

Minutes of the British Association for Jewish Studies (BAJS) Annual General Meeting

Date: Tuesday 16 July 2002

Venue: University of Southampton

Apologies: Ada Rapoport-Albert, Heather McKay, Gill Greenberg, Avi Shvitiel

1. Minutes of previous year were confirmed.
2. Matters arising. Tony Kushner thanked those committee members who have now completed their term of office for their work; these included George Brooke, Sarah Pearce, Siam Bahyro, Ada Rapoport-Albert, and Gill Greenberg.
3. Tony Kushner noted that no information was available on the prospects of language consolidation under the auspices of Cambridge [i.e. Prof Loewe's attempts to find funding for furthering the language skills of research students].
4. President's report. Tony Kushner emphasised the importance of raising the profile of Jewish Studies for the next Research Assessment Exercise (RAE), which may or may not be run as late 2008, noting that the issue had not been adequately addressed in the two previous rounds. He warned that this might be interpreted as a lack of interest in Jewish Studies, and such a negative signal could have serious consequences for both academic and outreach activities. He noted that UK Universities encouraged post-graduates to take up Jewish Studies and that there was an obligation to ensure that Jewish Studies had a future in the UK. Martin Goodman pointed out that national academic institutions such as BAJS had in the past been asked to supply names for appropriate assessors and that the Association had failed to provide even this information. He warned that despite the fact that several Jewish Studies academics had sat on RAE panels, this had been by chance could not be taken for granted for future rounds; he emphasised the need to put names forward. Tony Kushner made his agreement clear and added that it was equally important that such names should reflect something of the diversity of interests reflected within Jewish Studies as a whole. Martin Goodman agreed but pointed out that past RAEs has allowed for cross-disciplinary panels; the key thing was to make concrete proposals forward regarding which subject areas and which academics.
5. Treasurer's report. See Appendix 1 for Jim Aitken's report.
6. Bulletin and website: Daniel Langton reported that the website (www.BAJSBulletin.org) currently attracts around 2000 webpage requests per month. In addition to a Subscription Form and general News, there are listings of future Conferences, Lectures & Seminars, Prizes & Grants, Publications, and details of Dissertations currently being supervised. The site also includes a survey of Jewish Studies in the UK that displays links to the relevant institutions, and information relating to lecturers' names, course titles and email addresses. Links to three new Jewish Studies journals were to be added to the site (with reductions of up to 25% for

BAJS members). Martin Goodman suggested that a hard copy of the Bulletin (containing contact details of individuals) was necessary if members were not to become distanced from the Association and suggested that the production costs represented a sensible use of BAJIS funds. He also brought up the issue of a permanent secretariat. Tony Kushner reported on the committee decision the previous day to republish the printed Bulletin biannually [probably in March and November] and expressed his hope that by combining duties for the BAJIS website and printed Bulletin with those of secretary, something resembling a permanent secretariat would be established.

7. New members: Jim Aitkin announced a list of new members, who were approved. (See Appendix 2).

8. Subscriptions: Tony Kushner announced that there would be no increase in membership fees.

9. Essay competition: Tony Kushner announced the three winners of the student essays competition (two from UCL, one from Southampton). He commented that the number of submissions had not been high this year and appealed for each institution to attempt to put forward 2-3 potential prize-winning essays each year.

10. Committee Elections: Tony Kushner reported that Jim Aitken had agreed to remain as Treasurer and suggested that David Rechter and Piet van Boxel would be invited to join. Other individuals invited to join included Loren Stuckenbruck, Dan Levene and Daniel Langton (as secretary).

11. BAJIS Conference 2003: Robert Hayward reported that the conference to be held at Durham would be on Jewish Prayer (from the biblical to modern period); and that Hatfield College had been booked for 15-17 July 2003. Tony Kushner appealed for papers and Robert Hayward made a special request for papers relating to the modern period.

12. President 2004: Joanna Weinberg announced that, provisionally, the 2004 conference would be on Midrash.

13. AOB: George Brooke reported that the Leeds BAJIS conference proceedings had now been published, edited by Geoffrey Kahn, and requested that details be published on the website.

Appendix 1: BAJS Accounts 2002

Summary

A profit on the conference of £902.26 for 2001 has increased our deposit significantly. Continued encouragement of members to pay subscriptions brought in a total of £1419 for 2001. There is no need to increase the subscription rate.

A deposit account was opened with the bank, Alliance and Leicester, where we already hold a current account.

The Kessler Foundation have donated a sum of £1125 for the BAJS Kessler Essay prize.

GIROBANK CURRENT ACCOUNT

A, Accounting year January 1st – December 31st 2001

Opening Balance	£4260.17
Income	£3763.25
Expenditure	£2166.79
Closing Balance	£5856.63

B. January 1st – July 1st 2002

Opening Balance	£5856.63
Income	£2359
Expenditure	£202.41
[Transfers	£5000]
Closing Balance	£3003.22
Deposit Account	£5000

GIROBANK CURRENT ACCOUNT

A, Accounting year January 1st – December 31st 2001

Opening Balance	£4260.17
INCOME	£3763.25
Subscriptions	£1419
Labels	£100
Conference 2001	£2244.25

EXPENDITURE	£2166.79
Webpage	£570
Conference 2001	£1341.99
Travel	£64
Stationery	£55.80
Essay Prize	£135
Closing Balance	£5856.63

B. January 1st – July 1st 2002

Opening Balance	£5856.63
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INCOME	£2359
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Subscriptions	£1134
Labels	£100
Kessler Foundation	£1125

EXPENDITURE	£202.41
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Refunds	£15
Travel	£145.50
Stationery	£41.91

TRANSFER TO DEPOSIT	£5000
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Closing Balance	£3003.22
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DEPOSIT ACCOUNT	£5000
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Appendix 2: New BAJS Members

Full Members

Jane Gerson,
91 Greenhill Road,
Winchester. SO22 5EA.

Dr. K.H. Holtschneider,
CJCR
Wesley House, Jesus Lane
Cambridge. CB5 8BJ

Prof. Eric Jacobson
University of Sussex
Centre for German-Jewish Studies,
Arts B, Falmer
Brighton
BN1 9QN

Dr. Susanne Maten-Finnis,
14 Gewan Heights
Dimmirry
N. Ireland
BT17 9LZ

Dr. Claudia Prestel,
Dept. of History
University of Leicester
Leicester
LE1 7RH

Dr. Jo Reilly,
Dept. of History
University of Southampton,
Highfield,
Southampton SO17 1BJ

Student Members

Hannah-Villette Dalby
13 Sandell Court, The Parkway, Bassett
Southampton SO16 3PH

Sarah S. Goudge
165 Alresford road
Winchester, Hants.
SO23 0JZ

Rachel Harris,
14 St. Paul's Crescent
Oxford
OX2 9AG

Sarah Kavanaugh,
65 Brondesbury Villas
London
NW6 6AJ

Gabriel Mancuso,
Cannaregio 3482
Venice 30121
Italy.

Elisa Miles
72a Alma Road Portswood
Southampton
SO14 6UX

John R.L. Moxon,
54 Woeley Park rd.
Birmingham
B29 6RB

Daniel Rickman,
9, Elmhurst Avenue
London
N2 0LT

Isabelle Rohr,
Flat F, 3 Barkston Gardens
London
SW5 0ER

Susan Sorek
Rose Cottage, Bancyfelin
Carmarthen
Carmarthenshire