

DESIGNER BOOKBINDERS

Minutes of a General Meeting held on Saturday 15th November 1975 at 6 Queen Square London. WC1N 3AR

MEMBERS PRESENT: Elizabeth Greenhill (President/Chairman)
Angela James, Denise Lubett, Faith Shannon, Lou Smith, James Brockman, Bryan Maggs, Bernard Middleton, Philip Smith, Edward Womersley.

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS PRESENT: Betty Jones, Marianne Titcombe, Enid Batham, Daphne Beaumont Wright, Margaret M. Smith, Pegeen O'Sullivan, Catherine Hemington, Sarah-Jane Sayer, Claude Boisset, Wendy Harte, Gabrielle Falkiner, Cathrine Hodgson, Biddy Jarvis-Read, Ilsa Pole, Maria Woods, Teresa Buxton, Iris Bywater, Robin Myers, Dalma Flanders.
David Sellars, Anthony Sismore, Arthur Lee, Tim Wilkinson, John Fuller, Bernard Boisset, Alan Bing, Robert Stables, Ian Mortimer, G. Douglas East, Arnold Strange, George Hadley, Frank Broomhead, Justin Vulliamy, Paul Hembra, Clifford Jenkinson, Alan Farrant, Sam Somerville, Cyril Titus, Andreas Poaros, Jack Goodger, John Bulmer, George Cordrey, William Bull, Paul Collet.
(There were other associate members present who did not sign the attendance sheet).

1. The President welcomed 26 new members and the Secretary read their names.
2. It was explained by the President that because of the need to amend certain of the Articles of Conduct in respect of subscriptions, designation of categories of membership and handling fees, that it would be necessary to call an Extraordinary General Meeting.
3. Miss Greenhill then congratulated the winners of the 'Bookbinding Competition' and thanked Claude Boisset for the enormous effort that she had put into organising and staging the competition and exhibition so successfully.
The Secretary then read a report on the competition and said that the binding which had gained first prize 'Paradise Lost and Paradise Regained' by David Sellars had been purchased by the British Museum, Bryan Cattle's binding of 'Patriarch Tree' which took second prize was bought by Colin Franklin.
He then reported that Claude Boisset was retiring from the Chair of the Committee and that James Brockman had agreed to take over this onerous task. There is a need for volunteers to help with the work of running the next competition particularly from people living in the London area; would anyone able to do so please contact James.
The question of eligibility for entry to the Competition was again discussed and the Secretary said that the Committee had agreed that the phrase "trained and or working in Britain" be used.
One member asked what was the problem with overseas entries, the Secretary said that it was difficult to eliminate unfair competition from very experienced professional binders who might not be fully conversant with the basic purpose of the competition, which was to encourage the less experienced and up and coming binders.
There was a possibility that the next Exhibition would be held at the Victoria and Albert Museum but the O.U.P. had offered the use of their hall again. Some criticism was made about the quality of the lighting for the Exhibition that had just been held.
4. Denise Lubett reported to the Meeting that there was a demand for Seminars or Short Courses from the members, she proposed that D.B. might hold such courses based upon hotel accommodation in the country, the organisation could be done by a committee drawn from the Associate Membership, with lectures and demonstrations from the Members.
Faith Shannon said that she had requests from binders as far away as Finland for such courses. Pegeen O'Sullivan thought that it might be sensible to use L.E.A. premises where possible because the equipment would be already available.
Marianne Titcombe said that it might be better to use the facilities available at West Dean College which could easily provide the necessary accommodation and workshop space.

Philip Smith, George Cordrey, Arnold Strange and Ted Womersley also took part in the discussion and it was decided to mention the project in the next issue of D.B. Newsletter and in that way discover the members response to the idea and to form a committee of interested members. Anyone willing to work on such a committee was asked to contact the secretary.

5. The President then said that an exhibition was to be held in Ascona at the Galleria del Bel Libro in 1976 and that D.B. had applied to the British Council and the C.A.C. for grants to help with the cost. A further exhibition was planned for 1976 this would be at Bertram Rota's Bookshop probably in November when the books had been returned from Ascona.

A.O.B. The Secretary said that James Brockman had told him that there was a vacancy for a binder at Eddington and that anyone interested should contact James.

Faith Shannon announced that she had been elected to the Council of the C.A.C. and that as the only bookbinder on that body she hoped that she could be a useful influence.

She then said that the new 'Directory of Suppliers' was now available at 90p for the text only (for those who already had covers) £2 with binder to members and £2.50 for non-members.

The Hon Treasurer said that it was essential to increase the Society's income if it were to remain solvent and that the subscription rate would have to be increased. If this were to be effective by 1st April it would be necessary to have the Extraordinary General Meeting that the President had spoken of; the Annual General Meeting would not be in time because it could not be held before 31st of March owing to the need to present the yearly accounts at that meeting.

She asked that all members present should sign the petition so that a meeting might be held in accordance with Article 11b of the 'Instrument and Articles of Conduct'.

Andreas Poaros said that he was concerned that the members whose signatures were necessary before such a meeting could be held, would have no voting power in any decisions that might be made at the meeting and consequently he thought that the exercise was a pointless one. He felt that Associate Members had no influence in the affairs of the society and that this was wrong. The matter could be put right at the proposed meeting and the associates given the vote. Several other members supported these ideas from the floor.

Philip Smith (Member) said that there could be a danger of lowering the standard of work, but provided that the franchise did not cover exhibitions and design matters he could see no objection to Associate Members voting.

Lou Smith said that Associate Members had considerable influence in the affairs of the society without the formality of the vote.

Jack Goodger said that he thought it would be wrong to raise the issue of franchise at the proposed meeting as this was not mentioned on the paper asking for signatures to call such a meeting.

Tea was then taken.

After tea Rodney Crouch of 'Kent Binding Supplies' was introduced, he has recently become an Associate Member and brought along a display of tools for sale and hire together with Lists of available materials and prices. His idea is eventually to form a Binders' centre where materials and tools could be available and suggestions from the members would be welcome.

Arnold Strange brought along some Oasis skins for sale.

In the centre of the hall members had arranged an exhibition of bindings which formed the focal point of interest and discussion; this included works from the Bookbinding Competition and a fine collection of 19th and 20th Century bindings brought to the meeting by Bryan Maggs and Bernard Middleton.

The Meeting closed at 5.15 pm.