



BAJS Secretariat
Dept of Religions and Theology
University of Manchester
Oxford Road
Manchester
M13 9PL

Tel: +44 (0)161 2758592
Fax: +44 (0)161 2753613

Email: info@BAJSBulletin.org
Website: www.BAJSBulletin.org

BAJS AGM 13 July 2006
Wolfson College, Cambridge

1. Apologies: Jim Aitken, Maria Diemling, Seth Kunin, Dan Levene, Alison Salvesen, Willem Smelik, Joanna Weinberg, Isabel Wollaston.

2. Minutes of the previous meeting: Approved.

3. Matters arising:

(4.2) Anti-Israel union motions: In response to an issue raised at the previous AGM, Daniel Langton reported the committee's decision that no action would be contemplated until the text of any particular motion was published. In the event of a hostile motion, the committee members would be consulted as to an appropriate form of action. If there was agreement, any letter would be based on the issue of academic freedom (as was the case in the previous year) and would make it clear that BAJS represented a special interest group (Jewish Studies) within the wider academic community that would be badly affected by such a union resolution. It was expected that members would respond on an individual basis in any case. John Klier pointed out that the matter would no doubt arise regularly and argued for the importance of a response from BAJS as a body, and suggested that all could agree on the principle of academic freedom. Charlotte Hempel suggested that a response from a larger organisation might be more effective and Ada Rapoport-Albert offered to bring the issue up at EAJS. Michael Berkowitz pointed out that many members of BAJS were not members of Union(s). Geoffrey Khan agreed that BAJS could respond on the principle of academic freedom and encouraged members to respond as individuals.

(4.3) Jewish Studies representation on RAE Panels: Geoffrey Khan confirmed that letters offering to identify relevant Jewish Studies experts and stressing the multi-disciplinary nature of Jewish Studies had been sent in January 2006 to the chairs of panels J (politics and international relations, sociology, anthropology), L (American, Middle Eastern, European studies), M (languages), and N (Classics, ancient history, philosophy, religious studies). GK reported that in response, he had received confirmation from some that his offer had been welcomed.

(14.1) Web-links. Daniel Langton confirmed that there were links to and from EAJS and BAJS on the homepage of each Society's website.

4. President's Report.

4.1 Geoffrey Khan reported that he had received a request for feedback from the AHRC regarding plans for a metrics based assessment for the RAE. In his response, he had incorporated committee members' comments and argued that, inter alia, such a system was too limiting for the Humanities. In response to his letter he had received acknowledgement that the problems with the underlying assumptions are widely recognised and further consultation will take place. He stressed the importance of both communicating opposition to the existing plans and offering constructive feedback to the AHRC. Charlotte Hempel

expressed concern at the stress placed on grants. William Horbury pointed out that much humanities research conducted in the UK was achieved without grants. Geoffrey Khan suggested that a pared down version of the existing peer-review process would be preferable. It was clear from the discussion that followed that members fully supported his position.

4.2 Geoffrey Khan reported on the AHRC Resource Enhancement scheme and a request for outlines of existing projects that deserved further funding for maintenance. He had already **agreed** to collate colleagues' responses (e.g. Philip Alexander's drafts on the Genizah Fragments and the Jewish Refugees' projects at Manchester). He requested that members contact him for the form and send him the formatted texts well before the deadline of 4 August.

5. Treasurer's report. See attached.

6. Secretary's report. Daniel Langton confirmed that the annual survey of Jewish Studies UG and PG courses had been conducted in time for inclusion in the hard-copy of the BAJS Bulletin, published (late) in February 2006. Likewise, the list of doctoral level dissertations/theses had been updated for the UK. A new addition to the website was a list of previous conference publications (9 items). He appealed to members to contact him proactively regarding additions or corrections for the website in general.

7. Conference 2007. Michael Berkowitz reported that the conference was expected to run 11-13 July 2007 at UCL in collaboration with the Institute of Jewish Studies. The theme would be 'Jews, the Arts, Scholarship: Production and Reception'.

8. President 2008. Daniel Langton announced that the committee's nomination was Prof. Philip Alexander (Manchester). There were no other nominations and Philip Alexander was duly elected. It was pointed out that he was only the second individual to have served as president twice (in 1987 and 2008), the other being Geza Vermes.

9. New committee members. Daniel Langton confirmed that he had received no new nominations before the meeting. The committee's nominations were Prof Seth Kunin (Durham) and Dr Maria Diemling (Christchurch Canterbury University). These were duly elected.

10. New BAJS members. The following were elected. Full members: Dan Davies (Cambridge), Fiona Blumfield (UCL). Student Members: Michael Law (Oxford), David Tollerton (Bristol), Lily O. Khan (UCL) Sara Pfaffenhoeffer (UCL), Merav Rosenfeld-Hadad (Cambridge).

11. BAJS Student Essay Prize (Kessler Foundation in association with The Jewish Chronicle). In response to queries the previous year, it was announced that there would be no MA essay prize (because of the long length of submissions) but that applications from Ireland would be welcome. GK reported that there had been 8 submissions for the 2006 prizes. The two winners were: (1) Charlotte Alfred (Edinburgh) 'Should Palestinian attitudes to Israeli Jews be explained primarily in terms of religion or modern nationalism?' (2) Felicity Griffiths (UCL) 'The Blood Libel and the Papacy'.

12. Any other business. John Klier asked whether the website might make it clear that BAJS members were only required to pay their subscription to join EAJS and did not need to provide referees. He said that the idea that membership of a European Jewish Studies Society was adequate had been confirmed at previous meetings of EAJS, but that he would remind colleagues at the forthcoming Moscow conference. Daniel Langton **agreed** to modify the homepage.

13. Date of next meeting. 13 July 2007 at UCL.

British Association for Jewish Studies Treasurer's Report, AGM 2006

Summary

The balance in the current account has increased in 2005, but in part this arises from some expenses appearing on the 2004 accounts (e.g. conference deposit). With this taken into account, the balance in real terms has increased only by the profit made on the conference, and our expenditure overall remains stable.

The **conference** made a moderate profit (£536.50), taking into account a £520 deposit already paid in 2004.

The interest on the **Deposit Account** has increased moderately. We remain grateful to all members that promptly pay subscriptions, which ensure that the running costs of the Association are covered, allowing the balance to offset any unseen expenses.

Accounting year Jan–Dec 2005

1. Current Account

<i>Opening Balance</i>	£2130.88
INCOME	
Subscriptions:	£1201
Advertising	£50
Conference 05	£5501
<i>Total Income:</i>	£6752
EXPENDITURE	
Travel	£351.88
Web hosting	£95.51
Catering	£12.75
Conference 05	£4444.50
Bulletin	£145.72
Essay Prize 04	£225
Essay Prize 05	£225
<i>Total Expenditure:</i>	£5500.36
Closing Balance	£3382.52

2. Deposit Account

<i>Opening balance</i>	£5118.59
Annual interest	£102.86
Closing balance	£5221.45

Jan–June 2006

1. Current Account

<i>Opening Balance</i>	£3382.52
INCOME	
Subscriptions:	£1005
Conference 06	£3534
Refund from BAJS lecture	£20.28
Advertising	£50
<i>Total Income:</i>	£4609.28
EXPENDITURE	
Travel	£224.88
Web domain	£29.38
Expenses	£50.99
Conference refund	£119
Bulletin	£263.52
BAJS lecture and reception	£184.21
<i>Total Expenditure:</i>	£871.98
Closing Balance	£7119.82

2. Deposit Account

<i>Opening balance</i>	£5221.45
Interest	£76.27
<i>Closing balance</i>	£5297.72

J.K. Aitken
3rd July 2006