

Design History Society

Annual Review 2019-2020

Design History Society
Charitable Incorporated
Organisation 1155117

Appendix to the Trustees'
Annual Report 2020

Prepared for the virtual
Annual General Meeting,
September 2020



Annual General Meeting
September 2020

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Appendix: *Annual Statement from the Accountants*

DHS Trustee Reports

Chair's Introduction

The Annual Review prepared for the Society's AGM each year captures the activities of both the Charity and its Journal. These opening remarks and ensuing contributions from our Trustees rightly celebrate the spectrum of achievements supported by the Society: Face-to-face activities from Outreach events, our annual and 'one-off' conferences to Publishing Workshops and Student and Early-Career Fora; successful applications to our portfolio of Awards, Grants and Prizes and the publication of thought-provoking scholarship in the Journal both in its four 'print' issues and in virtual issues curating disciplinary debates in design history within its archives of articles.

2020 has proved to be an extraordinarily challenging start to the new decade. The tragic loss of life, unimaginable pressures on under-resourced, yet stoically resolute, key workers across so many sectors, ever-deepening chasms of precarity and displacement, prompt a reflective perspective on the minor daily frustrations and 'emergency response' virtual teaching and administration most of us have been navigating amidst the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Trustees of the Design History Society and the Editors of the *Journal of Design History* are working hard to identify affirming strategies through which to sustain and to encourage our community amidst duress, celebrating achievements, protecting continuity and developing innovative contingencies all

in the hope of better days ahead.

A backward glance: The Society and its Journal 2015-2020

Looking back over the outgoing Chair's introduction to the Society's 2019 Annual Review, it is heartening to discern many core ambitions have progressed despite the disruptions of the last months. The 2019 Conference 'The Cost of Design' convened by Elizabeth Kramer and Janine Barker at Northumbria University brought together a thought-provoking international set of speakers addressing this evocative theme, complemented by enriching site visits and pleasing opportunities for sociability. Manuscripts generated from the excellent research presented both at the Northumbria and New York conferences are currently being considered in blind-peer review for the Journal in 2021.

On behalf of the Society I wish to affirm once more our thanks to our outgoing Chair, Professor Jeremy Aynsley, expressed so warmly at Newcastle. So many achievements flourished amidst the collegiality of his five-year stewardship, most notably an impressive cavalcade of international conferences, the celebration of the Society's 40th anniversary and ensuing publication of articles in the Journal and collective volumes.

The reflective process embarked upon in response to the 2018 Royal Historical

Society's report on Race, Ethnicity and Equality reached two important milestones: the Trustees' statement of solidarity amidst the [protests of the spring](#) and a set of recommendations from the working party formed by the outgoing Chair included in Megha Rajguru's report. The Trustees have committed to mapping and to mitigating inequalities within their areas of responsibility for the Society as a core objective for 2021, the first of many actions planned to ensure the de-marginalization of under-represented voices within teaching, practice and research in design history.

First six months as Chair: Reporting and Risk Management

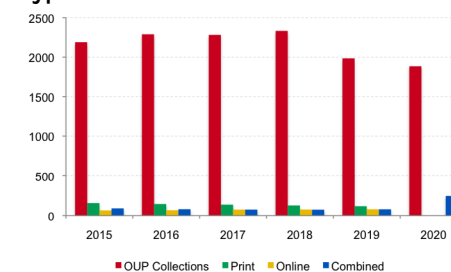
A core responsibility of the Trustees led by the Chair alongside the mission of the Society to encourage engagement, teaching and research in the field of design history, is also to ensure responsible administration and stability of the finances under our care. When embarking on a new role one does need to acquire a grasp of the mechanics as well as the aspirations in play in an organisation. One of my core objectives in this first six months has been to create transparent and accurate financial reporting and to secure consensus about establishing resilient finances and reserve policy for the Society as the world finds its way forward amidst the pandemic. Hopefully committing to these mundane, but

existential, requirements will provide a safer foundation from which we can now focus on developing new activities and opportunities for design history and our membership.

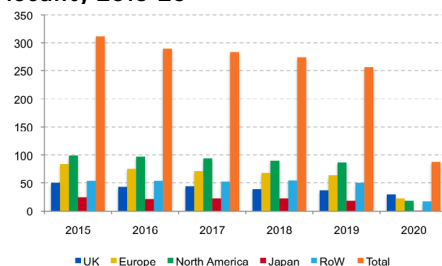
From Jan-June 2019 the Journal had **1,923** institutional and **142** individual Society member subscribers; full-text downloads of Journal articles amounted to **11,977**. As of 30 June 2020, **2,002** institutional and **105** individual Society members have renewed their subscriptions and there have been **13,327** full-text downloads of Journal articles.

During the last 5 years there has been a decline both in institutional JDH subscriptions and individual memberships alongside high expenditure. As of Jan 2020, the Society's reserves no longer covered one-year's core expenditure. These graphs illustrate the trajectories of the distribution and finances of the Society and its Journal as [reported to the Charity Commission](#):

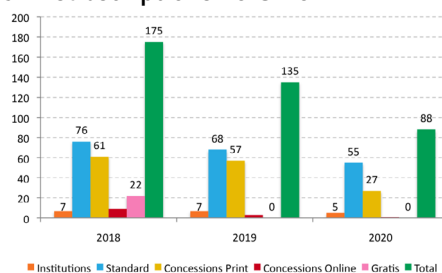
Institutional subscriptions to JDH by type 2015-20



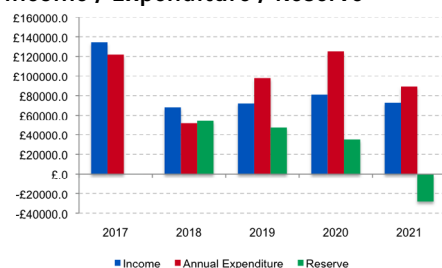
Institutional subscriptions to JDH by locality 2015-20



JDH subscriptions 2018-20



Income / Expenditure / Reserve



Rectification of 2016-9 Tax Arrears

The outgoing Chair had indicated in our handover conversation in December that there had been ongoing confusion about the responsibility for and management of the Society's finances and in particular the administrator's payroll during his tenure. In January when my service as Chair of the Design History Society began, I arranged an induction session with the Charity's accountants, Knox Cropper, who confirmed that they had raised their concerns about the situation with the Chair and Treasurer in their last three assessments. I mandated our accountants to research and to report on the situation. Knox Cropper identified tax arrears amounting to over £25,000 which also now incurred further late-payment fines. The correct payments and penalties were made to HMRC in March 2020. Moving forward I mandated our accountants to calculate and to manage payroll for our new administrator who enters all income and expenditure into a book-keeping programme reconciled by the Chair and the Accountants. Monthly payments are actioned by our Treasurer. Rectification of these arrears coupled with several years of annual overspend mean that the Society's reserves have been depleted to less than one year's expenditure. Standard business practice and Charity Commission guidance recommends that finances should operate with at least twice the annual expenditure in reserves. The Chair presented the Trustees and Editors with a plan to stabilise the

Society's reserves on 27 June 2020 which was unanimously accepted.

Postponed activities amidst the pandemic

Social distancing and a spectrum of 'lockdown' measures seem to have afforded the best defences against risks of transmission of COVID-19. The Trustees took the decision in mid-March to postpone any activities supported by the Society which might put our supporters at risk. Our desk at 70 Cowcross Street was closed, our Committee meetings moved to virtual platforms and our annual conference convened by our colleagues in the Academy of Arts Basel was postponed until September 2021. Regrettably all our funding streams which support face-to-face events and travel remain suspended until the end of the pandemic (the Research Travel and Conference Grant, the Research Exhibition Grant, Day Symposium Grant, Outreach and Events Grant, the Student Travel Grant and Conference Bursary). The three peaks in the Spanish Flu epidemic of 1918-19 instil a certain circumspection about assuming that even the 'new normal' will pertain in 2021; the Trustees shall reassess the situation at each Board meeting going forwards and reopen these funding opportunities as soon as it is safe to do so. In the hopes of supporting design-history collaborative interaction and research amidst ongoing and ever-shifting constraints, the Society devised

a Virtual Funding Pathway for 2020. We also agreed with our publisher, Oxford University Press, to constrain the incremental increase to membership and subscription fees to the minimum (2.5%) whilst so much of our community is facing financial uncertainty and constraint.

Redeployment: Virtual Funding Pathway

Whilst the Society has not been able to fund travel or activities which are not safe amidst the constraints of social distancing, the Trustees have agreed to provide a set of modest virtual funding opportunities in 2020 by redeploying funds for the 2020 Student Travel Award which received no applications. These three interim awards were advertised in June to support both our student and professional members by providing 'seed' funding encouraging new virtual networks of discussion and collaboration generating research, digital teaching and learning activities in Design History.

The Virtual Design History Award was devised to facilitate virtual activity such as seminars, reading groups or symposia hopefully generating research and practice projects by students that can be showcased on the Design History Society website. A total of £1000 was available to be awarded in 2020 divided amongst several applications deemed of high merit, with individual awards

of no more than £150, at the discretion of a judging panel drawn from the DHS Executive Committee. Three applications were received and awarded funds:

- *Design in Quarantine* website founded in April 2020 to collect images and information about design responses to the coronavirus pandemic (£150 awarded to purchase domain name and social media support). Anna Talley and Fleur Elkerton, MA Students Royal College of Art London.
- *Wawasan 2020* Digitization of first-day cover stamps (1991-2020) for the Malaysian Design Archive (£150 awarded towards the acquisition of design ephemera). Denise Lai, MA Student Royal College of Art London
- *Student Lightning Talks* a programme of live discussions and interviews. (£6.99 for subscriptions to online platforms). Jennifer McHugh, PhD student Winchester School of Art University of Southampton.

Established, Early Career and Independent Researchers, were encouraged to apply for the Virtual Conference Grant to fund attendance or organization of a virtual conference or symposium. A total of £1000 was available in 2020 to be divided amongst several applications deemed of high merit, with individual awards of no more than £200, at the discretion of a judging panel drawn from the DHS Trustees. One application was received and awarded

funds:

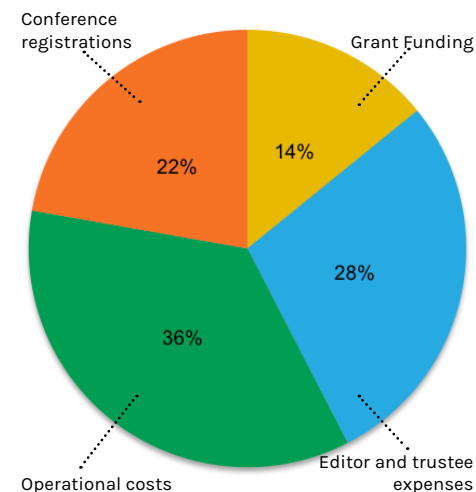
- *Kitchen Power: National Parallels Online Symposium* 16 and 17 September collaboration between Noel Campbell National Museum of Ireland-Country Life and Sorcha O'Brien.

The Rainbow Remote Teaching in Design History Innovation Award sought to champion the creativity and generosity of institutions and individuals engaging wider audiences in design history amidst the 'lockdown'. The award was open to any teaching professional supported by a testimonial from learners; innovative projects were to be promoted by the DHS and honoured with an honorarium of £100. Sadly, no applications were received.

Projections for 2020-1

As incoming Chair, it felt important to familiarise myself with the operational functioning and sustainability of the Society. It became clear that implementation of electronic systems would ensure better monitoring of our finances and work flows. The global distribution of institutional subscriptions to the Society's journal (our core source of income) is currently: 54% in Europe and North America, 29% in Asia, 9% in Central and South America, 2% in Oceania and 3% in Africa. Over the last five years, individual memberships to the Society and institutional journal subscriptions have declined by about 12%. The Society's expenditure model for the last five-years has been:

DHS-JDH Expenditure Model 2015-19



Given the current climate of economic volatility, I undertook to attempt clearer projections of the Society's annual liabilities in 2020-1:

	Expenditure	Costs	% of total expenditure
Operational Costs	Research Funding (Research Publication Grant, Research Exhibition Grant, Research Travel and Conference Grant, Strategic Research Grant, Symposium Grant, Virtual Event Grant, DHS-CAA Panel)	(£13,150)	14%
	Student Awards and Outreach (Student Essay Prize, Design Writing Prize, Student Travel Grant, Virtual Design History Award, Rainbow Remote Teaching Innovation Award, Outreach Event)	(£5,300)	6%
	Administrator (Payroll/Pension/HMRC)	(£16,200)	18%
	Basic Rent for Cowcross Street desk	(£5,316)	6%
	IT licences / website	(£1,436)	5%
	Insurance	(£689)	
	Accountancy fees	(£1,920)	
Expenses	Conference Registration for Trustees, Editors to support Annual conference, Keynote honorarium and expenses and Speaker Bursaries	(£14,000)	22%
	Trustee and Editor Individual Expense claims per annum (based on 2019 figures costed for 2 Board meetings in London and Basel conference)	(£31,500)	28%
<i>Estimated Annual Liability Projection for 2020</i>		(£89,011)	
Income remaining as of 25 June 2020 (2020 JDH 50% profit share from OUP £80,929; Savings Account £32,097)		£113,026	
<i>Shortfall on one-year minimum reserve</i>		(£23,515)	

The main costs the Society can control until a one-year reserve is re-established are Trustee and Editor expenses (2018-19: Editor expenses: **£36,893.00**; Trustee expenses: **£13,250.96**; 2019-20: Editor expenses: **£17,168.15**; Trustee expenses: **£7,411.19**).

Adopting a minimum one-year's expenditure as a reserve policy (projected for 2020 as £89,011) requires us to economize drastically to recoup our reserves. At the 27 June meeting of the Trustees and Editorial Board explored multiple scenarios and agreed moving forward:

- To ensure sufficient funds are ring-fenced to be compliant with the Society's declared reserve policy (minimum of one-year's operational expenditure).
- To conduct the four Trustee Boards and the Editors' annual January meeting virtually; the expense of our tenancy at 70 Cowcross Street has been reduced to hot-desk and ad hoc room-booking facilities, saving £4,000 per annum.
- To suspend all expense claims from Trustees and Editors (travel, accommodation, subsistence) until a minimum one-year's expenditure reserve has been recouped.
- To commit to any Trustee and Editor expense claims to be based upon need, approved in advance and delimited (once reserve has been recouped).

- To explore strategies to facilitate income generation through new membership and subscriptions, grant and endowment opportunities.

Hail and Farewells

We mourn the passing of two members of the Journal's Advisory Board in 2019-20, Marjan Groot and Victor Margolin. Their energetic collegiality, editorial perspicacity and esteemed scholarship remain beacons in our field.

Two Trustees, Harriet Atkinson and Josie Kane, stepped down from their roles as Research Grant Officer and Secretary as their terms of office were coming to an end in 2021. The Society is indebted to them for their contributions.

Michaela Young, our welcoming administrator since 2013, resigned. We are joyful for her plans to focus on her doctorate if sad to see her go. Jenna Allsopp joined us in January 2020 and has made a great start settling into this vital role liaising between the Trustees, Editors, Membership and all.

Future plans

Stabilizing the Society's financial footing has dominated these first six months, but I hope to be able to facilitate many new opportunities and activities proposed by the membership, Trustees and Editors in my remaining three years

as Chair. Two core objectives are:

Advocacy: Equality and Sustainability

In June, the Society's Trustees and the Journal Editors agreed to declare our solidarity with Black Lives Matter protests by encouraging reflection about the task of decolonizing our syllabi and institutional practice as a community. This statement followed upon the work of Megha Rajguru and our former Communications Trustee, Zara Arshad, planning an impressive series of seminars drawing together design historians from under-represented constituencies in our field. Sadly, this collaboration which had been planned for May had to be postponed amidst the pandemic. They are forging plans to translate the programme into a portfolio of podcasts and synchronous round table webinars in the autumn. Our hope is thereby to provide a useful starting point and archive of resources for colleagues working towards decolonizing design history syllabi in the autumn of 2020. We have added a guidance for all our grant and award applicants asking for engagement with the Society's commitment to equality and sustainability when proposing projects. We are exploring new approaches to membership and grant-making that could help to diversify the constituencies represented within and encouraged by the Society. The Trustees' and Editors' Strategic Forum in September will be devoted to clarifying an implementation

plan firstly to map inequalities within design history as a discipline and to devise strategies towards pragmatic mitigations of these injustices informed by the pioneering work of the [Royal Historical Society](#).

New platforms, new participation

Moving forwards, we will be reimagining the Society's virtual platforms to engage more effectively with our mission to be an inclusive space for all constituencies engaged in the practice of design and its histories worldwide. We have started to develop an interactive portfolio of webinars, podcasts and position papers, alongside ongoing communication through our well-established Newsletter, Blogs and social media presence. These initiatives hope to engage new audiences not only as members of the Society but also as conveners of activities and contributors to the Journal.

In other news

CHEAD

It has been a great pleasure getting to meet colleagues within this key network for education and advocacy in Art and Design in the United Kingdom. At both meetings I have attended so far, we have begun to embark on encouraging conversations about re-engaging the Society with practice and pedagogy across the United Kingdom, building

opportunities for collaboration with other subject associations.

DHS Session at CAA Chicago 2021

The Design History Society is an affiliate member of the College Art Association. We ran an open competition to find the subject of our panel for CAA's Chicago 2020 conference. The theme of the successful panel proposed by two members of the Society, Vendula Hnídková (Institute of Art History, Czech Academy of Sciences/University of Birmingham) and Marta Filipová, Research Fellow (CRAACE), Department of Art History, Faculty of Arts, Masaryk University Brno: *From Redevelopment to Responsibility: Environmentally (Un) Friendly Design* has been accepted. CAA is allowing virtual presentations so we are delighted that our members worldwide who might not be able to travel to New York can send in proposals for the Society's panel.

Our colleagues in Basel are planning a wonderful conference for us in 2021 – which will indeed be 'Memory Full', we look forward to renewing long-standing friendships and fostering new opportunities there.

My deepest thanks to the Trustees, Editors and administrator for all you have given to the Society and its Journal, as well as Grace Ranola and Riadh Khelil at our publishers OUP, Smiṭa Barcha at Knox Cropper and Artun Ozguner and Jenna Allsopp for all your help in preparing this report.

Dr Claire O'Mahony, Chair of the Design History Society

Journal of Design History

The *Journal of Design History* (JDH) is owned by the Design History Society (DHS). Founded in 1988, it has been published since then by Oxford University Press (OUP) under a five-year renewable contract that agrees equal profit share between OUP and the DHS. Four issues are published annually. The profits generated by the JDH are used to promote study and research in the history of design, both in the UK and internationally. The 2019 profits were slightly higher than in 2018. Our current OUP publisher, Grace Ranola, has taken over from Clare Morton while she is on a year's sabbatical leave. We held our annual meeting with OUP in July and received the 2020 Publisher's Report.

The effects of lockdown

Since March 2020 the global lockdown caused by the COVID-19 pandemic has created a challenging situation for the Journal. However, the members of the EB have continued to work as normal on preparing material for the Journal in conjunction with the staff members at OUP, with the result that, to date, we have succeeded in maintaining our planned publication timetable. The online publication of Volume 33, Number 1 (Practice, Discourse, Experience: Design History and Architectural History, eds. Jessica Kelly and Claire Jameson) went ahead of schedule but the production and shipping of the issue was slightly delayed. Although peer review has been largely unaffected, with archives and

businesses closed, authors are finding it difficult to clear image rights and this may slow the handover of some material to OUP production in the short term. We plan to move forward with our existing publication plans, although the continuation of the situation means that there may be further challenges ahead. Delivery times are still expected to be longer than usual, but the free online access will continue to ensure timely access to material for subscribers and the members of the DHS.

Succession planning

We are delighted that Claire O'Mahony has joined the Editorial Board in her new capacity as Chair of the DHS. We also welcome our new administrator, Jenna Allsopp. The current editorial management of the *Journal of Design History* has been in place since 2016: I am just starting my fifth year as Chair of the Editorial Board (EB), as I took on the role on the 1st June 2016. Dr Fiona Fisher, who took on the position of Managing Editor on 1st July 2017, will soon be in her fourth year. Editorial board member, Zoe Hendon, came to the end of her five-year position earlier this year and stood down from the board. Several members of the EB would, in principle, be coming to the end of their time on the Board in 2021. However, they have all agreed to stay on a little longer to facilitate continuity. Importantly, the Book Review's editor, Sarah Lichtman will be extending her period of membership of

the EB. The Chair is currently developing a succession plan for Board members. There are still gaps that need to be filled on the Advisory Group and the EB is seeking to appoint three new members who will represent the Journal's global presence.

Social media

Sorcha O'Brien continues to take control of the journal's social media communications with the aims of encouraging high quality submissions; promoting content to engage wider audiences with the work of the Journal; and spreading knowledge about the connection between the DHS and the JDH, which isn't particularly well known, especially overseas.

Mission Statement

A new JDH mission statement has been formulated. All members of the Board have contributed to the process of creating it and a final version now appears in the Journal and has been added to the DHS and JDH websites. The formulation of the new statement represented an important moment, and opportunity, for the journal in which to take stock and consider whether changes were needed in the light of the changing external context.

Special Issues and Virtual Special Issues

In line with the Editorial Board's strategy, following on from Volume 32, Number 1 - a special issue on Locating Design Exchanges in Latin America and the Caribbean - the three issues published in 2019 were all general in nature. Sarah Lichtman has proposed a special issue based on the 2018 New York conference - Design and Displacement - which she will co-edit with Jilly Traganou and for which Claire O'Mahony is acting as the assigned editor. Jeremy Aynsley has proposed a special issue on the Bauhaus based on papers given at the 2019 Newcastle conference. Further virtual special issues have been suggested and were formally approved at last September's Editorial Board Meeting: They are Histories of Fashion and Textile Design (Rebecca Houze); and Gender and Design History (Sarah Lichtman).

Open Access

Last year we responded to a survey initiated by the Royal Historical Society relating to the Open Access initiative, Plan S. We continue to follow developments in this area, advised by OUP. Recent discussions with them led to the decision that the JDH should be considered as a 'hybrid' journal which will enable it to enjoy some of the benefits of R&P. In the light of the potential effects of COVID-19, of

upcoming developments in Open Access, and of other challenges to the financial sustainability of the journal, the price of 2021 subscriptions to the JDH have been raised by only 2.5%. Over a longer period, we will have to consider the viability or otherwise of expanding the content of the JDH.

Research Data Policy and Preprint Policy

In order to support its journals and partner societies in finding the most appropriate approach to research data for its community, Oxford University Press decided that, moving forward, it will adopt the policy of encouraging all authors, where ethically possible, to publicly release all data underlying any published paper.

In early March OUP added a short section to the ITA of the journal summarising its preprint policy stating that authors retain the right to make an Author's Original Version (preprint) available through various channels and that this does not prevent submission to the journal. If accepted, authors are required to update the status of any preprint, including their published papers' DOIs.

Professor Penny Sparke, Chair of the Editorial Board, Journal of Design History

Annual Subscription category and price review: Decisions for 2021

Price category	2020 Price	2021 Price	Yearly increase
Institutional online only	£284	£254	2.5%
Institutional print	£291	£298	2.5%
Institutional combined	£315	£323	2.5%
Coporate online only	£310	£318	2.5%
Corporate print	£363	£372	2.5%
Corporate combined	£395	£405	2.5%
Personal	£86	£88	2.5%
DHS membership + print	£72	£74	2.5%
DHS membership + print (student/senior/unwaged)	£40	£40	0.0%
DHS corporate membership + print	£273	Rate discontinued	N/A
DHs membership + online only	£60	£62	2.5%
DHS membership + online only (student/senior/unwaged)	£34	£34	0.0%
Members of American Historical Association, Canadian Historical Association, and College Art Association	£78	Rate discontinued	N/A
DHS reviewer regular	£55	£56	2.5%
DHS reviewer reduced	£30	£30	0.0%

Student Matters

This report summarises the activities of the Design History Society Student Representative since the 2019 Annual General Meeting, in September 2019, when the present Student Representative's term started. It covers five initiatives: Student Essay Prize, Student Conference Bursary, Student Travel Award, and Student Forum. These initiatives were conducted in liaison with the Teaching and Learning Officer, the Research Grants Officer, and the Chair. Thus, the present summary complements information that can be found in their respective reports.

Student Essay Prize

Following the 2019 Student Essay Prize, awarded to Fleur Elekerton (undergraduate category) and Jess Majekodunmi (postgraduate category), both awardees were interviewed for the society's website.

- Q&A with Student Essay Prize 2019 winner, [Fleur Elkerton](#)
- Q&A with Student Essay Prize 2019 winner, [Jess Majekodunmi](#)

These brief interviews aim to publicize future editions of the award, to give potential Essay Prize nominees a glimpse of the writing process of the winners, and to learn what drew the winners' interests to design history. Our overall intent is to keep expanding the presence and participation of students

in the Society.

Student Travel Award

The Student Travel Award received no applications for the January deadline. However, the reports of previous awardees continue to provide the Society's website with a permanent influx of engaging content. We are hoping these publications will boost future applications to the award. They are positive not only in publicizing the award to future applicants, but also in giving students a relevant platform to share their experiences with the wider design history community.

Six Student Travel Award reports were published in the Society's website in the period between July 2019 and May 2020. The reports reflect the importance of the Society's support in advancing research in design history, as shown in the passages below:

- [Enya Moore](#)
"My research trip enabled analysis of dominant design discourses at Shenzhen Design Week through the ethnographic methods I employ. [...] This fieldwork allowed me to make important contacts and meet with potential interviewees for my research. It also enabled me to collect materials from the exhibitions I visited and document the work on display."

- [Vanessa Vanden Berghe](#)
"I was able to attend and present my research at the 'Modernism in the Home' conference [...] The grant and conference has allowed me to further develop my thinking on the concept of staging and the home and has also opened up exciting opportunities for future publications."

- [Eleanor Rees](#)
"I was able to undertake a second trip to Moscow to conduct archival research for my doctoral thesis, [...] A number of the films I viewed, although previously not considered significant in scholarship on Russian and Soviet cinema, proved to be remarkable from a design perspective."

- [Deepshikha Jha](#)
"The travel scholarship was awarded for a paper presentation made at the International Conference on Design and Technology, held at the Israel Institute of Technology, [...] The presentation of the paper at the conference involved publishing a part of doctoral research work."

- [Magali An Berthon](#)
"I spent my time in Phnom Penh at Tuol Sleng Genocide Museum (TSGM), working especially with the conservation team on the museum's textile collection. The documentation and interviews produced during my period of fieldwork will be used to write a chapter [...] in an upcoming anthology."

- [Kelly Washington](#)
"The Design History Society's travel award gave my research credibility, as I was able to experience the subculture [youth subculture in Johannesburg] first hand."

Student Conference Bursary

The Student Conference Bursary assists DHS Student members whose papers have been accepted for presentation at the annual conference. The Conference Bursary's recipients contribute to the Society's website with a report of their participation in the conference and an overview of their papers.

Nine Conference Bursaries reports were published in the Society's website in the period between January and May 2020, including seven reports by students. Together, these accounts form a truly diverse picture of the annual conference.

- [Saurabh Tewari](#)
- [Courtney Schum](#)
- [Rachel Hunnicutt](#)
- [Seungyeon Gabrielle Jung](#)
- [Enya Moore](#)
- [Gretchen Von Koenig](#)
- [Christin Yu](#)

Virtual Design History Student Award

We are pleased to announce three applications for the Virtual Design History Student Award were successful:

- *Design in Quarantine*, a digital archive of real time design responses to the Coronavirus pandemic (£150 awarded to purchase domain name and social media support). Anna Talley and Fleur Elkerton, MA Students Royal College of Art London.
- *Wawasan 2020* Digitization of first-day cover stamps (1991-2020) for the Malaysian Design Archive (£150 awarded towards the acquisition of design ephemera). Denise Lai, MA Student Royal College of Art London
- *Student Lightning Talks* a programme of live discussions and interviews. (£6.99 for subscriptions to online platforms). Jennifer McHugh, PhD student Winchester School of Art University of Southampton.

All three awardees are contributing to the DHS Virtual Student Forum.

Student Forum

This year's annual conference "Memory Full?" has been postponed until September 2021. Whilst students will miss the crucial face-to-face encounter

that the conference provides, a series of student-led events, the DHS Virtual Student Forum, will serve as a virtual place of encounter instead.

We are thrilled that all three Virtual Design awardees, the Ambassadors, the Communications Officer, and the DHS Administrator are joining the Student Representative in this exciting enterprise. We devised a programme of five online events beginning at the 5 September AGM through to a session of 'lightening talks' by students about their research in June 2021. This Forum seeks to encourage conversations around design-history students' research activity, professional networking and sociability.

Meanwhile, preparations continue to be made for the first face-to-face DHS Student Forum, to take place in September 2021, at the annual conference in Basel.

Tai Cossich, Student Representative

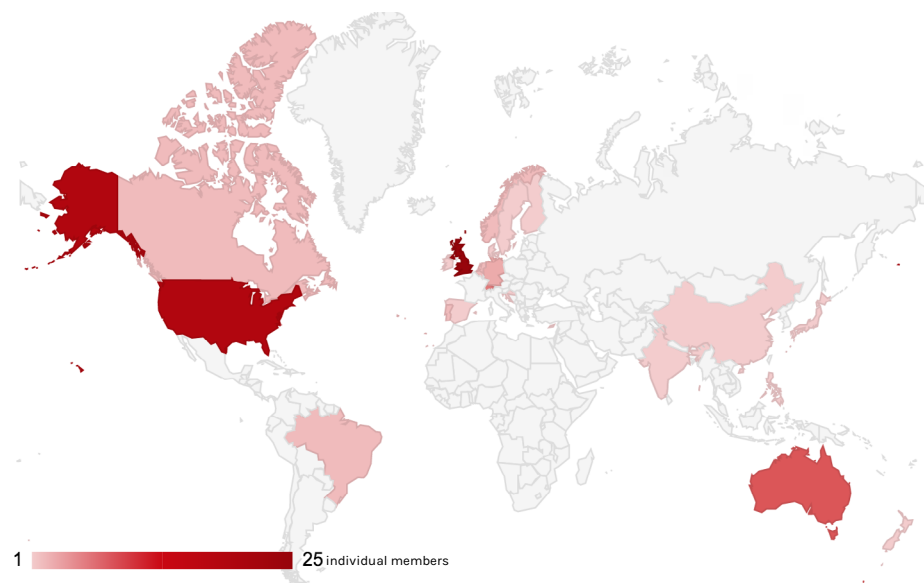
Membership and Outreach

The Society currently has 85 individual members from 23 nations, 52% are from the United Kingdom and United States.

One Outreach Grant was awarded to Professor Grace Lees-Maffei, University of Hertfordshire in 2020 to support 'Design Heritage: Concepts, Contexts, Politics'. This half-day symposium included presentations and responses from design historians from Brazil, Czech Republic, Norway and the United States and the United Kingdom. It took place in the Bauhaus and Ulm Room on 30 January 2020 and was also supported by the Design Museum, London and the University of Hertfordshire.

Dr Harriet McKay, Membership and Outreach Officer

DHS Memberships Jan - Jun 2020



Communications

It is with great joy that I am completing my first year as the Communications Officer of the Society. As a year mostly on the learning curve and recently of trying to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic, I rest assured that it has nevertheless been a prolific one for the communications aspects of the society. The duties, as outlined below, can be usually grouped within these main categories; updating the website, maintaining a social media presence on Twitter and Instagram; publishing the quarterly newsletter; and liaising with the DHS Ambassadors. This year the focus in carrying out these tasks has been principally to have a more content-oriented presence on our communications channels.

Social Media

The regular maintenance works of our social media channels has been carried out weekly with Facebook and LinkedIn accounts managed by the DHS administrator. As the CO I believe Instagram as a medium offers invaluable possibilities to engage upcoming scholars with our community and give our Society the visibility it requires within the field. Therefore this has been my major inclination throughout the year. With the help of the DHS Ambassador Gael Welstead, we have launched the first Instagram takeover by our Student Essay Prize Award winners, Fleur Elkerton and Jess Majekodunmi. The project will continue

with more DHS awardees, scholars and/or trustees, who will be taking over the role of a DHS Ambassador for a week. We want our weekly Ambassadors to engage the community in their current research curiosities, concepts and/or themes concerning the wider field of design history.

During Elkerton’s Instagram takeover in the month of December 2019, some of her stories had a viewing rate of 111 and in subsequent segments the viewing rates have never gone under 59. There was also a considerable rise in the follower numbers from around 230 (December 2019) to the current 289 (June 2020), in which the takeover initiative had a substantial part. It is through liaising with smaller networks of younger colleagues amidst our community that we aim to have a larger presence on social media.

The Society has also been active on Twitter. From July 2019 on, we have added 316 new followers to reach a total of 3,324 followers. That a remarkable portion of this increase has occurred since the lockdown measures have been put in place is encouraging in terms of the visibility of the Society whilst physical events are not possible.

In other news, the DHS Podbean channel is now also online. Megha Rajguru has recorded the very first DHS podcast with the 2020 Design Writing Prize judge, Jane Audas.

DHS social network presence

	Followers 2017-18	Followers 2019-20
Twitter	3008	3383
Facebook	1721	2015
Linkedin	1061	1726
Instagram / Ambassadors	200	331

Quarterly Newsletter

The digital newsletter continues to play a major role in the Society’s communications strategy, in its expanding global reach. In November 2017, the DHS newsletter was sent to 906 subscribers, which was followed by 925 subscribers for the December newsletter. At the time of writing (May 2020), there are a total of 1032 subscribers to the DHS newsletter. This is most encouraging as together with the help of the Chair we aim to create a more welcoming and encompassing language that addresses our global community. I have been enhancing the newsletter to operate in a more interactive way through fostering links with other design history initiatives and promoting the achievements supported by our grant funding and student awards and prizes.

DHS Website and Blog

The DHS website has been periodically updated to reflect the dynamic and multifarious connections of the Society. An increasingly important issue this year has been short listing the content we receive for the DHS News section (and therefore Twitter). Together with the new DHS administrator Jenna Allsopp, we are building stronger short-listing criteria, reserving this section to non-profit events, calls, and promotions whilst keeping our doors open to the larger community with a similar content-aware approach.

Blog reports, penned by the Society’s awardees, are being published weekly and/or fortnightly depending on the feed available to maintain a regular circulation. All missing reports from previous year’s Conference Bursary awardees have been retrieved and published. Those of the 2020 Annual Conference as well as other award reports are also being managed with a similar care, assessing a standard level of valuable content and accuracy. Posting these stories on Instagram has also provided followers with engaging photographs and further insights into the variety of research and activities we support. This lively social media presence hopes to encourage more of our community of design historians to apply for the Society’s funding opportunities for every stage of study and career development.

DHS Ambassadors

In liaison with the DHS Trustee Lisa Godson, Gael Welstead has been actively working on her one-day symposium project titled "Light Switch" to be held in the Dublin Science Museum on the 25th of April. Unfortunately, due to the COVID-19 pandemic lockdown programmes at the Science Gallery were suspended. Gael has worked tirelessly with the Museum to redesign the symposium as a virtual broadcast provisionally scheduled for 24 October 2020.

Andrea Foffa is planning to run podcasts where scholars, trustees and awardees in the society or the wider field can discuss current work-in-progress projects, their own perspective on their research and raise awareness around the history of design through what is nowadays a popular platform.

Response to COVID-19

As a Society we have striven to offer timely responses to the constraints imposed by the pandemic, prioritizing the health and wellbeing of our community whilst still ensuring the continuity of our support for design history research and activity.

As many cultural institutions, impeded by the recent changes in social life, have turned to digital content, this also proved to be a good occasion for

the DHS Ambassadors. Gael Welstead is now organizing the DHS Book Circle on Instagram to create a sense of community amongst followers continuing their researches in design history amidst the ongoing pandemic.

Emin Artun Özgüner, Communications Officer

Teaching and Learning

This is my third year in post as Teaching and Learning Officer (including the Student Essay and Design Writing Prize officer). The focus for this year has been: to initiate a new teaching and learning workshop in partnership with the UK-based organisation The Council for Higher Education in Art and Design (CHEAD) and a non-HE institution in the UK; expand the reach of the Design Writing Prize, beyond the Society's membership and regular networks (via Jiscmail and social media), to editors of key design magazines, writers and journalists; and to contribute to the wider strategic activities of the society, such as workshops and panels on decolonising design history. As part of a wider attempt to align the areas and activities of the society, my role has expanded to administer two student awards, which were formerly under the remit of the Grants Officer (Student Travel Award and Conference Bursary). Further details are outlined below.

Prizes

We relaunched the Design Writing and Student Essay prizes with extended submission dates amidst COVID-19. In order to attract strong submissions from a wide range of researchers, writers and scholars of design, we have undertaken two marketing activities: we have informed editors of key design magazines of the opportunity to nominate excellent work; and have published the first DHS podcast on

Design Writing. The podcast, available on the DHS website, is a recording of my conversation with this year's Design Writing Guest Judge Jane Audas about the practice of Design Writing and what makes an excellent Design Writing essay. Jane writes about historical and contemporary design, fashion and craft for magazines, the web, books, on her blog Shelf Appeal and on Twitter and Instagram. The podcast is available through this [link](#). Its function is to share a lively discussion about the practice of writing and encourage writers to submit entries.

These efforts prompted 7 submissions for the Design Writing Prize, 19 submissions for the Undergraduate Essay prize and 8 submissions for the Postgraduate Essay Prize. All the student prize nominations were from institutions in England and Ireland.

College Arts Association 2020 conference "Decolonising Design History" panel

I co-convened the 2020 DHS CAA affiliate panel with Daniel Huppatz (member of the JDH Editorial Board) on the theme of Decolonising Design History. A rich set of papers were delivered by our three presenters: Livia Rezende, University of New South Wales, Sydney, "Deep Encounters with the Design History archives, from 1968 Brazil to now"; John-Patrick Hartnett, London College of Communication, "AGI as

canon: professional distinction and the question of difference" and Shehnaz Suterwalla, Royal College of Art, London, "Rethinking the Teaching of Design History".

DHS Equalities Working Group

In February 2019, the Trustees discussed the recommendations set out in the Royal Historical Society's Report on [Race, Ethnicity and Equality in UK History](#) (Oct 2018) prompting a small working group of trustees to consider the recommendations in detail and revisit, in the first instance, internal DHS processes and working practices. This initial group comprised Megha Rajguru (Teaching and Learning), Harriet McKay (Membership), Harriet Atkinson (Research Grants) and Josie Kane (Secretary). Following a call for participation at our Annual Conference in September 2019, Sarah Cheang joined the working group as a non-trustee Chair. The working party submitted its findings to the Trustees who agreed to implement these recommendations:

- Conduct a Membership/journal readership survey to establish age, gender, employment status, ethnicity, disability, orientation, geographical location.
- Invite speakers to talk on equalities work and change processes in comparable organisations (i.e. RHS, Association for Art History, SAHGB).

- Formulate a public-facing statement and strategic plan about equality forging a roadmap for change.

Workshops

Objects Matter: Design Education and Learning through Objects in the Museum

With the aim to widen access to design history with the UK, one of my strategic goals since having taken on this role has been to devise an annual teaching and learning programme of events, in addition to the Annual Publishing workshop in areas such as research, training and career development workshops and public facing events. We organised a collaborative one-day teaching and learning workshop with the Council for Higher Education in Art and Design (CHEAD) and The Design Museum, titled 'Objects Matter: Design Education and Learning through Objects in the Museum' which was held at The Design Museum, London, UK on 10 September 2019. The workshop was well received by over thirty participants from various academic and non-HE institutions, comprised of tutors, curators and research students. The day involved talks and object handling sessions, sharing of pedagogical knowledge and practices, and discussions on the role of object-based learning in a decolonised curriculum. Please see associated blog through this [link](#).

The plan for 2020-2021 is to run a similar

workshop in collaboration with CHEAD and the North East Film Archive in Middlesbrough, UK.

Annual Publishing Workshop

The 2019 Annual Publishing workshop held at Northumbria University (Newcastle-Upon-Tyne, UK) as part of the conference The Cost of Design, was well attended by approximately twenty international delegates. The workshop followed a format that addressed the needs of research students, early-career researchers, as well as experienced researchers. Sessions included talks on how to publish monographs, edited volumes and journals, and writing for wider non-academic audiences in The Conversation. This was followed by a more discursive session that focussed on the theme of design history audiences (the global audience, non-specialist audience and audiences from other disciplines).

The 2020 Publishing Workshop was postponed due to COVID-19 travel restrictions. A workshop is planned for the Memory Full? conference at FHNW Academy of Art and Design, Basel, Switzerland in September 2021.

Shifting Perspectives: Decolonising Design History

This workshop has been organised by Zara Arshad, former DHS Trustee and Communications Officer, and I am acting as a liaison and advisor. The main aim of the workshop is to bring together design historians, art and design practitioners, educators, students, curators and writers to engage in a series of dialogues, exploring the central and marginal practices and narrativisations of design history, and to identify the ways in which design histories have been challenged and expanded by historians who are POC and working within large-scale institutions. Moving forwards, Zara and I have decided to transform the workshop into a series of podcasts with the panel of speakers.

Dr Megha Rajguru, Teaching and Learning Officer

Research Grants Report

During the 12-month period since the previous AGM report the DHS has given fewer grants than is usual. Causal factors were the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic from March 2020 when Trustees took the difficult decision to postpone any grant funding for travel and face-to-face activities, and a lack of applications. A total of 4 applications were given full or partial funding. These awardees were based in 3 countries: UK, US and Canada, representing 4 Higher Education institutions.

Strategic Research Grant and Student Travel Awards

Deadline November 2019. Open to all scholars and students anywhere in the world. £1,000 available in total for individual awards of maximum £500. No applications were received so no awards were made in this round.

Research Publication Grants

Deadline January 2020. Open to all national and international DHS members. £3,000 available in total for individual awards of maximum £1,000:

- Alexis Romano, New York City College of Technology/Parsons, The New School towards preparation of the book *Prêt-à-Porter, Paris and Women: A Cultural Study of French Readymade Fashion, 1945-1968*, £1000.

- Professor Paul Atkinson, Art & Design Research Centre, Sheffield Hallam University, towards preparation of the book *Amplified: A Design History of the Electric Guitar*, £1000.

- Professor John Potvin, Concordia University, towards preparation of the book *Deco Dandy: Designing Masculinity in 1920s Paris*, £1000.

- Rose Roberto, Research Associate, University of Reading, towards preparation of the book *Illustrating Animals in the 19th Century: Popular Taste from Bewick to Beardsley*, £382.

Research Exhibition Grant

Deadline: 15 March 2020. Open to all scholars and students anywhere in the world. Total of £1,500 available for maximum £1,000 grants. Three applications were received in this round, Trustees decided to postpone assessment until 2021.

Research Travel and Conference Grant

Deadline 15 May 2020; postponed during the pandemic.

I have now stepped down as Trustee of the Design History Society, having completed five years as Research Grants Officer. It has been a huge pleasure and privilege to work for the Design History Society over the last few years and to get further insight into design historical research happening across the world.

Dr Harriet Atkinson, Research Grants Officer (resigned April 2020)

Conference

DHS Annual Conference, 2019

The Newcastle conference was attended by 150 delegates from 22 countries. The Trustees extend our thanks to Dr Elizabeth Kramer for her most valuable work in organizing an event whose proceedings represent an important contribution to the current conversation in design history and allied fields. The DHS awarded 12 conference bursaries enabling students, recent graduates, independent scholars or academics in precarious employment to participate. The keynotes were filmed, and are stored in the DHS archive, which can make them available to scholars or students for research purposes.

DHS Annual Conference, 2020-2021

In March 2020, the convenors of the 2020 Annual Conference decided, in consultation with the Executive Committee of the Design History Society, to postpone the conference by a full year to September 2021. The format of the conference will remain consistent with the tradition of the DHS Annual Conferences, in recognition of the important role this event plays in creating and sustaining opportunities for formal and informal conversation in our community. At the same time, the convenors are also working on ways to accommodate the changes that the events of 2020 might have on the daily practice of design history, and to the ways research in the future will

be conducted and disseminated. The work on the 2021 Annual Conference will be led by principles of inclusivity, transnationalism, and openness.

The theme of the conference is Memory Full? Reimagining the Relations between Design and History. A renewed call for abstracts will be launched in the autumn of 2020. The conference will take place at the FHNW Academy of Arts and Design in Basel, Switzerland between 2-4 September 2021. Updates will be regularly posted on the [DHS](#) and [conference websites](#).

DHS Annual Conference, 2022

The DHS Trustees received five applications to host the 2022 conference, each proposing a pertinent theme. They are currently considering the proposals, and will start work on the organization of the event with one of the convening teams over the coming months. Host and theme of the 2022 conference will be announced at the Basel conference in September 2021.

DHS Annual Conference, 2023

The Design History Society works towards furthering world-wide dialogues in design history and warmly welcomes proposals from individual members and institutions that support and engage in teaching and research in design history. Proposals for hosting the Annual

Conference are invited ca. 30 months in advance of the event, with a three-month period for making the selection. The call for institutions and Society members to propose to host and convene the Society's Annual Conference in 2023 will go out in the spring of 2021. It will be circulated through a number of relevant channels and platforms, and kept open for a trimester. The Society collaborates very closely with conference conveners to ensure the Annual Conferences fully represent its mission and vision in inclusively supporting design history across a number of disciplines and institutions. Each conference is a unique, choral expression of concurrent elements such as the current climate in research and society at large, the culture of the hosting institution, the convenors' expertise, and the Society's strategic vision. I am happy to provide information and further details to members who are considering convening the conference and invite them to contact me through the DHS Administrator at the DHS's institutional email address.

Conference impact and legacy

The DHS Annual Conferences have a published legacy that includes peer-reviewed articles and edited books. Over the years, DHS increasingly started collecting podcasts, recordings of keynote speeches and conference ephemera in its growing physical and virtual archives. The DHS is currently exploring models for increasing access

to these conference outcomes to further the conversation and reach broader audiences. In a similar fashion, the DHS is developing criteria to assess the impact of the conferences, and their alignment with the aims and goals of the Society.

Dr Gabriele Oropallo, Conference Liaison Officer

DHS Executive Committee Members

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[Claire O'Mahony](#)

Treasurer (Honorary Officer)

[Lisa Godson](#)

Chair of the Editorial Board (Trustee)

[Penny Sparke](#)

Communications Officer (Trustee)

[Emin Artun Ozguner](#)

Conference Liaison Officer (Trustee)

[Gabriele Oropallo](#)

Membership and Outreach Officer
(Trustee)

[Harriet McKay](#)

Research Grants Officer (Trustee)

[Harriet Atkinson](#) (resigned April 2020)

Student Representative (non-Trustee)

[Tai Cossich](#)

**Teaching and Learning Officer & Essay
Prize Officer** (Trustee)

[Megha Rajguru](#)

Ambassadors

[Andrea Foffa](#)

[Alex Todd](#)

[Gael Welstead](#)

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Design History Society)
University of Oxford, United Kingdom

[Penny Sparke](#) (Chair of the Editorial
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Kingston University, United Kingdom

[Priscila Farias](#)
University of São Paulo, Brazil

[Zoë Hendon](#) (resigned July 2020)
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Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, USA

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Swinburne University of Technology,
Melbourne, Australia

[Fiona Fisher](#) (Managing Editor)
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[Sarah A. Lichtman](#) (Reviews Editor)
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[Jane Pavitt](#)
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University of the Arts, United Kingdom

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Facebook:

www.facebook.com/Design-History-Society

LinkedIn:

[Design History Society](#)

Appendix:

Annual
Statement
from the
Accountants

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1155117

DESIGN HISTORY SOCIETY

Contents of the Financial Statements
for the Year Ended 30 June 2020

Report of the Trustees and
Unaudited Financial Statements for the Year Ended 30 June 2020
for
DESIGN HISTORY SOCIETY

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Knox Cropper LLP
153-155 London Road
Hemel Hempstead
Hertfordshire
HP3 9SQ

DESIGN HISTORY SOCIETY

Report of the Trustees for the Year Ended 30 June 2020

The trustees present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 30 June 2020. The trustees have adopted the provisions of Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019).

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Objectives and aims

To promote the study of and research into design history and to disseminate and publish the useful results thereof.

Significant activities

Journal

The Journal of Design History is published by Oxford University Press on behalf of the Design History Society. It is the leading journal in its field, and plays an active role in the development of design history, including the history of crafts and applied arts, as well as contributing to the broader fields of visual and material culture studies.

Conference

The annual DHS Conference provides an international platform for interdisciplinary approaches to research and critical debate in design history. Hosted each year by a different partner institution, the conference furthers global dialogues on design and its histories.

Funding

A range of annual Awards, Prizes and Research Grants encourage debate and research in design history. Individual grants are awarded to support particular research activities, including exhibitions, publication costs, travel and conference attendance, and scholarship particularly in non-Western, post-colonial and other underrepresented areas of research.

The Day Symposium Grant supports DHS members who wish to discuss and disseminate new design history research by convening a one-day symposium.

The Outreach Grant assists DHS members convening a public event to promote design history beyond a traditional academic setting.

The Strategic Grant targets support of under-represented areas of research in post-colonial and global design histories.

Student members benefit from a Student Travel Award and DHS Conference Bursary scheme.

N.B. Since March 2020 in light of the Covid-19 pandemic funding, all face-to-face activity was suspended and all funding for such activity was redeployed to support virtual activity.

Prizes

Launched in 2017, the Design Writing Prize, recognises outstanding writing that engages academic and non-academic audiences in critical and contemporary issues in design.

The Student Essay Prize, established in 1997, is awarded to one undergraduate and one postgraduate essay each year to celebrate excellence in student writing in design history.

Events

The DHS hosts a rolling calendar of events and activities convened by trustees working with relevant educational, professional and cultural partners. These events create opportunities for outreach and engagement beyond the annual conference and aim to reach new audiences, both internationally and across the UK. Teaching and Learning events support students, teachers and lecturers at all levels throughout the year and at the annual DHS conference.

Network & Legacy

The DHS Newsletter (published quarterly) and online Blog includes updates on the society's activities, reports from award winners and relevant news items. The JSCMail Mailing List provides a forum for discussion of design historical issues and the exchange of related information and reviews for members and interested non-members.

DESIGN HISTORY SOCIETY

Report of the Trustees for the Year Ended 30 June 2020

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Public benefit

The Design History Society promotes and supports the study of design histories, both in the UK and internationally. Through its journal, annual conference and programme of events it brings together all those engaged in the subject - students, researchers, educators, designers, designer-makers, critics and curators among them. It also acts as an advocate for the subject in a number of different contexts.

As such, all Trustees of the Design History Society act with due regard to public benefit guidance in exercising their powers and duties where this guidance is relevant. Details of the Society's activities over the last year can be found in the Appendix, in the reports submitted by individual trustees.

Grantmaking

The programme of DHS grants awarded is designed to meet the needs of design history researchers at all stages of their careers and in a wide geography. They enable high-level research outputs to be realised that fulfil the Society's aims to promote a wider understanding of design, craft and visual and material culture in their many aspects.

Volunteers

All the Society's Trustees, Student Officer, Ambassadors and Editors of the Journal of Design History carry out their duties in a voluntary capacity.

Each Trustee oversees a specified area of the Society's annual activity. The Chair and Treasurer are Honorary Officers, Trustees areas over sight include Communications, Conference Liaison, Membership, Teaching and Learning. A Student Officer facilitates and mentors student engagement but is not a Trustee

The Society also appoints up to three volunteer Ambassadors to support the work of the Board of Trustees directly by promoting DHS activities through social media channels, by generating online content and by developing new initiatives in partnership with Trustees. The Student Officer and Ambassadors are eligible for free annual membership to the DHS (including online access to the Journal), and for registration at events in the Society's annual programme. Ambassadors are expected to serve for at least 1 year, with the option to extend to 2 years.

Each member of the Editorial Board plays a leading role with certain submissions and takes particular responsibilities in relation to special features or aspects of the Journal's work. Board members devote at least two days per month to the Journal, including meetings which take place twice a year. Appointment to the Board is for a five-year renewable term of office. The Chair of the Editorial Board, the Managing Editor and the Book Reviews Editor receive stipends from Oxford University Press out of the Publishers' half-share of annual profits amounting to £5939 in 2020. The Editorial Board is responsible, through its Chair, for the operation of the Journal, which is fundamental to the Society's aims and activities. The Managing Editor is responsible for maintaining the Journal's high standards and overseeing the work of the Editorial Board in this regard.

Since 2015 payments for conference registration, travel, accommodation and subsistence costs amounting to 50% of the Society's annual expenditure have been reimbursed to Editors, Trustees, the Student Officer and Ambassadors have been paid post facto by the Society's Treasurer and Administrator. As unanimously agreed at 27 June 2020 Strategic Forum and Executive Committee meeting, until a minimum reserve has been re-established, any and all expense claims must be agreed with the Chair and the Treasurer in advance; authorisation of any payment will be predicated upon need.

DESIGN HISTORY SOCIETY

Report of the Trustees for the Year Ended 30 June 2020

ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE

Charitable activities

In its publication of the Journal of Design History, the Society contributes to the promotion of design history as a scholarly subject internationally.

From Jan-June 2019 the Journal had 1,923 institutional and 142 individual Society member subscribers; full-text downloads of Journal articles amounted to 11,977. As of 30 June 2020, 2,002 institutional and 105 individual Society members have renewed their subscriptions and there have been 13,327 full-text downloads of Journal articles.

By taking the annual DHS Conference to international venues (eg California College of the Arts, San Francisco 2015; University of Oslo, 2017; Parsons, The New School New York in 2018), the Society has sought to further global dialogue on design and its histories and draw new members and wider constituencies. These conferences have also incurred high expenditure which has allowed the minimum reserves to fall short of one-year's core expenditure which must be sustained in compliance with the Society's reserve policy.

The DHS Research Grants programme offers support to student researchers, early-career and established researchers from the university and cultural sector to promote excellence in the subject, leading to significant outputs in the form of publications, exhibitions and events. Grants are awarded to applicants internationally and guided by principles of equal opportunities and respect for cultural diversity.

The Society is consulted by official bodies (eg Arts and Humanities Research Council, Research England; Council for Higher Education in Art and Design; Royal Historical Society) to offer views on policy.

While membership of the Society and participants in its activities are largely from the academic and professional fields of design and visual culture, through its programme of activities, the Society contributes to wider benefits of society as a whole. Members of the public benefit from and participate in the events, publications and exhibitions that arise from the Society's achievements.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Financial position

As of 30th June 2020, the financial position of the DHS is that it had £87,395 (2019: £4,479) in the community (current) account, and £32,097 (2019: £35,179) as a reserve in the savings account. Total unrestricted funds were £112,042 (2019: £120,094) at the year end.

Principal funding sources

The principal source of funds for the charity is income from subscriptions to the Journal of Design History. When our annual conference makes a profit, this is additional income.

Reserves policy

In line with Charity Commission guidelines, the DHS has a policy to keep money in reserve to enable expansion of activities and to sustain core activities if there is a loss of income. During the stewardship of the outgoing Chair and current Treasurer this reserve has been maintained at an amount less than sufficient to cover core expenditure for one year, estimated to be £58,000. The current reserve is insufficient to cover one-year's core expenditure. The incoming Chair has secured an unanimous commitment from the Trustees and Editors to forgo any individual expense claims and to minimise all non-grantmaking spending until the minimum one-year core reserve is re-established.

Going concern

In the aftermath of the Covid Pandemic and amidst the uncertain climate about Open Access, the continued income from the Journal of Design History is less secure than it has ever been, nonetheless the charity should be secure as a going concern.

Funds in deficit

Funds are not materially in deficit, nor risk falling into deficit in 2021 now that cost mitigation plan has been agreed.

The principal financial risk to the charity is if there was a severe reduction in subscriptions to the Journal of Design History. The inclusion of the Chair of the editorial board as a trustee of the DHS ensures that the charity can be made aware of any threat in this regard.

DESIGN HISTORY SOCIETY

Report of the Trustees for the Year Ended 30 June 2020

FUTURE PLANS

The future agenda for the field of Design History continues to focus upon its location as a subject, its institutional standing and how the Society can contribute towards securing a firm base for growth in the years to come. Our active commitment to equality and sustainability are areas of particular strategic importance upon which the Trustees have agreed to focus attention in during the incoming Chair's tenure prioritising:

1) Sustaining Design History as a subject-specific discipline worldwide amidst the pandemic and economic crisis

The evolving character of Design History as a subject taught at school, college and university level, as well as pursued through research in universities, the media, cultural institutions, museums and galleries, remains one of vital significance for the Society and of increasing vulnerability. The DHS can make an active contribution to encourage the vitality and morale of our field as we navigate the complexities of socially-distant environments and the impact of economic precarity. The Society hopes to provide a forum for dialogue and support around the pressures of increased workload and loss of employment. Progressing research activity is proving increasingly difficult whilst access to archives and objects are constrained during the pandemic, limitations which seem likely to have a particularly negative impact upon the wellbeing and career progression of care-givers and ethnic minorities.

2) Virtual engagement and diversifying Design History as a community

Since its foundation in 1977, core aims of the Society have been to encourage, to disseminate and to publish the subject for public benefit. In the context of transformed virtual activity amidst the ongoing pandemic, the Society is reassessing how it engages and serves its community embarking on new channels and means such as the enhancement of the Society's website with podcasts and support of virtual conferences, seminars and pedagogic activity. A core ambition underlying these explorations is to assess how enhancing virtual activity might expand and diversify design history as a community, both by identifying intersectional inequalities across its frameworks and institutions and by supporting under-represented constituencies. The creation of a virtual Student Forum to be launched at the 2020 AGM meeting is an important milestone in this undertaking. Developing a new more affordable membership category targeted at less-affluent sectors within the design history community worldwide is being explored with the hopes of opening up our networks and grantmaking to welcome and engage under-represented constituencies more effectively.

3) Advocacy and Sustainability

In June 2020, the Society's Trustees and the Journal Editors agreed to declare our solidarity with Black Lives Matter protests by encouraging reflection about the task of decolonizing our syllabi and institutional practice as a community. To signpost the Society's mission, guidance has been added to all our grant and award application materials asking applicants to engage with the Society's commitment to equality and sustainability when proposing projects. We are currently exploring new approaches to membership and grant-making that could help to diversify the constituencies represented within and encouraged by the Society. The Trustees and Editors have also agreed to identify strategies that will minimise the Society's and Journal's carbon footprint and our impact within climate change, starting by conducting Board meetings virtually. Our Strategic Forum in September will be devoted to clarifying an implementation plan firstly to map inequalities within design history as a discipline and to devise pragmatic mitigation of these injustices informed by the pioneering work of the [Royal Historical Society](#).

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

Since November 2014, the Society has been registered with the Charity Commission under the listing as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation, number: 1155117. Transfer of the Society's assets to the CIO, including key assets such as our membership of the DHS-OUP publishing contract was completed with due consideration for data protection and to maintain the same terms of partnership with OUP.

Charity constitution

The Society's Constitution remains unchanged from 2014 and is available from the DHS website (http://www.designhistorysociety.org/about/charitable_incorporated_organisation/index.html); this document sets out in detail the structure, governance and management of all aspects of the Society.

DESIGN HISTORY SOCIETY

Report of the Trustees for the Year Ended 30 June 2020

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Recruitment and appointment of new trustees

An elected Executive Committee (Board of Trustees) works together to enable the activities of the Society.

Trustees must be members of the Design History Society. New trustees must apply in writing detailing their relevant experience and skills. Applications are blind reviewed by the Executive Committee and successful applicants are co-opted and confirmed at the Design History Society Annual General Meeting, or forms of shortlisted applicants will be presented to the Design History Society Annual General Meeting for final vote and confirmation. Trustees serve for an initial term of three years.

The Executive Committee comprises 10 members: 9 Trustees (of which Chair, Treasurer and Secretary are Honorary Officers) and 1 Student Officer (non-Trustee role), and meets quarterly. During 2019-20, the level of meeting attendance was 90% or more. Each Trustee is responsible both for their individually designated areas of activity and for the collective responsibility of the Society's policy and decision-making.

Organisational structure

At Executive Committee meetings which each include a Strategic Forum, the members agree the broad strategy and areas of activity for the Society, including grants and awards making, financial status, reserves, risk management and performance and achievements; weekly administration is conveyed through the Society Administrator who consults with the Chair and Trustees on any policy issues.

The Chair of the DHS and the Chair of the JDH Editorial Board address fiscal and partnership matters with OUP regarding the Journal of Design History. The strategic management of the JDH is delegated to the Chair of the Editorial Board (a Trustee), to lead the board, which comprises the Chair of the DHS (ex-officio) and further appointed members: a Managing Editor to manage the peer reviews system, a Reviews Editor and other editors.

The Editorial Board meets twice a year and the two Chairs and the Managing Editor meet with our publishers annually; again, these meetings facilitate the agreement of broad strategy and areas of activity for the JDH. As volunteers, both the Editors and the Executive Committee of the Society are highly valued in their joint efforts to support the Society and its Journal. A summary prepared by the Chair of the Editorial Board is presented at Executive Committee Meetings and Editors are invited to join the Strategic Forum section of the meeting where pertinent. Executive Committee members and Editorial Board members are required to disclose all relevant interests and, in accordance with the DHS constitution, withdraw from decisions where a conflict of interest arises.

Induction and training of new trustees

The DHS trustees make available to each new charity trustee, on or before his or her first appointment: a copy of the DHS constitution and any amendments made to it; and a copy of the CIO's latest trustees' annual report and statement of accounts.

Risk management

The Trustees are responsible for assessing the major risks to which the DHS is exposed and to establishing procedures to manage/mitigate those risks. In January 2020 when taking up her role, the incoming Chair instigated a number of reforms to ensure clearer understanding and better oversight of risk including: an investigation of HMRC tax arrears and ensuing penalties which proved to amount to over £25,000 since 2015, online management of financial record keeping in an accounting programme (XERO) reconciled by the Chair and the Accountants, the creation of a risk register, a Strategic Forum for both Trustees and Editors and regular contact with our publisher at OUP.

As a Charitable Incorporated Organisation, the DHS has the benefits of a distinct legal personality; this enables the Society to conduct business in its own name rather than in the name of its Trustees. CIO status also removes the Society's Trustees and Members from personal liabilities for the Society's debts. The Society has also purchased appropriate Charity and Community Insurance to protect the Society's assets, resources, Trustees and Editorial Board members and other volunteers against loss, damage or liability arising from the risks that all charities face. The Society's income is generated almost entirely from the Journal of Design History publication. Loss of income from this source therefore poses the biggest risk to income (now that the policies since 2015 of high overspend and low reserves have been identified and are being rectified).

Trustees will take steps to mitigate this risk through close co-operation with the editorial board of the Journal, by holding regular meetings to report on developments and to ensure the successful promotion of the Society's membership offer through networks and contacts. Further, a reserve policy, reviewed annually, has been re-established to enable the Society to continue core activities, such as grants, awards, bursaries and an annual conference, in the event of the loss of income.

DESIGN HISTORY SOCIETY

Report of the Trustees for the Year Ended 30 June 2020

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered Charity number

1155117

Principal address

70 Cowcross Street
London
EC1M 6EJ

Trustees

Professor J Aynsley (resigned 31.12.19)
Dr H Atkinson (resigned 1.4.20)
Professor P Sparke Chair-Journal of DHS Editorial Board
Dr L Godson Treasurer
Dr J Kane (resigned 11.12.19)
Mr A Ozguner Communications Trustee
Dr G Oropallo Conference Liaison Trustee
Dr H McKay Membership Trustee
Dr M Rajguru Teaching and Learning Trustee
Dr C O'Mahony Chair (appointed 1.1.20)

Independent Examiner

Knox Cropper LLP
153-155 London Road
Hemel Hempstead
Hertfordshire
HP3 9SQ

Solicitors

Bircham Dyson Bell
50 Broadway
London SW1H 0BL

Bankers

Barclays Bank PLC
Leicester LE87 2BB

Student Officer

Ms. K Cossich Diniz

Ambassadors

Mr A Foffa
Ms. G Welstead
Mr A Todd

JDH Editors

Professor P Sparke (Chair of the Journal of Design History Editorial Board)
Dr F Fisher (Managing Editor)
Professor S Lichtman (Book Reviews Editor)
Professor P Farias
Professor D Huppatz
Professor R Houze
Professor J Pavitt
Professor J Potvin

Editors whose tenure ended in 2019-20:
Dr Z Hendon (Archives and Collections)

DESIGN HISTORY SOCIETY

Report of the Trustees
for the Year Ended 30 June 2020

EVENTS SINCE THE END OF THE YEAR

Information relating to events since the end of the year is given in the notes to the financial statements.

Approved by order of the board of trustees on and signed on its behalf by:



.....
Dr C O'Mahony - Trustee

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of
Design History Society

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Design History Society

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of Design History Society (the Trust) for the year ended 30 June 2020.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Trust you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Stephen Anderson
ACCA
Knox Cropper LLP
153-155 London Road
Hemel Hempstead
Hertfordshire
HP3 9SQ

Date:

Appendix to the DHS Annual Review 2020

DESIGN HISTORY SOCIETY

Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 30 June 2020

		2020 Unrestricted fund £	2019 Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM	Notes		
Charitable activities	3		
Dissemination		-	41,774
Publication		81,517	81,944
Investment income	2	103	103
Other income		280	-
Total		81,900	123,821
EXPENDITURE ON			
Charitable activities	4		
Study		13,268	7,344
Research		16,418	13,797
Dissemination		27,967	80,949
Publication		22,456	11,658
Outreach		9,843	11,375
Total		89,952	125,123
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)		(8,052)	(1,302)
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS			
Total funds brought forward		120,094	121,396
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		112,042	120,094


The notes form part of these financial statements

DESIGN HISTORY SOCIETY

Balance Sheet 30 June 2020

		2020 Unrestricted fund £	2019 Total funds £
CURRENT ASSETS	Notes		
Debtors	8	3,135	82,057
Cash at bank		119,492	39,657
		122,627	121,714
CREDITORS			
Amounts falling due within one year	9	(10,585)	(1,620)
NET CURRENT ASSETS		112,042	120,094
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		112,042	120,094
NET ASSETS		112,042	120,094
FUNDS	10		
Unrestricted funds		112,042	120,094
TOTAL FUNDS		112,042	120,094

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on and were signed on its behalf by:


.....
C O'Mahony - Trustee

The notes form part of these financial statements

DESIGN HISTORY SOCIETY

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 30 June 2020

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of preparing the financial statements

The financial statements of the charity, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Charities Act 2011. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

Financial reporting standard 102 - reduced disclosure exemptions

The charity has taken advantage of the following disclosure exemptions in preparing these financial statements, as permitted by FRS 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland':

- the requirements of Section 7 Statement of Cash Flows.

Income

All income is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities once the charity has entitlement to the funds, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

Expenditure

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Taxation

The charity is exempt from tax on its charitable activities.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements.

Hire purchase and leasing commitments

Rentals paid under operating leases are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities on a straight line basis over the period of the lease.

Pension costs and other post-retirement benefits

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme. Contributions payable to the charity's pension scheme are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in the period to which they relate.

Going concern

After reviewing the charity's forecasts and projections, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. The charity therefore continues to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements.

DESIGN HISTORY SOCIETY

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued for the Year Ended 30 June 2020

2. INVESTMENT INCOME

	2020 £	2019 £
Deposit account interest	103	103

3. INCOME FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	2020 £	2019 £
Conference income	-	41,774
Journal of Design History	81,517	81,944
	81,517	123,718

4. CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES COSTS

	Direct Costs £	Support costs (see note 5) £	Totals £
Study	3,423	9,845	13,268
Research	6,572	9,846	16,418
Dissemination	18,124	9,843	27,967
Publication	12,613	9,843	22,456
Outreach	-	9,843	9,843
	40,732	49,220	89,952

5. SUPPORT COSTS

	Management £	Governance costs £	Totals £
Study	8,244	1,601	9,845
Research	8,245	1,601	9,846
Dissemination	8,243	1,600	9,843
Publication	8,243	1,600	9,843
Outreach	8,243	1,600	9,843
	41,218	8,002	49,220

Activity Management Governance costs	Basis of allocation Evenly between activities Evenly between activities
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Appendix to the DHS Annual Review 2020

DESIGN HISTORY SOCIETY

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 30 June 2020

6. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

There were no trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the year ended 30 June 2020 nor for the year ended 30 June 2019.

Trustees' expenses

During the year eleven (2019: eleven) trustees' were paid expenses:

	2020 £	2019 £
Trustee expenses	7,411	13,251

7. COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM

Charitable activities

	Unrestricted fund £
Dissemination	41,774
Publication	81,944
Investment income	103
Total	123,821

EXPENDITURE ON

Charitable activities

Study	7,344
Research	13,797
Dissemination	80,949
Publication	11,658
Outreach	11,375
Total	125,123

NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)	(1,302)
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RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS

Total funds brought forward	121,396
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TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	120,094
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DESIGN HISTORY SOCIETY

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 30 June 2020

8. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2020 £	2019 £
Other debtors	1,117	-
Prepayments and accrued income	2,018	82,057
	3,135	82,057

9. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2020 £	2019 £
Trade creditors	8,665	-
Other creditors	1,920	1,620
	10,585	1,620

10. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	At 1.7.19 £	Net movement in funds £	At 30.6.20 £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	120,094	(8,052)	112,042
TOTAL FUNDS	120,094	(8,052)	112,042

Net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	81,900	(89,952)	(8,052)
TOTAL FUNDS	81,900	(89,952)	(8,052)

Comparatives for movement in funds

	At 1.7.18 £	Net movement in funds £	At 30.6.19 £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	121,396	(1,302)	120,094
TOTAL FUNDS	121,396	(1,302)	120,094

Appendix to the DHS Annual Review 2020

DESIGN HISTORY SOCIETY

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued for the Year Ended 30 June 2020

10. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Comparative net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	123,821	(125,123)	(1,302)
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>123,821</u>	<u>(125,123)</u>	<u>(1,302)</u>

A current year 12 months and prior year 12 months combined position is as follows:

	At 1.7.18 £	Net movement in funds £	At 30.6.20 £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	121,396	(9,354)	112,042
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>121,396</u>	<u>(9,354)</u>	<u>112,042</u>

A current year 12 months and prior year 12 months combined net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	205,721	(215,075)	(9,354)
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>205,721</u>	<u>(215,075)</u>	<u>(9,354)</u>

11. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES

There were no related party transactions for the year ended 30 June 2020.

12. POST BALANCE SHEET EVENTS

The Trustees have considered the risks and potential impacts of the recent Covid-19 pandemic, which occurred after the Balance Sheet date, including the impact on income and conference activity.

Income from the Journal of Design History is uncertain although there was not an impact in the year under review. The annual DHS Conference was postponed to Sept 2021 due to the pandemic, and the future of the event will be reviewed closely by the trustees.

DESIGN HISTORY SOCIETY

Detailed Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 30 June 2020

	2020 £	2019 £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS		
Investment income		
Deposit account interest	103	103
Charitable activities		
Journal of Design History	81,517	81,944
Conference income	-	41,774
	<u>81,517</u>	<u>123,718</u>
Other income		
Currency gains/(losses)	280	-
Total incoming resources	<u>81,900</u>	<u>123,821</u>
EXPENDITURE		
Charitable activities		
Journal of Design History - editor expenses	12,613	5,157
Student essay prize	2,604	846
Student travel award	819	-
Research grant	6,572	7,296
Conference expenses including student bursary places	17,836	74,043
Website	288	405
Outreach and promotion	-	4,874
	<u>40,732</u>	<u>92,621</u>
Support costs		
Management		
Pensions	54	-
Rent	5,316	3,987
Insurance	689	649
Meeting expenses	500	-
Stationery and equipment	1,049	1,044
IT Software and Consumables	572	-
Travel expenses	525	-
Administrator Salary	30,402	20,483
Bank charges	355	549
Legal and professional fees	1,560	-
Subscriptions	196	-
	<u>41,218</u>	<u>26,712</u>
Governance costs		
Trustees' expenses	6,322	4,170
Carried forward	6,322	4,170

This page does not form part of the statutory financial statements

DESIGN HISTORY SOCIETY

Detailed Statement of Financial Activities
for the Year Ended 30 June 2020

	2020 £	2019 £
Governance costs		
Brought forward	6,322	4,170
Independent Examiner's fees	1,680	1,620
	<u>8,002</u>	<u>5,790</u>
Total resources expended	<u>89,952</u>	<u>125,123</u>
Net expenditure	<u>(8,052)</u>	<u>(1,302)</u>

