

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

Date: 16th July 2003

Venue: Durham

Apologies: Judith Lieu, Martin Goodman, Geza Vermes, David Rechter, Daniel Langton.

Professor R. Hayward in the chair, Dr J. Aitken as acting secretary.

Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the last meeting were not available, and no matters were arising.

Appointment of David Patterson to a CBE

Prof. Hayward reported that he had written and congratulated David Patterson on his award of the CBE, which had been given in recognition particularly for his contribution to Jewish studies (the first such recognition of Jewish studies). Prof. Hayward had received a warm letter in reply. Will send congratulations to him; first time in recognition of contribution to Jewish studies.

Secretary's report

The secretary's report noted the use of the BAJS Webpage, and its survey of Jewish studies. Information from the survey of Jewish studies can be used for the AHRB application for 'ring-fenced awards'. It was agreed that the Bulletin would be published once a year, in the light of the information now available on the web.

Treasurer's report

The accounts (attached) were presented and accepted by the meeting. It was agreed that £500 each year would be allocated for those in need.

The treasurer would be stepping down after 2004 at the end of his five years, unless the constitution allows a continuation.

President's report

Prof Hayward apologised once again for Hatfield's error over the rooms at the conference. He announced that at the conference there will be a special exhibition of Hebrew books, donated by Harry Gaylord.

President 2004

Dr Joanna Weinberg reported on plans for the BAJS 2004 conference, which would be held in Oxford on the theme of 'Midrash'. A number of papers had already been offered or invited, but a call for additional papers would be made in January.

Election of President for 2005

The committee recommended Dr Isabel Wollaston of Birmingham as President, and this was unanimously agreed.

New Members

All the members nominated were elected (see attached)

AHRB "ring-fenced funding" for doctoral students

Prof Hayward, in consultation with colleagues, had produced a submission of 150 words on the theme of post-biblical Jewish literature in Hebrew, Aramaic, Arabic and Yiddish.

Kessler Essay prizes

The names of the three winners this year were announced:

1st Helene Bartos: 'The culture of Zionism' (UCL)

2nd Daniel Cowan: "'The treatise of the pool by 'Obadiah Maimonides' (Oxford)

3rd Ophira Starr: Hasidism (UCL)

A.O.B.

London school of Jewish Studies. With the closure of the school, concern was expressed over the future of the library collection. Although it seems likely that the library will be saved, BAJS should write to express its concerns over the issue. Prof. Hayward as president would draft a letter, in consultation with Dr Sascha Stern and Prof Reif.

EAJS. It was reported that the European Association for Jewish Studies has a new part-time administrator.