

Editorial

As issue of *Studies in Design Education Craft and Technology* follows issue, the correspondence with readers increases. In many ways the magazine has come to resemble a club of members who share common interests. And many of the members are of long standing. For some time we have been exploring ways of giving members a chance to meet face to face. We have now found a way to do this. In conjunction with the University of Keele we plan to hold an annual *Studies in Design Education Craft and Technology* conference at which matters of central importance to our readers can be discussed.

The first of these annual conferences will be held at Keele on Saturday, 7 March 1981. The theme will be 'New Developments at Brunel and Loughborough.' A very high proportion of readers have experienced some part of their training at the old Loughborough and Shoreditch Colleges. There is widespread interest in the new developments and indeed in the new appointments being made. At the conference the two new professors of Design and Technology, Professor Myers and Professor Brittan will discuss their ideas and they will each be accompanied by a colleague who will introduce some examples of the work currently being undertaken by students. There will be ample time for discussion and a served meal — with drinks available — will be arranged. Fuller details and an application form are printed towards the end of this issue.

Sales of *Studies in Design Education Craft and Technology* continue to grow. Though we increased our print order for our last issue, sales almost overwhelmed us; at the time of writing we have only 28 copies of Volume 12.2 in stock. We have also been able to increase — more modestly — our number of advertisers. In consequence we have been able to restrict our price rise this year to only 50p — an increase of 16½% against rises in printing, postage and stationery of considerably over the national 20% average inflation. If all readers who have influence in such matters could remember *Studies in Design Education Craft and Technology* for course and appointments advertising we may well be able to hold our price still more effectively next year. And of course new subscribers help very greatly too.

Once again this issue of *Studies in Design Education Craft and Technology* presents a very wide range of articles with its usual strong emphasis on the practice of Design, Craft and Technology in the schools and colleges. Particular attention is focussed on the middle school. Gerald Porter have faced and the particular problems such schools have faced and then outlines the remarkable range of possibilities available to them. Michael Holmes in a detailed account of work in his own school develops the case convincingly. Together the articles offer help and encouragement to all who teach children in the 8-13 age range.

Four of our contributors explore the changing relationship of the Craft Design and Technology with other aspects of the school curriculum. Professor Kelly demonstrates the relevance of our subject

to the new kinds of knowledge expected of today's students. Phil Roberts and John Cave probe the specific contributions of Designing and Technology whilst John Lancaster explores the special contribution of Art Activity. A useful exploration by S. Smith, A. Simon and L.O. Ward on a subject of central interest to readers of *Studies in Design Education Craft and Technology* follows: 'Examination Performance and Art Students'. The concluding article by David Wharry offers a helpful resume on teachers — Some Teachers' Views of the Use of Constructional Kits in Schools.

First place however goes to a commentary on two major new reports on Design Craft and Technology education: *Craft Design and Technology in Schools* and *Design Education at Secondary Level*. Together these documents are likely to contribute to a major step forward in the public awareness and appreciation of our subject in the years to come.

In conclusion we express our warm appreciation to Sir Ross Chesterman, Mr. A.N. Glover and Mr. C.W. Windle who leave our editorial board after 14 years distinguished service. Their contribution to the founding and establishment of *Studies in Design Education Craft and Technology* has been invaluable. In their place we welcome Professor K.W. Brittan, Professor Bernard Myers, Mr. M. Evans, Mr. R. Kimbell, Mr. J.W. Thompson and Mr. D. Jones and wish them a long and fruitful association with the journal.

John Eggleston