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#### BAJS AGM

Yarnton, 9am Wednesday 12 July 2004

1. Apologies: Robert Hayward, Judith Lieu, David Rechter, Tony Kushner, Dan Levene, Isabel Wollaston.
2. Minutes of the previous meeting: to be confirmed.
3. Matters arising: none.
4. President's report: Joanna Weinberg reported that Gorgias Press had offered to publish the proceedings. It was generally agreed that February 2005 would be an appropriate deadline for completion of individual papers. The establishment of an annual BAJS Lecture was also announced, to be organised by the President-elect (Isabel Wollaston) and to coincide with the BAJS Committee meeting. Joanna Weinberg also encouraged colleagues to publicise the Cecil Roth Trust £5k research scholarships for Jewish Studies, which would be useful for post-graduate maintenance.
5. Treasurer's report: Jim Aitken reported that the finances were healthy. He requested and received agreement to move the current account to an Alliance & Leicester mail account (4% interest). The accounts were approved. Philip Alexander asked whether BAJS had charitable status and Jim Aitken reported that he had been advised that the small benefit to be gained was outweighed by the onerous paperwork. He reminded colleagues that, once again, that it had been unnecessary to increase subscriptions.
6. Secretary's report: Website stats: In the 4 month period for which records are available (Jan to April 2004) the site has generated 9486 webpage requests (Jan 2397, Feb 2507, March 2850, April 1732). The countries in which these webpage requests originated included: Switzerland, Czech Republic, Israel, Cayman Islands, Mexico, Netherlands, Portugal, Australia, Sweden, United States, Netherlands, Norway, Germany, New Zealand, Poland, Japan, Italy, Hungary, Belgium, Spain, Turkey, India, Singapore, Argentina, Estonia.

Website content: In addition to a Subscription Form and News regarding jobs and fellowships worldwide, the website offers listings of future Conferences, Lectures & Seminars, Prizes & Grants, Publications, and details of Dissertations currently being supervised.

BAJS Survey of Jewish Studies in the UK: 2004-05 will be the fifth year that the survey of Jewish Studies in the UK has been conducted. The survey provides contact details and links to the relevant institutions, and information relating to individual lecturers' names, course titles and email addresses. It is generated by a combination of email requests for updates from individual lecturers (in July) followed later (in August) by a request for confirmation by the director/co-ordinator from each named centre/institution. The size of the survey expands each year. Currently, the list includes 15 institutions and 369 taught courses in

the area of Jewish Studies. By no means all individual lecturers, or all their courses, or even all institutions are included, so please make the effort to ensure that your details do reach me before August (email: info@BAJSBulletin.org).

Journals: A number of journals now offer reduced subscriptions for BAJS members. These include: Journal of Holocaust Education, Jewish Culture & History, East European Jewish Affairs, Journal of Semitic Studies, SOTS Book List and the Journal of Jewish Studies. Details are available on the website.

7. New members. The following were approved: Dr Maria Diemling, Dr Chaya Halberstam, Deborah Khan-Harris, Rabbi Dr Margaret Jacobi, John Cameron (PhD student), Keenjoo Kwi (PhD student), Naomi Jacobs, Deborah Myers-Weinstein (PhD student), Renate Smithuis, R. Vavilova (graduate student), Mike Morris, Dr Natan Meir.

8. Committee Elections.

8.1 Constitution 2004. The following amendments to section 7 were proposed by the committee: 'The Treasurer, Secretary, Publicity Officer, and Editor of the Bulletin may be re-elected annually up to a total of five years each', where 'up to a total of five years each' was to be deleted. 'Eight members shall be elected to the Committee for the following year at the Annual General Meeting, to serve for three years', where 'three years' was to be replaced by 'five years'. The amendments were approved.

8.2 The re-elections of the Treasurer (Jim Aitken) and the Secretary (Daniel Langton) were approved.

9. Election of President for 2006. Joanna Weinberg reported that the individual approached to be president-elect 2006 had not yet responded. This would have to be approved at a later time.

10. BAJS Conference 2005: Joanna Weinberg confirmed on behalf of Isabel Wollaston that the 2005 BAJS conference would take place at Woodbrooke Quaker Studies Centre in Birmingham, Monday 11th July - Wednesday 13th July. The conference would focus upon current research on women and gender within all areas and historical periods of Jewish studies. There would be an open call for papers end of February 2004, but invitations would also be made to specific individuals with research interests in these areas to participate (and an application would be made to the AHRB for funding to facilitate this). The format would follow that of recent conferences, with one or two keynote lectures and the remaining sessions consisting of shorter papers. One session of the conference would focus on postgraduate research in which we would encourage PG students to come and give brief presentations (which could be on any topic in Jewish studies).

11. BAJS Conference 2006: Joanna Weinberg reported that for obvious reasons there was no information available.

12. Student Essay Prizes Joanna Weinberg reported that there had been a large number of entries - 11 from UCL, 1 from Manchester, 1 from Cambridge, 1 from Homerton College Cambridge, 2 from Oxford. She explained that the announcements regarding prizes would be made on the website and in the next edition of the Bulletin.

13. Any other business. Jim Aitken thanked Geza Vermes for his reminder that 2005 would be the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of BAJS. He asked colleagues to offer suggestions as to what might be an appropriate form of celebration, perhaps in addition to the establishment in 2005 of an annual BAJS Lecture.