

EDITORIAL

Geoffrey Ballard was for many years the Honorary President of the Brewery History Society. After his death in 2009 the Society discovered that he had left it a bequest and the task then was to find a fitting way in which it could be used. Rather than spend it on a single item the Society's committee decided that an ongoing event would be more appropriate. Consequently, the idea of a biannual essay prize was chosen as the most fitting memorial to Geoffrey's legacy.

The inaugural Geoffrey Ballard Essay Award was launched in the autumn of 2012 and the Society was very pleased with the response to its call for entries. We received essays from both home and abroad, from both amateur and professional historians. Eventually a short-list of three was drawn up:

'We are not Drinking Dens! Working Men's Clubs and the Struggle for Respectability, 1862 -1920s' by Ruth Cherrington

'A Pint of the Past: Assessing Authenticity in Modern Versions of Ancient and Historic Ales' by George Schwartz

'John Wackrill: The Brewer Wellington Forgot' by Rob Woolley

These were then assessed by a panel of judges drawn from the journal's editorial board which comprised of Professor David Fahey, Dr Paul Jennings and its chair, Professor Richard Wilson.

The winner of the first Geoffrey Ballard Essay Award and a cheque for £250 was Rob Woolley (on the left of the photograph). The prize was presented to Rob at the

Society's AGM at Thwaites Brewery, Blackburn on 26 April 2013 by the current Honorary President, Ray Anderson. The essay is published in the current journal and the two runners up will appear in later issues.

Can I thank all those who participated in the event, especially those who entered and the three judges.

Tim Holt

