



[] February 2007
PRESS ANNOUNCEMENT
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THE SUE THOMSON FOUNDATION PUBLISHING AWARD 2006

UK universities that offer publishing-related degree courses were invited to submit entries for the eleventh successive award for the best dissertation on a book publishing-related topic. The judges – David Kewley, President of the Publishers Association 2000 - 2001 and a publishing-specialist management consultant; Judy Little, former Chair of Book House (now the Publishing Training Centre) and of the Publishing Qualifications Board; John Mitchell, publishing consultant, and John Whitley, Chief Executive of the Publishing Training Centre – met, under the Chairmanship of Sue Thomson, on 6th February 2007. The award attracted thirteen entries from five UK universities.

The 2006 award goes to **Maja Heuck** for *Book price fixing versus free competition in the German book market*. **Ms Heuck**, an MA in Publishing Studies student at **City University, London**, submitted an in-depth analysis of the possible positive and negative implications of the abandonment of resale price maintenance in Germany, by comparative reference to the UK book market before and after the abolition of the Net Book Agreement. The judges were impressed by the academic rigour, breadth and thoroughness of research and quality of the interviews conducted by Ms Heuck in the UK and Germany. Her unusually objective and impartial analysis of the demise of the NBA was refreshing.

The judges also highly commended the specialised work of **Julian Littlewood**, an MA in Publishing student at **Oxford Brookes University**, for 'Typesetting *All the Gods*'. The judges believe this monograph, on a short piano piece by Benjamin Britten, to be a ground-breaking case study of the author's work on the successful integration of words and music. The judges suspect that it is rare to find typographical skills of a high level combined with musicological expertise and they recommend the work to the attention of specialist music publishers.

The awards are of £250 each from the Sue Thomson Foundation, and two free day of training provided by the Publishing Training Centre at Book House. They are offered to both Maja Heuck and Julian Littlewood.

The Publishing Training Centre will publish Maja Heuck's dissertation on its website www.train4publishing.co.uk. Julian Littlewood's case study "Typesetting *All The Gods*" has now been published by Plumbago Books and Arts (www.boydell.co.uk/54012380.HTM).

This year's post-graduate entries were generally of a commendably high standard, and the judges noted with interest that **City University** has produced a winning entry in four years out of the last five, matching **Stirling** and **Oxford Brookes**, both of whom have achieved four winners in earlier years. The consistent success of these institutions should, we trust, give encouragement to publishing industry employers. We look forward to keen competition next year. Unfortunately very few undergraduate entries were received and the judges felt unable to make an award at this level. We would welcome the opportunity to recognise excellent undergraduate work with an award and hope that universities might encourage younger students to put forward first degree work of a suitably high standard next year.

One or two awards will again be offered for the academic years 2007/08 and 2008/09, administered by the Publishing Training Centre; further enquiries to John Whitley, Chief Executive, email: john@bookhouse.co.uk.

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