness for doing this. As in previous years there was also a direct approach to Design History tutors and their networks internationally.

There were 23 submissions in total this year, slightly down on the all-time high of 26 submissions in 2013, but still well above the 15 submitted in 2012. Submissions came from UK, Ireland and USA and we were also particularly pleased to receive submissions from Australia and Argentina. The range of participating institutions was wide: Central St. Martins College of Art and Design; Glasgow School of Art; University of Hertfordshire; University of Brighton; Kingston University; Northumbria University; University of South Wales; Institute of Art, Design and Technology, Dublin; Parsons The New School, USA; Bard Graduate Centre, USA; Boston University, USA; University of New England, Australia; University of Buenos Aires, Argentina. The 15 entries at undergraduate level were predominantly from studio-based courses (with two exceptions, including the winner, who study in a History of Art and Design programme). Of the seven postgraduate entries, four were at MLevel. Of these, one student studied in a Textiles practice programme and the three others on specialist art and design history MA programmes. Finally, three essays were from PhD candidates who reworked sections of their theses for submission as a standalone essay.

A very small minority of essays this year, unfortunately, either did not conform to the submission formats required or did not meet some of the content requirements. Overall, however, the topics submitted were high quality and characteristically wide. Subjects under scrutiny included the cultural meanings of the Guernsey jumper, the material and visual culture of the Irish show band 1950-70, the challenge of preserving McDonalds' Happy Meal memorabilia, and a century of change in the Jaipur block-printing industry. Interestingly, nostalgia featured as a topic in both undergraduate and postgraduate submissions. MA and PhD subjects included consumption as spectacle in Yugoslavia, two dissertations on display models and kits, analysis of Australian military uniform production in the early twentieth century and activist posters produced during the 1978 World Cup. Details of all students nominated for the prize, along with their essay titles, are included on the DHS website.

Both winners in 2014 are, unusually, dress historians. The undergraduate essay prize for 2014 went to Jenna Price, BA (hons) Fashion and Dress History, University of Brighton, UK for her dissertation: *Negotiating Female Masculinity in the Early Twentieth Century: The Case of Vera 'Jack' Holme*. Assessors considered this to be a highly original project that drew together an ambitious body of material through extensive research in archives and complex theoretical gender theory to consider the

little known subject of working-class cross-dressing. As one assessor noted, this essay went beyond undergraduate level and was an impressive piece of work.

The postgraduate prize was awarded to Alison Kowalski, MA Decorative Arts, Design History, Material Culture, Bard Graduate School, New York for her essay: *Art in Everyday Life and the Do-it-Yourself Soviet Fashion of Nadezhda Lamanova*. Assessors considered this essay to be a particularly sophisticated, well-written and fresh approach to Constructivist fashion, with one assessor awarding 49 marks out of a possible 50. Alison brought a new interpretation to the analysis of the practicality of revolutionary fashion through detailed historical context, a new translation of a little studied body of material and, most significantly, through her interpretations of garments as a skilled dressmaker. The winners will be presented with their awards at the Oxford conference, which they have been invited to attend as part of their prize, and will write summaries of their winning essays for the DHS website in due course.

In overview of my two years' experience in the Essay Prize Officer role, it is interesting to note that external assessors rarely feel as passionately about the essays that they assess as did the colleagues who submitted them! This is perhaps natural. With PhD submissions, it is noticeable that the task of creating a stand-alone essay often proves to be a significant challenge for candidates, who need to balance the detailed research expected in a thesis chapter with the requirements of a fully rounded essay (aims and objectives, method and methodology, context and conclusions). A PhD student has yet to win the postgraduate prize in the three years since they have been eligible. Finally, it is also notable that there is some variation between institutions about what constitutes excellence in essay submissions, and for this reason it is useful to have a wide range of assessors from a wide range of institutions acting as prize judges.

I am very grateful to those who provided expert opinions on the submissions this year. This includes members of the DHS Executive: dipti bhagat, Harry Leeson, Maya Oppenheimer, Sabrina Rahmann, Sally-Anne Huxtable and Cat Rossi. My thanks also extend to colleagues Charlotte Nicklas, Damon Taylor, Jeremy Aynsley and Sorcha O'Brien, and to additional assessors Jane Tynan, and Sarah Cheang who helped ensure transparent and independent assessment for submissions coming from Brighton. I am particularly grateful to Michaela Young for taking on the lion's share of the administrative load in 2014 – this makes a big difference when there are twenty-plus 10,000 word essays to read.

The Essay Prize Officer task is an interesting one with many pleasures, not least the opportunity to enjoy an overview of current best practice in student work internationally, and the privilege of being able to read the excellent research of the next generation of design historians. The winners should be very proud of their achievements.

*Dr Annebella Pollen, Essay Prize Officer, September 2014*

## Research Grant Report

### Research Grants 2014

For the 2014 Research Grant, the Committee agreed to increase the total amount of funding available from £3,000 to £4,000 and to reduce the maximum individual funding request from £1,500 to £1,000. Together, these two changes were intended to enable the award to be distributed as widely and meaningfully as possible.

This year's submissions were high in both quantity and quality. We received a slightly reduced number of applications, with 18 received in 2014 compared to 21 in 2013). Submissions were from 4 countries: UK (10); Ireland (1); Turkey (1); USA (6). There were a significant number of graphic design history related research projects, making up half of the applications. Other submissions ranged in themes from carpet and product design to anatomy and ceramics.

A total of six applications were given partial or full funding:

1. *Dr Helena Britt, Glasgow School of Art*. 'Internationally Creative Carpets: An investigation into the design processes of Stoddard Templeton, 1843 – 2005'. £500.
2. *Catherine Ince, Barbican*. 'Charles and Ray Eames / Eames Office Archive'. £800.
3. *Michaela Young, Independent Scholar (UK)*. 'Fashioning Jamaica: The Ariguanabo Textile Mill and the creation of a Jamaican identity 1948 – 1980.' £800.
4. *Oliver Bradbury, Independent Scholar (UK)*. 'The interior design work of Nanda Vigo (covering her 1959-1980 oeuvre), and international transmission of Italian post-Radical design in the form of a case study of former Fiorucci New York store (1976-1980).' £500.
5. *Joanna Brück and Lisa Godson*. 'Making 1916: the material and visual culture of the Easter Rising'. £800.
6. *Rose Gridneff, Collaborative Letterpress; Andrew Haslam, Associate Head of Design School, Kingston University and Alexander Cooper, Lecturer, London College of Communication*. '6x6: Collaborative Letterpress Project'. £600

The judging was done by myself and two fellow members of the Executive Committee, with the involvement of an additional member in the instance of DHS administrator Michaela Young's application, to ensure a fair and transparent assessment process. I would like to express my thanks for their role in this process. All successful applicants are required to submit a report for the DHS newsletter, and I am in the process of soliciting these.

### Research Grants 2015

In response to the increasingly challenging financial landscape in academia, the reduced opportunities for funded research in design history, and the DHS's aim to support the development of the subject, we are making significant changes to our research-funding programme. From 2015, the overall amount of funding available will be increased, and the single Research Grants will be split into 4 separate annual grants to most effectively meet the Society's aim to support the field and encourage

inclusive definitions of design history and its methods and approaches. Some will be available only to DHS members and others will be open to all to increase membership benefits and encourage new scholarship in the field. The amount available for each award will be finalised by the close of the 2014 Annual Conference.

The 4 new grants will be:

1. *Research Publication Grant*. Assistance for those engaged in design history research with the publication of their research in non-profit outputs. Open to all national and international DHS members. Deadline: January 15<sup>th</sup>.
2. *Research Travel and Conference Grant*. To assist those who need to travel to conduct essential research for their design history scholarship or to present new research at key academic conferences. Open to all national and international DHS members. Deadline May 15<sup>th</sup>.
3. *Research Exhibition Grant*. Assistance for those engaged in design history research that leads to an exhibition or display. Open to all scholars and students anywhere in the world. Deadline March 15<sup>th</sup>.
4. *Strategic Research Grant*. First launched in 2012, the Strategic Research Grant will support design history research in areas, themes or methods overlooked or underrepresented in the field but important to its future development. Open to all scholars and students anywhere in the world. Deadline November 15<sup>th</sup>.

*Dr Catharine Rossi, Research Grant Officer, September 2014*

## **Student Representative's Report**

### **DHS Student Travel Grant 2013**

A total of five applications were received for the October 2013 deadline. All were strong contenders but, from this, 3 were selected that had a direct contribution to design history. These were:

1. *Rachel Kara Van Greuning*: Visits to the Museum of Modern Art's archive and The American Art Archive at the Smithsonian Institute in Washington D.C. £ 500.00
2. *Zoe Thomas*: Visting the Bauhaus Archive and Museum of Design and The Deutscher Werkbund Archive: Museum de Dinge. £395.35
3. *Rebecca Bell*: Month long study trip to the Czech Republic to visit various archives connected to her PhD study. Funded: £ 500.00

### **DHS Student Travel Grant January 2014**

Only two applications were received for the January 2014 deadline. These were:

1. *Emma Cook*: Visit to the Wedgewood archives, the Spode papers at Keele University and Stoke on Trent City Archives. £375.80
2. *Corey Martin Evans*: Visit to the Vitra archives. £500.00

Aims for the forthcoming year

- To promote the DHS to postgraduate students from other areas, with particular interest in those studying medical humanities.
- To begin planning for a symposium for 2015/6, possibly working with the Fig 9 Collective.

*Paddy O'Shea, outgoing Student Representative and Betsy Lewis-Holmes, (co-opted) Student Representative, September 2014*

## **Secretary's Report**

I have assumed the role of Secretary as a co-opted member of the Executive Committee until a formal vote at the AGM in September 2014. So far I have been familiarising myself with the Executive Committee, working with Michaela Young in the creation of up to date versions of Executive Committee Members' role descriptions, and workflows and compiling the 2014 AGM report. I look forward to assisting the new Chair and providing any support needed to the Society over the next 3 years.

*Zoe Thomas, (co-opted) Secretary, September 2014*

## Reference and Administrative Information

### Elected Executive Committee Members: Trustees and Student Representative, 2014

#### Trustees

<b>Chair (Honorary Officer)</b>	dipti bhagat d.bhagat@londonmet.ac.uk London Metropolitan University
<b>Secretary (Honorary Officer)</b>	Zoë Thomas Zoe.Thomas.2012@live.rhul.ac.uk Royal Holloway, University of London
<b>Treasurer (Honorary Officer)</b>	Livia Rezende livia.rezende@network.rca.ac.uk Royal College of Art
<b>Chair: Journal of Design History Editorial Board</b>	Cheryl Buckley cheryl.buckley@brighton.ac.uk Brighton University
<b>Communications Officer</b>	Harry Leeson leesonharry@hotmail.com University of West London
<b>Membership Secretary</b>	Sabrina Rahman sabrina.rahman@northumbria.ac.uk University of Northumbria
<b>Conference Liaison Officer</b>	Sally-Anne Huxtable S.Huxtable@nms.ac.uk National Museums Scotland
<b>Teaching and Learning Officer</b>	Maya Oppenheimer oppenheimer.maya@gmail.com Royal College of Art
<b>Essay Prize Officer</b>	Annebella Pollen a.pollen@brighton.ac.uk University of Brighton
<b>Research Award Officer</b>	Catharine Rossi catharine.rossi@network.rca.ac.uk Kingston University
<b>And Student Representative</b>	Betsy Lewis-Holmes (following from Paddy O'Shea) betsy.lewis-holmes@network.rca.ac.uk University of Exeter

## Journal of Design History: Editorial Board, 2014

<b>dipti bhagat</b>	<a href="mailto:d.bhagat@londonmet.ac.uk">d.bhagat@londonmet.ac.uk</a> London Metropolitan University	ex-officio (Chair, and Trustee of the DHS)	
<b>Reggie Blaszczyk</b>	<a href="mailto:reggie.blaszczyk@gmail.com">reggie.blaszczyk@gmail.com</a> <a href="mailto:R.Blaszczyk@leeds.ac.uk">R.Blaszczyk@leeds.ac.uk</a> University of Leeds	Archives, Collections & Curation; Developing JDH (North America)	Nov 2009 - Nov 2014 (ext Nov 2016)
<b>Cheryl Buckley</b>	<a href="mailto:cheryl.buckley@northumbria.ac.uk">cheryl.buckley@northumbria.ac.uk</a> University of Northumbria	Editorial Chair (Trustee of the DHS)	June 2011- June 2016
<b>Clive Edwards</b>	<a href="mailto:C.Edwards@lboro.ac.uk">C.Edwards@lboro.ac.uk</a> Loughborough University, UK	Furniture history, 19thC and 20thC design history	Sept 2012- Sept 2017
<b>Kjetil Fallan</b>	<a href="mailto:kjetil.fallan@ifikk.uio.no">kjetil.fallan@ifikk.uio.no</a> University of Oslo		Nov 2009 - Nov 2014 (ext Nov 2016)
<b>Grace Lees-Maffei</b>	<a href="mailto:g.lees-maffei@herts.ac.uk">g.lees-maffei@herts.ac.uk</a> University of Hertfordshire	Managing Editor	June 2011- June 2016
<b>Jilly Traganou</b>	<a href="mailto:jdj.reviews@gmail.com">jdj.reviews@gmail.com</a> Parsons, The New School for Design, New York, USA	Reviews Editor	Dec 2010 – Dec 2015
<b>Wendy Wong</b>	<a href="mailto:wswong05@gmail.com">wswong05@gmail.com</a> Swinburne University of Technology, Australia		Sept 2012- Sept 2016

**DHS Administrator:** Elli Michaela Young  
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**Website:** [www.designhistorysociety.org](http://www.designhistorysociety.org)  
**Twitter:** @SoDesignHistory  
**Facebook:** group and page  
**LinkedIn:** Design History Society

**Charity number: Unincorporated Charity: 327326; Charitable Incorporated Organisation: 1155117, succeeded to the name Design History Society in December 2013**

**Bankers:** (Santander; Scottish Widows); Barclays, Cheapside, London.

**Auditors:** Taylor Rushby Chartered Accountants, 32 Crouch Street, Colchester, CO3 3HH

**Insurers:** Access Insurance. Charity and Community Connect Policy

**Solicitors:** Jonathan Brinsden, Sarah Williams; Bircham Dyson Bell LLP  
50 Broadway London SW1H 0BL

#### **DHS Awards and Events, 2014-15:**

- 1) Annual DHS Conference: September; proposals invited from Society members 18 months prior to conference
- 2) DHS Day Symposium: normally November, April, June; proposals invited from Society members 3 months prior to symposium (£750)
- 3) Annual DHS Conference Grant: September; made to host institution for keynote speakers (£2000)
- 4) Annual DHS Conference Student Bursaries (up to 20): September, awarded to student members presenting papers (conference fees + gala dinner cost)
- 5) Annual DHS Conference Reception Sponsorship (+/- £2,000)
- 6) Annual Research Grant: (£tbc total, between several: *Research Publication Grant, Research Travel and Conference Grant, Research Exhibition Grant, Strategic Research Grant.*
- 7) Student Travel Awards: applications invited for January (up to £500 each)
- 8) Student Essay Prize x 2 (£300 each + conference fee, includes OUP prize, and 1 year DHS membership)