**Gillian Erica Naylor (1931-2014)**

Gillian Naylor was a founding mother of design history. After graduating in Modern Languages at Somerville College, Oxford, where she attended Ernst Gombrich’s lectures in art history, Naylor briefly wrote for *Who’s Who* and, from 1957, for *Design* magazine at the Council of Industrial Design (later the Design Council). There she interviewed Royal College of Art principal, Robin Darwin, and was in contact with Paul Reilly, Gordon Russell (about whom she later published for the Gordon Russell Museum), Ken Garland, and Henry Rothschild, owner of the influential *Primavera* gallery. On the birth of her son Tom in 1963 (d. 1980), she necessarily gave up her post at *Design* magazine. Naylor then developed her teaching career, in the wake of the Summerson report which stipulated contextual studies for degrees in design. She began teaching at Croydon College of Art and Brighton Polytechnic (1966-70) and then at Kingston, where from 1971 to 1981 she was promoted through the academic ranks to Principal Lecturer. She moved to the Royal College of Art as Senior Tutor in 1981, to help set up the Royal College of Art / V&A Museum History of Design MA. She was awarded an RCA higher doctorate in 1987 and was Professor of Design History from 1992. Her influence is seen in her teaching as much as in her writing. She supervised the doctoral work of, among others, Penny Sparke (1975), Leslie Millar (1988), Jeremy Aynsley (1989), Stephen Hayward (1990), and editor of the present volume Clive Edwards (1991).

Like her colleague at the RCA, Penny Sparke, Naylor experienced difficulty finding books to inform her teaching and wrote in order to fill this gap. Her first book, *The Bauhaus* (1968) was followed in 1971 by *The Arts & Crafts Movement: A Study of its Sources, Ideals, and Influence on Design Theory*. Following further research, her 1968 book was entirely rewritten as *The Bauhaus Reassessed: Sources and Design Theory* (1985). In the same year, her book on the Arts and Crafts Movement enjoyed a second edition through MIT Press (it was reissued by Trefoil in 1990). Naylor’s expertise in the Arts and Crafts Movement informed her other books *William Morris by Himself: Designs and Writings* (1988) and *The Encyclopedia of Arts and Crafts: The International Arts Movement, 1850-1920* (1990, with Wendy Kaplan). She also wrote *Hector Guimard* (1978), and *Bloomsbury: the Artists, Authors and Designers by themselves* (1990) as well as making significant contributions to the *Cambridge* *Guide to the Arts in Britain* (1989-1991) and Electa’s *History of Industrial Design* (1990). She delivered the 1997 Reyner Banham Memorial Lecture, ‘Theory and Design: The Banham Factor’ published in the *Journal of Design History* that year and reproduced in an anthology of Banham lectures (2009) and was a regular reviewer for *Crafts* magazine.

Naylor retired from the RCA in 1996 and was made an Honorary Fellow of the College at that time. She continued teaching and writing and in 2003, she was awarded an Honorary Doctorate from Kingston University. Naylor was a Patron of the Design History Society, which supported an oral history project through the Voices in the Visual Arts (ViVA) project at Camberwell College of Arts, University of the Arts London. Her life story has been recorded as part the project. She died in Hove, Sussex in March 2014, aged 84.

See:

Naylor, G. (1985). *The Bauhaus Reassessed: Sources and Design Theory*. London: Herbert Press.

Naylor, G. (1971). *The Arts and Crafts Movement: A Study of its Sources, Ideals, and Influence on Design Theory*. London: Studio Vista. [2nd Edn. Cambridge, Mass: MIT Press, 1985)

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Cross References: Penny Sparke; Bauhaus; Arts and Crafts Movement.