



## **Schedule 2: The Awards, Prizes and Grants of the Society for the History of Natural History**

This Schedule describes the process for all the Society's awards, prizes and grants. The details below may be subject to minor changes with the agreement of Council. Council may decide not to award any one, or all, of the Awards listed below in a given year.

### **The Founders' Medal**

The Founders' Medal is awarded to persons who have made a substantial contribution to the study of the history or bibliography of natural history.

#### **Guidelines**

Medallists are chosen by the Council of the Society.

Nominations, which open on 01 September, can only be made by SHNH members.

Nominations close on 10 January the following year.

SHNH members and non-members can be nominated for this medal, which is open to nominees based in the UK and internationally.

#### **Nomination**

Nominations must be sent to The Secretary and include the following:

*Your name as a nominator* and your contact details.

*The nominee's name* and contact details.

*A supporting statement* (up to 600 words) describing why the nominee should receive the award.

#### **Selection Criteria**

Nominees should satisfy one or more of the following criteria:

A sustained record of high-quality publications or other outputs in the field of the history of natural history.

A sustained contribution to dissemination of the history of natural history through practice or curation.

## **The Society for the History of Natural History Book Prize**

This prize is awarded for the best book published on the history or bibliography of natural history in the preceding two years. Winners receive the John Thackray Medal, instituted in 2000 to commemorate the life and work of John Thackray, a Past President of the Society.

### **Guidelines**

Prize winners are chosen by a panel of 3 judges (all members of the Society).

Competition opens on 01 January.

Nominations may be made by SHNH members, or submitted by publishers.

All books must be received by 30 June. Three copies of the book you wish to be considered should be sent to the Chair of the Book Prize Panel. Contact the Society's Secretary ([secretary@shnh.org.uk](mailto:secretary@shnh.org.uk)) to obtain the Chair's name and address.

All books should have been published in the two calendar years preceding the year the award will be presented. For instance, works published in 2019 and 2020 will be eligible for the 2021 award.

### **Selection Criteria**

The prize will be awarded to the book which contributes most significantly to the history of natural history. Significance will be assessed on the basis of:

- Originality.
- Organisation and presentation of information.
- Excellence of intellectual content.
- Contribution to the literature of the field.

## **The President's Award**

The President's Award recognises an individual or team's contribution and impact in promoting and improving accessibility, inclusivity and diversity to the study of the history of natural history. The winner receives the President's Medal, to be presented at the Annual General Meeting of the Society.

### **Guidelines**

Award winners are chosen by the Council of the Society.

Nominations, which open on 01 October, can be made by members and non-members of the Society.

Nominations close on 31 January the following year.

SHNH members and non-members can be nominated for this prize, which is open to nominees based in the UK and internationally; individuals and teams can be nominated.

There are no age restrictions associated with this prize.

### **Nomination**

Nominations must be sent to the Secretary ([secretary@shnh.org.uk](mailto:secretary@shnh.org.uk)) and include the following:

Your name as a nominator and your contact details.

The nominee's name and contact details.

A supporting statement (up to 600 words) describing why the nominee should receive the award. Testimonials may be useful supporting evidence but are not required (these can be emailed to the Secretary).

### **Selection Criteria**

Nominees should demonstrate one or more of the following criteria:

An exhibition that has broken new ground or attracted new audiences. This includes digital exhibitions.

Implementing initiatives to promote a more inclusive and diverse research and study community.

Championing diversity through leadership and new policies and/or through research.

Extent of engagement with the intended audience.

Originality and innovation.

Impact (may be relevant to any audiences, including different age groups, career stages and sectors).

### **The William T. Stearn Student Essay Prize**

Instituted in 2007 to commemorate the work of William T. Stearn (1911-2001), a scholar whose work contributed much to the field and to this Society, the prize is awarded to the best original, unpublished essay in the history of natural history. The competition is open to undergraduate and postgraduate students in full- or part-time education and to postdoctoral scholars within two years of the award of their doctorate. The winner will receive £300 and the winning essay will normally be published in the Society's journal, following peer review.

### **Guidelines**

Prize winners are chosen by a panel of 3 judges (all members of the Society).

Competition opens on 01 February.

All entries must be received by the Secretary by 31 July.

Essays should not have been previously published, and must not be under consideration at another journal.

### **Selection Criteria**

The prize will be awarded to the essay which contributes most significantly to the history of natural history, including its social and cultural aspects.

### **SHNH Small Research Fund**

#### **Purpose of SHNH Small Research-Fund**

To provide financial support to members of the SHNH in all fields covered by the society's charitable purpose in carrying out research to benefit the scholarly community. Priority will

be given to early career researchers<sup>1</sup>, people who have had a career break, and independent scholars.

### **Application process**

Application must be made (before incurring the expense requested) using the pro-forma on the SHNH website. This must be downloaded, completed, and transmitted to the Awards Secretary, who will then forward it to Council for consideration.

### **Qualifying expenses for funding**

Examples are:

- Charges made for use of privately-owned or professional-association libraries or museums by non-subscribers.
- Charges made by libraries or museums for new scanning, photographing or photocopying essential materials.
- Fees for image-publication rights.
- Cost of travel by public transport for an essential visit to a unique location of essential material.
- Organisation of conferences and other events relating to the history of natural history.
- Travel to conferences and other events relating to the history of natural history.

### **How to apply**

- Any member of the SHNH may apply for a Small Research-Fund grant, up to £500 (or non-Sterling currency equivalent).
- Please [download the pro-forma application form](#), complete it and send to the SHNH Secretary at [secretary@shnh.org.uk](mailto:secretary@shnh.org.uk).

### **Eligibility**

- There is no upper age limit; no academic qualification is required; nor is any academic affiliation necessary. But no more than one application per person may be made in any financial year of the SHNH.
- Applicants must not already be in receipt of any grant that would cover the expenses applied for. Application must be made before the requested expense is incurred.

### **Further conditions**

- The successful applicant must submit a brief, one-paragraph report of the achievements of the research to the SHNH secretary. This may subsequently be published in the Society's Newsletter and on the Society's website.
- It must be the applicant's intention to publish in the scholarly press or on a website any images or information obtained through an award; the SHNH Secretary must be informed of publication when completed.
- Dated receipts must be obtained for expenses.
- The decision of the SHNH on an application for a Small Research-Fund grant shall be final.

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<sup>1</sup> An early career researcher is defined by the Society as an individual who is within two years of the award of their PhD or equivalent professional training.

**This document was approved by the Council of the Society on 22 September 2020 and by members of the Society at SGMs on 23 March and 29 June 2021.**