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Queries and Notes

THE ECCLESIOLOGICAL SOCIETY

ESSAY COMPETITION

To celebrate its 125th anniversary in 2004, the Ecclesiological Society is organising an essay competition, with a prize of £500, and a possible additional prize of £250 for those under the age of 25. The deadline for entries is 30 June 2004. Entry is not restricted to members of the Society.

Essays should be between 1,500 and 3,000 words long. No precise title for the essay is being specified, but essays should reflect the particular interests of the Ecclesiological Society – that is, ecclesiology as the study of the nature and use of church buildings and their furnishings. (Note that in this context, the word 'ecclesiology' does *not* have its alternative meaning, referring to the structure and governance of the church as an institution.)

Essays should promote a well-argued point of view on some aspect of ecclesiology. Particular consideration will be given by the assessors to those essays which look forward to the future, whilst relating it to the past – for example, by addressing the role and challenges of one or more aspects of ecclesiology in the twenty-first century, or the way in which the past should shape the future in respect of church planning or building.

It is therefore unlikely that a purely historical study of an architect or building style would meet the assessors' requirements in these respects, unless the author also reflected in some depth on the lessons to be drawn from the subject under consideration.

The prize will be £500. No account will be taken of the age of the author in awarding this prize. Additionally, the assessors may award a further prize of £250 for the best essay from an entrant who had not reached his or her 25th birthday on 30 June 2004. Whether to award this additional prize will depend on the number and quality of entrants within this age group.

Further details and copies of the rules may be obtained from the Society's website (www.ecclsoc.org) or by writing to the Ecclesiological Society, PO Box 287, New Malden KT3 4YT.

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