

LMS-BSHM HIRST PRIZE AND SPITALFIELDS HISTORY OF MATHEMATICS MEETING & HIRST LECTURE GUIDELINES

INTRODUCTION

The LMS-BSHM Hirst Prize Lectureship is named after Thomas Archer Hirst, who was the London Mathematical Society's (LMS) fifth President, holding the office between 1872 and 1874. The Hirst Prize and Lectureship for the History of Mathematics is awarded for contributions to the study of the history of mathematics. The prize will be awarded in recognition of original and innovative work in the history of mathematics, which may be in any medium.

These guidelines refer to the Hirst Lectureship, which forms part of the prize and is given at the Spitalfields History of Mathematics Meeting & Hirst Lecture. The guidelines are for the Society Lectures and Meetings Committee and local organisers and include information on:

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THE FORMAT OF THE HIRST LECTURESHIP

The Hirst Lectureship forms part of the Hirst Prize and Lectureship, which is awarded for contributions to the study of the history of mathematics.

The Hirst Lectureship is a lecture given by the winner(s) of the Hirst Prize and Lectureship at a Society Meeting called the Spitalfields History of Mathematics Meeting & Hirst Lecture, which normally takes place in the year after the award at a venue of the Hirst Prize-winner's choice. The Spitalfields History of Mathematics Meeting is named after the Spitalfields Mathematical Society, which was a predecessor of the London Mathematical Society when it flourished from 1717 to 1845.

LMS-BSHM HIRST PRIZE AND LECTURESHIP NOMINATION PROCESS

The Prize is awarded jointly with the British Society for the History of Mathematics (BSHM). The Joint LMS-BSHM Prizes Committee seeks nominations from the mathematical community and may also put forward its own suggestions.

Criteria for nominations include:

1. The prize may be open to any mathematician or historian of mathematics, subject to the restrictions below. The prize may also be awarded to joint-winners.
2. The prize may not be awarded to anyone who has previously won the De Morgan Medal, Pólya Prize, Fröhlich Prize, Naylor Prize and Lectureship, Senior Whitehead Prize, Senior Anne Bennett Prize, or the Christopher Zeeman medal
3. In any given year, the members of the Hirst Prize Committee, and the members of the LMS and BSHM Councils, shall be ineligible for the award of the prize.
4. The Prize may not be restricted to mathematicians or historians of mathematics working in any specific field or area of mathematics or history of mathematics. To avoid doubt, the prize shall not be restricted to contributions to the study of the history of British mathematics, and there is no requirement for the winner to be based in the UK

The administration of the prize shall alternate between the LMS and the BSHM offices. The organisation of the Hirst Lecture shall be undertaken by the LMS only. Nominations should be submitted by 31 December Year X-1 for consideration at the February Meeting of Prizes Committee.

At its February meeting, Hirst Prize Committee will review nominations and seek references. A final decision about the Prize-winner will be made by Hirst Prizes Committee at its meeting in May with the formal announcement made at the General Meeting of the Society in late June/July in London.

THE PROGRAMME

The itinerary shall be formed by Society Lectures and Meetings Committee in partnership with the Library Committee and in consultation with the Hirst Lecturer.

The Chairs of the Society Lectures and Meetings Committee and Library Committee will write to the Hirst Lecturer after the formal announcement to invite the Hirst Lecturer to discuss a possible date, venue and accompanying speaker. They can also offer the Hirst Prize-winner the option to link their lecture with the BSHM meeting or to host the Meeting elsewhere when the winner is announced. The Chairs will report on the acceptance of the Hirst Lectureship.

The Society Lectures and Meetings Committee and Library Committee will also consider:

- possible departments for the Hirst Lecturer to take place.
- possible local organisers at each institution who may be approached to host the Spitalfields History of Mathematics Meeting & Hirst Lecture.
- possible accompanying speakers. As an advocate of the advancement of women in mathematics, the Society expects its overall programme of Society Meetings to accommodate at least 20% female speakers, as far as this is possible.
- Sustainability: The Society aims to reduce the environmental impact of its activities, while maintaining their high quality and overall effectiveness. To help with achieving this objective, SLAM should consider any actions that it intends to take to mitigate any harmful environmental effects the proposed activity may cause. The Society maintains a webpage of examples of actions for reducing the harmful environmental effects of its activities – <https://www.lms.ac.uk/policy/sustainability>

Once the possible venue and possible dates have been confirmed with the Hirst Lecturer, the Chairs will write to the suggested local organisers to:

- invite them to host the Hirst Lecturer at their department.

- suggest suitable dates for the Spitalfields History of Mathematics Meeting & Hirst Lecture
- confirm what funding will be available from the LMS.

Once the suggestions for the accompanying speaker have been confirmed with the Hirst Lecturer, the Chairs will write to the suggested speaker to invite them to give the accompanying lecture at the Spitalfields History of Mathematics Meeting & Hirst Lecture and confirm what funding will be available from the LMS.

FUNDING INFORMATION

The London Mathematical Society will provide funding of up to **£3,000** to cover the costs for:

- Travel expenses (including travel to/from the UK and within the UK) for both the Hirst Lecturer and the accompanying speaker.
- accommodation expenses for the speakers
- a contribution to the host department to hold a dinner and/or reception for the Hirst Lecturer.
- travel grants for LMS members and research students to attend the LMS Spitalfields History of Mathematics Meeting & Hirst Lecture.
- a contribution of up to £1000 in caring costs and expenses.

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

The following timetable will normally be adhered to:

November/December year x – 2	LMS advertises call for nominations for the Hirst Prize and Lectureship. The Lectureship is planned to take place in year x
January/February year x-1	Nominations submitted to the LMS
February year x – 1	Nominations considered at February meeting of Prizes Committee
May year x- 1	Prizes Committee makes final decision about award of Hirst Prize.
June/July year x- 1	Formal announcement of the winner of the Hirst Prize-winner and Lectureship at the General Society Meeting in London
June/July year x-1 – September year x-1	Chairs of the Society Lectures and Meetings Committee and Library Committee write to the Prize-winner to discuss date, venue and accompanying speaker. The Chairs also write to host department and accompanying speaker.
October year x – 1	Itinerary reported to Society Lectures and Meetings Committee and to Library Committee
October year x-1 to Month year x	Spitalfields History of Mathematics Meeting & Hirst Lecture advertised
Month year x	Spitalfields History of Mathematics Meeting & Hirst Lecture takes place.

GUIDANCE FOR ORGANISERS OF LMS EVENTS AND LMS-FUNDED EVENTS

An alphabetical list (by activity) of guidance for organisers of LMS events and LMS-funded events is given on the LMS website here (www.lms.ac.uk/events/guidance) and refers to the following Society's policies and guidelines for events, which are organised on behalf of the Society e.g. Regional Meetings. The LMS' Society Lectures and Meetings Committee reviews and updates the list twice a year and would be happy to hear about any further guidance, which could benefit mathematicians. Prospective and Current Regional Meeting organisers are asked to review this guidance when drafting their proposal and when planning and running their event.

- [Creating Positive Environment at Events](#)
- [Hosting a Hybrid Event](#)
- [Increasing Accessibility of Meetings](#)
- [Increasing Visibility of Meetings \(Marketing/Publicity\)](#)
- [Inviting Speakers](#)
 - Women in Mathematics
 - Diversity in Mathematics
 - Advising Invited Speakers to give talks accessible to a general mathematical audience.
- [Planning a Sustainable Event](#)
- [Templates](#)
 - Registration Form
 - Signs
 - Checklist

THE LOCAL ORGANISERS WILL BE ASKED TO:

- Make local arrangements including accommodation etc.
- Consider any actions to mitigate any harmful environmental effects, which the proposed activity may cause. The Society maintains a webpage of examples of actions for reducing the harmful environmental effects of its activities – <https://www.lms.ac.uk/policy/sustainability>
- Liaise with the LMS to prepare posters and publicity.
- Publicise the event as widely as possible.
- Publicise the event as the LMS Spitalfields History of Mathematics Meeting & Hirst Lecture unless otherwise agreed with the Society.
- Utilise the funds as described above in Funding Information
- Submit invoices to the LMS within three months of the event.

THE LMS WILL:

- Send a formal Letter of Invitation to the Hirst Lecturer.
- Ask the Hirst Lecturer to consider the most environmentally friendly mode of transport, which also suits their individual needs and circumstances.
- Prepare the itinerary in consultation with the Hirst Lecturer and local organisers.
- Fund the visit, as described in the Funding Information.
- Organise the Spitalfields History of Mathematics Meeting & Hirst Lecture at the chosen venue.
- Liaise with the local organisers to prepare posters and publicity.
- Publicise the event as widely as possible.

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