

# Editorial

Once again in this issue of *Studies in Design Education Craft and Technology* we bring news of major new developments of the greatest professional interest to our readers. Perhaps the most important are the major new schools television series about to be launched by both the BBC and the Independent Companies. After years of neglect by the schools programmes work in Craft Design and Technology is set to play a major role in schools broadcasting as the article in the issue indicates. The consequences can only be beneficial to the teaching and image of our subject area.

The significance of national competitions in Craft Design and Technology grows each year. Though many teachers have a proper unease about the cruder manifestations of competitions in the classroom there is no doubt that the competitions have not only provided a valuable stimulus to highly successful work in the schools but have also attracted a volume of official and public attention that could have been achieved in no other way. Properly handled in the school there is no reason why the beneficial aspects of competitions should not substantially outweigh any undesirable consequences. In this issue we feature some of the outstanding work submitted for the Young Engineer of the Year award by Westwood School and Robert Clack School and also a range of the entries for the Young Designer of the Year. We are very pleased to announce that *Studies in Design Education Craft and Technology* has been invited by the International Hardware Trades Fair to organise a major new national competition *The Homeware/Hardware Young Inventor Award*. Details have already been posted to all subscribers and the competition is advertised in this issue. The competition will open up a range of new areas for initiatives in schools and colleges and as well as prizes has the added attraction of immediate prospects of commercial production for all exhibits which will be displayed at the Hardware Trades Fair at Olympia. We urge readers to enter pupils for this event: subscribers who received their copy after the closing date should ring Mrs. K. McKeown at Keele University, Department of Education to enquire if they are still able to enter.

Elsewhere in this issue is our characteristic range of articles containing new ideas on practice and theory. John Cave presents his third and final article on alternative technology looking at several more unusual metal-forming techniques and concludes with a look at one or two ideas for inexpensive woodworking equipment. The ideas themselves are diverse, but the theme throughout remains the same: existing resources are used as far as possible, preparation time is reduced to a bare minimum, and the cost is low. The enthusiasm for John Cave's previous articles ensures that many readers will pay keen attention to this further contribution. Also included is another article from the Middlesex team – Technology Across the Curriculum by Colin Tipping, who presents yet another hard and critical look at some of our easier assumptions about

technology in the school curriculum. Phil Roberts goes still further in an examination of the poor definition of our problems in design education in the curriculum and helps us to take a firmer and clearer look at what lies behind the ideology.

One of the most exciting overseas developments has been the provision of a fully equipped mobile Craft Design and Technology facility in Queensland. In this way the small isolated schools can enjoy the facilities of outstandingly well equipped workshop and design areas which could not otherwise be provided. Gary Wrench describes the scheme in his article: the ideas are already being explored in some of the sparsely populated areas of Britain.

In his article on Graphicacy David Boardman returns with new applications of a representational and communication system he has pioneered – and previously presented in our pages. Les Bell takes us through a searching analysis of creativity that raises fundamental questions for the ways in which we attempt to foster this elusive capacity.

As usual the issue contains a selection of reviews of some of the most important new publications and notes on events and developments – including news of two particularly interesting new facilities – the new exhibition areas of the Crafts Council and of the Boilerhouse at the Victoria and Albert Museum. Although major economic and social problems overshadow our educational system it is clear that new initiatives can still blossom in Craft Design and Technology and *Studies in Design Education Craft and Technology* will continue to report them fully.

John Eggleston