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BAJS Annual General Meeting 14 July 2009
University of Durham

Present: Jim Aitken (Treasurer), Philip Alexander, Seth Kunin (President), Daniel Langton (Secretary), Dan Levene, Sarah Pearce, Willem Smelik, and 15 others.

1. Apologies: Michael Berkowitz, Maria Diemling, Lars Fischer (Bulletin Editor), Hannah Holtschneider (Web Officer), Alison Salvesen, Joachim Schlör.

2. Minutes of the previous meeting: approved.

3. Matters arising:

(4.3) Further to Martin Goodman's emphasis on the importance of tracking the representation of Jewish Studies on the RAE panels, and Seth Kunin's agreement regarding the importance of BAJS in this role in the context of the future REF, Daniel Langton reported that Judith Lieu (Cambridge) had been appointed to the Expert Advisory Group (EAG) for the Research Excellence Framework (REF), the successor to the RAE. The intention is for the EAG to be 'a channel of liaison between the discipline and HEFCE as they develop the form to be taken by the REF' and consequently Judith has been in contact with Daniel Langton in order to solicit comments from BAJS.

4. President's report:

4.1 Conference: Seth Kunin thanked Barbara Borts for her excellent work in organising the conference, which he was pleased to see had drawn in many new contributors.

4.2 Representation at (U.S.) Association for Jewish Studies (AJS). Seth Kunin reported that no stall would be booked this year but that Daniel Langton would generate a simple, dedicated BAJS leaflet that listed Jewish Studies MA programmes in the UK and that provided links to institutional websites for further particulars on PhD supervision. A box of these leaflets would be mailed to the U.S. in order that BAJS participants (e.g. Seth Kunin) would be able to distribute them at the event; such leaflets would also be useful for BAJS members to distribute in the UK. [Repeated emails and telephone calls to the various centres (including Woolf Institute, Lampeter, Cambridge, OCHJS, Southampton, SOAS, Leeds, UCL, Leo Baeck College, Edinburgh, Oxford, KCL, and Durham) had not generated many materials for the BAJS display table in Washington at the AJS conference 2008, and these only from Manchester, Woolf Institute, OCHJS, Leo Baeck College, Southampton and Lampeter.]

5. Treasurer's report: See attached. Jim Aitkin announced that he would be generating a budget with a view to revising the annual subscription to be inline with its updated regular outgoings.

6. Secretary's report:

6.1 AHRC Peer Review College: Daniel Langton reported that Jewish Studies has done well in terms of the recent appointments, with Dan Levene (Southampton), Joachim Schloer (Southampton) and Seth

Kunin (Durham) being appointed. [The AHRC Peer Review College list of members can be found at: <http://www.ahrc.ac.uk/About/PeerReview/Documents/June%2009%20PRC%20Membership%20rep.xls>]

6.2 AHRC Subject Association meeting: Daniel Langton reported that BAJJS had been represented by Lars Fischer (UCL) at the recent meeting (28 May) in London.

6.3 Website hijacking: Daniel Langton reported that a Texas-based ISP is currently providing a hosting service to a Canadian company (i.e. ContactPrivacy.com) that has registered our old domain name (www.BAJJSBulletin.org) and appropriated material from our old website in order to generate a BAJJS-branded website that offers advertising. In order to prevent the obvious confusion brought about by this resurrection of the website, Daniel Langton reported that he was in the process of challenging their right to do so, but it had become clear that this would be easier if we had registered BAJJS as a trademark, an option that we will now investigate.

7. Web-editor's report. Daniel Langton reported on behalf of Hannah Holtschneider: BAJJS had received no feedback about the website, which was generally interpreted as evidence that it was working well. While it was not possible to tell how many had registered for RSS feeds, it was possible to confirm that very few members had registered for the emailing list and therefore the option for email subscription would be made more prominent on the website. A list of the BAJJS Annual Lectures, with links to the published versions of the papers where this had been possible, had been recently added to the website.

8. Bulletin Editor's report: Daniel Langton reported on behalf of Lars Fischer: In addition to the updated survey of Jewish Studies and regular features, this year's edition had seen the introduction of a book reviews section and a special overview of Jewish Studies at KCL. It was noted that a PDF version of the Bulletin would be added to the website, perhaps 3 months after its distribution to members.

9. Conference 2010: After thanking Seth Kunin for having organised a highly stimulating conference Sarah Pearce reported that the theme of the Southampton conference would be 'The Image and the Prohibition of the Image in Judaism' (Sun 5 - Tues 7 September). It was noted that although the new dates avoided clashes with SBL (19-23 July) and EAJS (25-29 July), it would begin only a day or two after Rosh Hashanah, making attendance difficult for some. It was generally agreed that such inconveniences were inevitable.

10. President 2011: Daniel Langton announced the committee's nomination of Alison Salvesen (Oxford). No other nominations were received and Dr. Salvesen was duly elected.

11. New Committee Members: Daniel Langton announced that he would be stepping down as secretary after the January committee meeting, and reported that committee's nominee as his replacement was Lars Fischer (UCL). No other nominations were received and Dr. Fischer was duly elected as secretary.

12. New BAJJS Members: Jim Aitken announced the committee's nominations for election. No other nominations were received and the members were all duly elected.

Full Members: Nathan D. Abrams (Bangor). Nominated: L. Fischer & M. Berkowitz; Prof Lucille Cairns (Durham). Nominated: S. Kunin & D. Holmes; Dr Shirli Gilbert (Southampton). Nominated: J. Schlör & T. Kushner; Dr. Michael Mack (Nottingham). Nominated: L. Fischer; Dr Andrea Reiter (Southampton). Nominated: D. Levene & S. Pearce; Dr Andrea Schatz (UCL). Nominated: L. Fischer & M. Berkowitz; Dr François Guesnet (UCL). Nominated: L. Fischer & M. Berkowitz

Associate Members: Prof. Brian Hesse (Penn State). Nominated: S. Kunin & P. Rose; Prof Wapnish Hesse (Penn State). Nominated: S. Kunin & P. Rose; Jonathan Lewis (Middlesex); Dr S. Leyla Gurkan (Istanbul)

Student Members: Jonathan Greer (Penn State). Nominated: S. Kunin & B. Halpern; Richard J. Jackson (Manchester). Nominated: P. Alexander & B. Jackson; Tyson L. Putthoff (Durham). Nominated: C.T.R. Hayward & P.S. Alexander; Anne Sittig (UCL). Nominated: S. Stern and A. Rapoport-Albert; Aron C. Sterk (Manchester). Nominated: P.S. Alexander & A. Samely

SP added to full membership James Jordan (Southampton). Nominated: Sarah Pearce and Tony Kushner. SK added Barbara Borts to student membership. Nominated Seth Kunin and Philip Alexander.

13. Student Essay Prizes: Seth Kunin reported that the essay submissions would be considered shortly and the winners announced on the website.

14. Any other Business. Seth Kunin reported a request from the Canadian Jewish Association to coordinate in some way with British members at the forthcoming World Jewish Congress in Jerusalem. Dan Levene and Philip Alexander both indicated their willingness to represent BAJIS in this way.

15. Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday 7 Sept 2010 in Southampton.

British Association for Jewish Studies

Treasurer's Report, 14 July 2009

Summary

Large expenditure in the year 2008, especially on the annual conference, website redesign and advertising, and the AJS promotion has considerably reduced the balance on the current account. There has also been higher than usual cost for committee travel, primarily owing to the welcome fact that more committee members have been attending meetings, and the imbalance of members in the south attending northern meetings. Further expenses, although not as great, are expected in 2009, so that the current account will remain low.

The interest on the **Deposit Account** has increased moderately.

A. Accounting year Jan–Dec 2008

1. Current Account

Opening Balance **£4645.17**

INCOME

Subscriptions: £913

Conference: £150

Total income: £1063

EXPENDITURE

Travel: £729.52

Conference:

Student bursary: £400

Presidential expenses £500

Emergency cover £500

Refund: £10

Essay Prize 2007: £100

Essay Prize 2008: £200

AJS

Mailing £90

Table booking £226.21

Printing & Postage £540.62

Advertising (pens) £337.82

Website redesign £1175

Total expenditure £4809.16

Closing Balance **£899.16**

2. Deposit Account

Opening balance **£5383.97**

Interest £122.91

Closing balance £5506.88

B. Accounting Period Jan–June 2009

1. Current Account

Opening Balance £899.16

INCOME

Subscriptions: £1048

Advertising £50

Total income: £1098

EXPENDITURE

Travel: £576.70

Mailing: £20

Bulletin £255.00

Total expenditure £851.70

Closing Balance £1145.46

2. Deposit Account

Opening balance £5506.88

Interest 51.81

Closing balance £5559.69

J.K. Aitken

12th July 2009