

# GLASGOW COLOUR STUDIES GROUP

## Notes following the Second Meeting, 13th June 2007

The second meeting of the GCSG was attended by over twenty people, and took place in the seminar room at STELLA (Software for Teaching English Language and Literature and its Assessment), University of Glasgow. Thanks are due to Jean Anderson who offered the location for this meeting, to Christian Kay who acted as master of ceremonies, and to Rachel Smith and helpers for dealing with the refreshments.

### Papers Presented at the Second Meeting:

- **Carole Biggam spoke on ‘Berlin and Kay’s Evolutionary Sequence: Is It Really Understood?’** The previously circulated abstract is as follows: In 1969 Brent Berlin and Paul Kay published an evolutionary sequence for the acquisition of Basic Colour Categories in languages. It was suggested that the sequence represented a language universal. Since then, many scholars have mis-interpreted and mis-used the sequence, and many have apparently overlooked crucial aspects of the later revisions.
- **Norman Tennent spoke on ‘Colour Matching in the Restoration of Glass and Ceramics’.** The previously circulated abstract is as follows: For conservation-restoration of ceramics and glass (including stained glass), dyed and pigmented resins are used to replace missing portions of the original works of art. It is important to achieve a perfect colour match using dyes and pigments which do not fade. It is also necessary to avoid the problem of metamerism, the phenomenon by which restorations which appear invisible in the studio can be very obvious in museum display lighting conditions. This talk will illustrate how stable, non-metameric restorations can be achieved by means of conservation science research.
- **David Simmons spoke on ‘Colour and Emotion’.** The previously circulated abstract is as follows: There is much anecdotal evidence for a link between specific colours and specific emotions, and some of these links have filtered through into language ("feeling blue", "green with envy" "seeing red" etc. etc.). I shall summarise my own and others' experimental work on how solid these links are and what might underlie them.
- **Thanks:** The speakers are thanked for colourful and interesting presentations, which prompted questions and discussion, as far as time allowed.
- **Text of talks:** A member unable to attend the meeting has asked whether she could receive the texts of the talks. As a matter of principle for all GCSG talks, anyone wanting to receive such texts must contact the speakers concerned, and make their request directly to them.

## News

- There are now 44 members of the Group. A new list of members will be sent out soon.
- News of the PICS08 colour conference for next year is being disseminated as widely as possible. Please help us by passing the information to anyone you know who may be interested. Carole Biggam will be happy to send out a call for papers to any 'new' names. Please also consider submitting an abstract for a talk at the conference yourselves.
- Don't forget to use the discussion list to talk about colour problems or what you would like to see at future meetings, to present news of anything to do with colour etc. The address is [ColourStudies@www.jiscmail.ac.uk](mailto:ColourStudies@www.jiscmail.ac.uk)

## Considerations for the Third Meeting

### Date:

- It was agreed at the first meeting that the Group would aim to meet once a term. Our next meeting should, therefore, take place in September or October. If anyone wishes to avoid a particular date, would they contact Carole Biggam with that information as soon as possible.

### Venue

- It is hoped that meetings of the GCSG can take place in various locations, so no one group of people is constantly disadvantaged by having to travel some distance. If anyone wishes to volunteer to host a meeting, would they please contact Carole Biggam
- Hosting a meeting will involve offering a location which can accommodate at least thirty people, and which has appropriate equipment, such as a data projector, slide projector, white/black board etc.
- Hosting a meeting will also involve providing refreshments (we feel the time of meetings and the distance some members are travelling make this essential). Refreshments can be basic, e.g. soft drinks and 'nibbles'. (See 'Refreshments' below).
- The programme of talks will remain the responsibility of the current Group organisers.

### Refreshments

- In future, we shall have to ask those attending meetings and partaking of the refreshments on offer to pay a small sum towards the expenses. The amount is likely to be in the region of 50p per person for the next meeting.
- We are currently allowing about 15 minutes at the beginning of meetings for refreshments and chat. That means a stated starting time of 5.00 p.m., and the beginning of the talk/s at about 5.15 p.m. or a little earlier if possible. If anyone wishes to bring their own food to eat in that time-slot, they are welcome to do so, at least, for meetings in the University of Glasgow.

## **Talks**

- If anyone would like to volunteer a talk or session, please contact Carole Biggam as soon as possible.
- As stated at the first meeting, we do not want to exclude any format for future meetings, and, indeed, it would be good to have as much variety as possible, e.g. single lectures, collections of short talks, seminars on particular subjects, short talks on a particular theme etc.
- Carole Biggam would welcome comments on the format of the second meeting, e.g. is three talks too many?