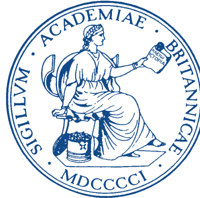
The British Academy



THE NATIONAL ACADEMY FOR THE
HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

REVIEW

July – December 1999

The British Academy

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be found in electronic form on the Academy's
web site at www.britac.ac.uk

Cover photograph of Thomas Carlyle by Julia Margaret Cameron
By Courtesy of the National Portrait Gallery, London

Foreword

The British Academy aims to publish a regular account of its activities by means of its new biannual *Review*. It will, cumulatively, fulfil the function of providing a conspectus of the Academy's activities hitherto covered by the Annual Report.

This issue of the *Review* covers events and activities that took place during the first part of the academic year, from July to December 1999.

An active lecture programme has taken place, and it is a pleasure to enclose extracts from four of the Lectures, which, it is hoped, give some indication of their range and interest. Space precludes the same treatment being given to all lectures that were given during the period covered by this *Review*, but it is intended that each of the lecture 'series' will be featured in due course.

The Survey of English Place-Names is one of the longest-standing of the Academy's Research Projects. It has been supported by the Academy since 1923, and there is an article on how it has developed from its earliest days. There is also a report on the successful launch of the fifth volume in the Corpus of Anglo-Saxon Stone Sculpture, another of the Academy's own Research Projects, which was established in 1972. As a contrasting example of the kinds of research activity the Academy is able to support, this issue includes short accounts of work funded under the small grants and conference schemes.

This is only the second issue of the *Review*, and the Academy will be pleased to receive comments and suggestions on how the content might be developed in the future.

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About the British Academy

The British Academy, established by Royal Charter in 1902, is an independent learned society, the national academy for the humanities and the social sciences – the counterpart to the Royal Society which exists to serve the natural sciences. The British Academy's aims, within the scholarly disciplines it promotes, are:

- to represent the interests of scholarship nationally and internationally
- to give recognition to excellence
- to promote and support advanced research
- to further international collaboration and exchanges
- to promote public understanding of research and scholarship
- to publish the results of research.

In pursuing these aims the Academy undertakes two principal kinds of activity: first, it represents and promotes the interests of learning and research nationally and internationally; secondly, it acts as a grant-giving body, sponsoring its own research projects and facilitating the work of others.

The British Academy is a self-governing body of Fellows elected in recognition of their distinction as scholars in some branch of the humanities and the social sciences.

Officers and Council of the Academy

President	Sir Tony Wrigley
Vice-Presidents	Professor J.L. Nelson Professor J.D.Y. Peel
Treasurer	Mr J.S. Flemming
Foreign Secretary	Professor C.N.J. Mann
Publications Secretary	Professor F.G.B. Millar
Chairman of the Committee on Academy Research Projects	Professor R.R. Davies

Ordinary Members:

Professor J.D. Ades, Professor P. Beal, Professor M.M. Bowie, Professor T.M. Devine, Professor G.H. Jones, Professor R.J.P. Kain, Professor A.D. Karmiloff-Smith, Professor J.D.M.H. Laver, Professor W.L. Miller, Professor J.L. Nelson, Professor J.D.Y. Peel, Lord Renfrew, Mr W. St Clair, Professor K.I.B. Spärck Jones, (one vacancy)

Secretary Mr P.W.H. Brown

Sections and Chairmen

The Academy is organised into 18 disciplinary Sections. On election, each Fellow is assigned to membership of a Section and may, on invitation, serve on more than one Section. The Sections and their Chairmen for 1999–2000 are as follows:

Humanities Group

Section		Chairman
H1	Classical Antiquity	Professor J. Diggle
H2	Theology and Religious Studies	The Revd Dr E.W. Nicholson
H3	African and Oriental Studies	Professor C. Shackle
H4	Linguistics and Philology[1]	Professor J.D.M.H. Laver
H5	Early Modern Languages and Literatures	Professor M.M. McGowan
H6	Modern Languages, Literatures and Other Media	Professor A.G. Hill
H7	Archaeology	Professor B.W. Cunliffe
H8	Medieval Studies: History and Literature	Professor C.C. Dyer
H9	Early Modern History to *c.*1800	Professor T.C.W. Blanning
H10	Modern History from *c.*1800	Professor C.A. Bayly
H11	History of Art and Music	Dr J.M. Rawson
H12	Philosophy	Professor M.A. Boden

[1] The Linguistics and Philology Section also belongs to the Social Sciences Group.

Social Sciences Group

Section		Chairman
S1	Law	Professor F.M.B. Reynolds
S2	Economics and Economic History	Professor K.F. Wallis
S3	Social Anthropology and Geography	Professor J.D.Y. Peel
S4	Sociology, Demography and Social Statistics	Professor A.F. Heath
S5	Political Studies: Political Theory, Government and International Relations	Professor A.H. Brown
S6	Psychology	Professor L.K. Tyler

President's Notes

By **Sir Tony Wrigley PBA**

This is the first 'normal' issue of the new *Review* in that it covers a six-month period, the second half of 1999, whereas the first issue, as indicated in its foreword, covered the whole of the academic session of 1998–99.

Council meets twice in the latter part of the year, in September and November. Inevitably, much of the business of all Council meetings is routine. In September, for example, Council customarily considers the wording of the guidance to be offered to Sections and Groups on the conduct of the annual round of elections to Fellowship. Or again, the annual letter specifying the terms of the grant-in-aid given to the Academy by the DfEE, which normally arrives in November, is preceded by a period in which the Academy is able to make the case for additional funding for new or existing activities, and is followed by the formulation of a budget which specifies the way in which resources will be allocated between different Academy programmes, the process as a whole taking up a significant fraction of the business transacted by Council in the course of a year. In addition, however, there are always matters, both important and trivial, which do not feature regularly year after year but arise because of the particular circumstances of the day.

Among the latter in the two meetings of Council in the second half of the year were the question of graduate studies in Britain and the launch of an Academy of Learned Societies for the Social Sciences. The former issue was raised by Colin Matthew whose tragic death represents a most serious loss to the Academy. He expressed concern at the September meeting of Council that what had once been a largely British representation in each new cohort of research students was increasingly being replaced by a pattern in which overseas research students predominated. The probable implications of this development for scholarship in the humanities and social sciences need no elaboration. There is widespread concern that the situation can only become worse when the effects of the change in undergraduate funding arrangements, which will cause promising students to reach their graduation day carrying a heavy load of debt, are more fully apparent. They will presumably be less willing to embark on doctoral studies. Other evidence in support of the view that the situation is grave is plentiful, though there is also evidence to suggest that the grounds for concern may have been exaggerated. In recognition of the importance of providing an informed and balanced survey of the situation and its implications, Council at a later meeting authorised the appointment of a committee to review the evidence and to report. Professor Bob Bennett has agreed to chair the committee. It is hoped that the work of the committee will be ground-breaking in another sense, since Council intends to initiate a flow of reports on issues of concern, some of which may be expected to have policy implications, in a fashion analogous to the reports which the Royal Society publishes on questions such as genetically modified crops, or complementary medicine. The graduate studies report, if all goes well, will therefore be the first in a continuing series.

In November ALSISS transformed itself into the Academy (formerly: Association) of Learned Societies for the Social Sciences. Council had been concerned over many months about a development which was sometimes seen as posing a threat to the Academy which is, as the cover of this *Review* states, an Academy equally and indifferently for the humanities and social sciences. Some of the statements issued by ALSISS suggested that neither the constitution of the Academy nor the nature of its activities was well understood by ALSISS. At times during the period in which ALSISS was maturing plans for its metamorphosis, contact between ALSISS and the Academy was slight. On the other hand, the constitution of ALSISS suggested that both the composition and the aims of the new body were substantially different from those of the Academy, though with an area of overlap. The range of issues involved have been set out in several communications sent out to the Fellowship or to Sections. The names of only four Fellows of the Academy appeared in the initial list of Fellows of ALSISS. In general, it appears premature to reach any conclusion about the extent to which the two bodies will prove to be either complementary to

or competitive with one another. The situation will continue to be monitored closely.

There were a number of very pleasing developments during the latter half of 1999. The Leverhulme Trust generously offered to mark the centenary of the Academy by supporting the award of a Leverhulme medal and prize 'for a significant contribution to knowledge and understanding', the medal to be of gold and the prize in the sum of £5,000. The medal will be awarded every three years after its initial award in 2002 and will be awarded alternately in the humanities and social sciences, but on the first occasion two medals will be awarded, one in each of these two main areas of scholarship and research falling within the province of the Academy.

One of the most successful and most appreciated of all the Academy's methods of supporting research has been its small grants scheme. In the course of each year, several hundred such grants are made, with an upper limit of £5,000 for any one grant. Council recognised, however, that, particularly in view of the reluctance of the ESRC and AHRB to provide finance for what they would regard as relatively small grant applications, there was a gap in the provision of funding nationally for grants in the range between £5,000 and £20,000, notably for fieldwork studies. Consultation with the academic community took place during the latter half of 1999, and support for larger research grants was evident. A new scheme for larger research grants is currently being prepared, though not at the expense of the small grants scheme, the funding for which has been 'ring-fenced'. It is hoped that the Academy will succeed in securing enhanced funding for a larger research grants scheme in later years. The upper limit of £20,000, though arbitrary, was proposed having it in mind that this is approximately the largest sum which does not permit the appointment of a research assistant for a full year.

This year's *Directory* contains on the facing page to page one an 'organogram' displaying the committee structure which came fully into being at the start of the 1999–2000 year. The revised structure represents a clarification of the preceding structure as well as embodying the implications for committee structure of new activities such as those associated with the Public Understanding and Activities Committee. Experience so far suggests that it is working very satisfactorily.

Whilst it is true that every Fellow of the Academy owes a great debt to its salaried staff for their dedication to the best interests of the Academy and willingness in many contexts to go far beyond a strict interpretation of their formal obligations, it is also true that, in marked contrast with many academies in other countries, the work of the British Academy is supported and carried forward in large measure because its Fellows and Honorary Officers give time and thought to its affairs in a manner which I find deeply impressive and heartwarming. It is the best and soundest tribute to their recognition of the value of the Academy as a body whose presence is of critical importance to the well-being of the humanities and social sciences in Britain. I should like to express my deep appreciation of the devotion to the Academy of all those who contribute in this way to its success.

Recent Honours

In September 1999, Sir John Elliott FBA was awarded the **Balzan Prize in History, 1500–1800**. *The following is extracted from the nomination submitted by the British Academy.*

John Elliott's outstanding qualities as a historian are his professionalism and his range. He is the world's foremost historian of Spain but has also extended the study of Spanish history to contextualise it in a European and American framework.

Elliott's interest in early modern Spanish history developed early in his career as a student at the University of Cambridge. In his first two published works, which abounded with new questions and research topics, he established a new research agenda by refocusing the prism through which Spanish history was traditionally viewed, and inserted Spain into a broad European – and indeed Atlantic – context.

Elliott's masterpiece is *The Count-Duke of Olivares: the statesman in an age of decline* (1986). The result of visits to almost every archive in Europe in search of papers, opinions and insights, the volume was received as a triumph which illuminated Spanish history in a way which has not been rivalled before or since. The success of this volume resulted in Elliott's appointment in 1990 to the Regius Chair of Modern History at the University of Oxford. His research, of course, continues at Oxford and *Britain and Spain in America: colonists and colonized* (1994) further extends his studies of European and American history.

Elliott's interest in comparative history is reflected in the University of Oxford's proposed new Centre for Atlantic Studies which he is helping to establish, as well as in his recent efforts to broaden the geographical scope of the University's undergraduate history requirements.

John Elliott's work has influenced a whole generation of scholars, both in Europe and America. He has not only revitalised and reframed the study of the history of Spain, but has set a standard for the study of history itself.

The Swiss–Italian International Foundation Prize E. Balzan gives recognition to achievements of a cultural, scientific, humanitarian or peacemaking nature worldwide. Since 1961 the Balzan Prize has been awarded in the fields of the humanities and social science, art and literature, physics, mathematics, natural science and medicine. Each year the Balzan Prize is awarded to four individuals for outstanding achievement in these subject areas. At the present time the prizes each have the value of half a million Swiss francs. Nominations for awards are solicited from the foremost learned societies worldwide, and considered by a General Prize Committee composed of eminent European scholars.

Further information may be found at the web site www.balzan.com

The S.T. Lee Library

In the British Academy's new premises at Carlton House Terrace an impressive area has been set aside for the location of the Academy's collection of books, journals and offprints and for a reading room. The intention of the Academy is to develop a valuable workable resource containing the best of new research in the humanities and social sciences, as well as being a comprehensive record of the proceedings and activities of the British Academy and the work of the Fellows since its establishment in 1902.

At present the Library consists of books and journals amassed predominantly through Academy-funded research, gifts from partner organisations and the generosity of Fellows. The move to Carlton House Terrace has seen a considerable increase in the number of publications received compared with the days of Cornwall Terrace and Burlington House, substantiating the need for a more spacious area to house this developing collection. Through a most generous benefaction by Dr Lee Seng Tee, an Honorary Fellow of the Academy, it has been possible to establish an outstanding Reading Room and Library, with space for expansion, allowing the Academy's books to be worthily displayed and accessible to users. Currently some 5,000 volumes are on open display in the shelves and a steady flow of acquisitions may be foreseen in the years ahead.

Organisation of the Library is at present in a formative stage. As a first step books in the central collection have been grouped according to academic discipline so as roughly to correspond with the Academy's Section structure. This organisational principle suits the requirements at

The new Library at Carlton House Terrace

The Reading Room, adjoining the Library. The room is currently also used for meetings and lectures. A portrait of the benefactor, Dr Lee Seng Tee, may be seen on the far wall

this early stage, but in the longer term a more appropriate and sophisticated system will need to be implemented, so as to operate in closer co-ordination with the manual and electronic catalogue of stock, now nearing completion. There are plans to adapt the catalogue so that it is accessible via the Internet.

The majority of acquisitions comes as a result of research supported by the Academy – the published outcomes of research grants, whether journal articles, chapters in collective volumes, or (occasionally after some interval) monographs or editions of texts. Then there are the important publications of holders of British Academy Research Readerships, Academy/Leverhulme Senior Research Fellowships, and Academy Postdoctoral Fellowships, whose awards are directly related to planned published output. Conference proceedings, arising in part from British and Overseas Conference Grants, form another component of the collection. Publications arising from research funded by the AHRB are also to be lodged in the Academy's Library.

A further category is made up of the publications, often in series, of designated Academy Research Projects, some with a British focus – such as the much-lauded *British Academy/Pilgrim Edition of the Letters of Charles Dickens*, or the *British Documents on the End of Empire*, others contributing to international enterprises of fundamental importance to a particular discipline – for example, the *Lexicon Iconographicum Mythologiae Classicae*. And then there are the productions of the Academy's own flourishing publications programme (further details can be found on page 28), including certain Academy Research Projects, among them the *Records of Social and Economic History*, the *Corpus of Anglo-Saxon Stone Sculpture*, the *Sylloge of British Coins*, and the *Fontes Historiae Africanae*.

Another substantial element consists of the Fellows' Collection, containing the works which Fellows of the Academy have generously donated. The aim is to ensure that the scholarship of all Fellows, past and present, should eventually be represented in the Library as part of the ongoing record of British scholarship. It is a long-term objective which will take time to achieve. Meanwhile a most encouraging start has been made.

Other areas of development include the acquisitions of the publications of other Academies with which the British Academy has formed relationships and partnerships; and the forming of a comprehensive collection of the publications, journals and monographs, of the overseas British Institutes, Schools and UK-based Societies which the Academy sponsors.

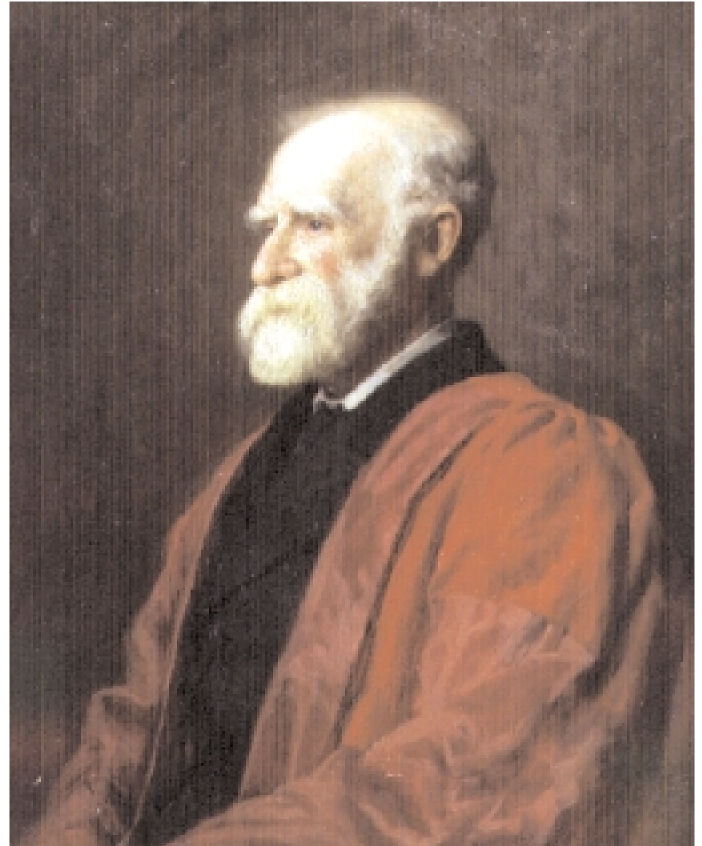
Once the basic cataloguing is completed, it is intended to form a small Library Committee to develop policies and processes concerning the use and continued development of the collections. Soon, it is hoped, the Academy will not merely possess a considerable scholarly resource, but be able to display it worthily and to make it fully accessible to scholars in the humanities and social sciences.

Pictures, Portraits and Decoration

In February 1999, Council decided to establish a committee whose responsibilities would include oversight of the selection of paintings, tapestries and sculptures to decorate the building. Professor Margaret McGowan has been appointed Chairman, and the other members are Professor J.M. Crook, Mr J.S. Flemming, Professor C.M. Kauffmann, Professor J.L. Nelson, Dr C.R. Saumarez-Smith (the Director of the National Portrait Gallery), and Sir David Wilson.

An annual subvention from the Academy's private funds has been allocated for commissions and purchases, and to cover maintenance costs. In the months since its formation, the Committee has considered ways in which it could identify possible donors and lenders, and encourage current lenders to extend the number of works that they would be prepared to loan to the Academy. It consulted the Fellowship about ways in which it might best proceed, and received a number of helpful suggestions. Some Fellows have also indicated that they would be prepared to donate works to the Academy, and the Committee would like to thank these Fellows for their generous offers.

Members of the Committee have overseen the hanging of fifteen portraits of eminent Fellows. Most of these works are on loan from the National Portrait Gallery, and are hanging in the Cornwall, Burlington or Marks Rooms. The Committee was recently pleased to learn that the Trustees of the Gallery have kindly agreed to loan the Academy a portrait of Viscount Bryce, who was President of the Academy from 1913 to 1917, and this portrait now hangs in the Marks Room.



James Bryce, 1st Viscount Bryce, by Ernest Moore. *By Courtesy of the National Portrait Gallery, London*

With this addition, the Cornwall, Burlington and Marks Rooms should be complete. The Committee is also exploring the possibility of obtaining photographic prints from the National Portrait Gallery of deceased Fellows whom it would wish to commemorate.

A number of approaches have been made to various organisations, including the Royal Collection and Lord Londonderry's estate. As a result, the Academy is currently in negotiation to borrow seven works of art. All the paintings are appropriate both in size and in manner for the Council and Mall Rooms, and the Committee believes that they will all look very fine on the walls of 10 Carlton House Terrace. Two of these paintings are by Sir Thomas Lawrence, and include a portrait of George Canning standing at the despatch box, which was commissioned by George IV for Carleton Palace, and also a portrait of Catherine, wife of Lord Charles Stewart, later 3rd Marquess of Londonderry, as St Cecilia, with her son, the Hon. Frederick.

In addition, the Committee has considered ways in which it could help mark the Academy's centenary. It has decided to commission a composite picture of the six living Academy Presidents, and Stuart Pearson Wright, the winner of the BP award for portraiture in 1998, has accepted the commission.

Finally, the Committee has also advised the Academy on issues relating to the decoration of its premises, since the context in which pictures are hung is important.

Lectures and Conferences

Lectures

The Academy's lecture programme continues to expand, most notably in breadth of subject matter. One of the many highlights of the season was the third Annual British Academy Lecture, by Sir Geoffrey Lloyd FBA, who spoke *On the 'Origins' of Science* (an extract from his lecture can be found on page 16). The Academy also contributed a keynote lecture by Professor Bhiku Parekh to the fourth and final regional CREST (the Centre for Research into Elections and Social Trends) conference on *Social Change and Minority Ethnic Groups in Britain*, which took place at Carlton House Terrace. The Westminster Seminars, the series of talks sponsored jointly by the Academy and the Centre for the Study of Democracy, University of Westminster, continued, with events taking place at the CSD and the Constitution Unit at University College London: lectures in the series entitled *Democratic Reform in International Perspective* were delivered by Professor Jim Fishkin (University of Texas), Professor Roger Jowell and Professor Neil MacCormick FBA, MEP.

Ten Academy lectures, listed below, were delivered at Carlton House Terrace.

The Pendulum and the Pit: Changing Perceptions of the American Presidency
Godfrey Hodgson
Sarah Tryphena Lecture in American History
An extract from this lecture can be found on page 11.

Thomas Carlyle and Oliver Cromwell
Professor Blair Worden FBA
Raleigh Lecture in History
An extract from this lecture can be found on page 12.

Keynes, Keynesianism and the International Economy
Alan S. Milward FBA
Keynes Lecture in Economics
with discussants Mr John Killick and Professor James Tomlinson

Artist and Subject in Ming Dynasty China
Professor C. Clunas
Aspects of Art Lecture

From Laurel to Fig: Petrarch and the Structures of the Self
Professor Nicholas Mann FBA
Italian Lecture
An extract from this lecture can be found on page 14.

'Trafficking with Merchants for His Soul': Dante Gabriel Rossetti Among the Aesthetes
Dr Josephine M. Guy
Chatterton Lecture on Poetry

On the 'Origins' of Science
Sir Geoffrey Lloyd FBA
British Academy Lecture
An extract from this lecture can be found on page 16.

Britain's Changing Ethnic Profile
Professor Bhiku Parekh
British Academy keynote lecture at the CREST London conference: Social Change and Minority Ethnic Groups in Britain

Conceptual Tools for a Natural Science of Society and Culture
Dan Sperber
Radcliffe-Brown Lecture in Social Anthropology

Scottish Gaelic Traditional Songs from the 16th to the 18th Century
Professor D.S. Thomson FBA
Sir John Rhys Memorial Lecture

Judgments
The Rt. Hon. Lord Mustill FBA
Maccabaean Lecture in Jurisprudence

Conversazione

The Academy's evening *conversazione* programme continued, under the guidance of Professor Margaret Boden FBA, to stimulate discussion and provoke interest. The autumn 1999 *conversazione*, with speakers Professor Robert O'Neill FBA and Professor Laurence Freedman FBA, was entitled *The Future of Nuclear Weapons*, and took place on 11 November 1999.

Several of these lectures will be published in the *Proceedings of the British Academy*, volume 105, at the end of 2000

Symposia

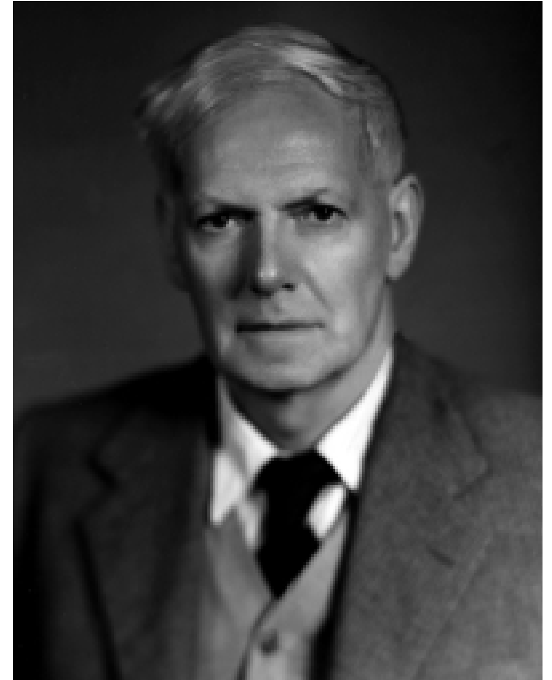
The Academy organises its own programme of conferences. Two meetings were held during the autumn of 1999:

Computers, Language and Speech

A report on this joint Royal Society/British Academy meeting can be found on page 18.

Indo-Iranian Languages and People

A symposium was held to mark the centenary of the birth of Sir Harold Bailey FBA (pictured right). A report on this meeting can be found on page 20.



Walter Stoneman

Sir Harold Bailey FBA (1899–1996), elected to Ordinary Fellowship in 1944.

The Pendulum and the Pit: Changing Perceptions of the American Presidency

The following is an extract from the Sarah Tryphena Phillips Lecture in American History delivered by **Mr Godfrey Hodgson**, *Director of the Reuter Foundation Programme at Green College, Oxford, on 26 October 1999 at the British Academy.*

In Edgar Allan Poe's horror story, *The Pit and the Pendulum*, the wretched prisoner is confined between a murderous blade that swings ever closer, and the fiery pit into which he risks falling if he escapes the pendulum. For years, students of the American presidency have had a similar image of the perils that threaten the office.

On the one hand, the pendulum of power has been swinging away from the president and towards the Congress since the fall of Richard Nixon. On the other, the presidency sometimes seems on the brink of tumbling into the pit of extinction and irrelevance, as it came close to doing when Bill Clinton was impeached by the House of Representatives in 1999. All recent presidents have either skirted disaster, like Reagan at the time of the Iran-Contra scandal, or found themselves doomed to near impotence, like Jimmy Carter.

From a distance, the leader of the most powerful country in the world is a dazzling figure. As a domestic politician in Washington, however, doomed by a divided government to beat his head against a Congress dominated by his opponents, he looks rather different. Bill Clinton has not even tried to introduce any substantial domestic reforms since the Congress turned down his health care reform package in 1994. And now the increasingly isolationist Republican majority has rejected a comprehensive test ban treaty and the President's request for foreign aid.

A generation ago, the political scientists vied with one another to glorify the president's role in the American system. He was monarch and prime minister, commander-in-chief and leader of Congress, even – for one romantic professor – a 'mighty lion'. Now the reality is different. The president is a day trader. He comes into office with a portfolio of political assets. But he cannot live off his political capital. To avoid humiliation, to fulfil at least some of the promises he made in the campaign, he must venture his capital in the political marketplace every day.

He must propose popular reform. He must meet the expectations of the powerful interests represented in Washington. He must choose and secure the confirmation of the members of his administration, and show that he can reward his friends and punish his enemies.

Some of his trading is in public. He makes speeches, he appears on television, and orders his staff to prepare legislation. But he also works in private, face to face, and on the telephone. He schmoozes, he threatens, he bribes, he rewards.

The success of these efforts is observed by Washington insiders, who are few and discreet, and who communicate their judgement of how the president is doing to the Washington press corps, who are numerous and extremely indiscreet. Any president now lives and dies by the journalists' judgement, as measured in the opinion polls.

The snag is that the news media are less and less interested in politics. The modern presidency came into existence to lead the United States in a world of depression at home and war, and Cold War, abroad. Now Americans do not feel their security is seriously at risk. They do not believe that government has much to do with their present affluence. Even the spectacle of a president on trial before the Senate on charges relating to gross immorality and possible perjury left the public largely indifferent.

As long as most Americans feel neither threatened from abroad nor challenged at home, a minimalist president, who presides as symbol of peace and prosperity, confiding in the people from time to time about his dog, his golf scores and his holiday reading, meets their requirements.

Only when the wind rises, and the waves slap against the hull, will we know whether the new-style media president – elected by the media, evaluated and legitimated by the media – will be equal to the task.

The lecture series on American Literature or History was made possible by an endowment in 1960 from the Ellis L Phillips Foundation. The motivating idea came from Dr Carl Bode, who was Cultural Attaché at the United States Embassy in London, and who himself gave the inaugural lecture in 1961.

Thomas Carlyle and Oliver Cromwell

The Raleigh Lecture on History was delivered by **Professor Blair Worden FBA**, *Professor of Early Modern History at the University of Sussex, on 27 October 1999 at the British Academy. One hundred years ago (almost to the day when the lecture was given), the statue of Oliver Cromwell that stands outside the Palace of Westminster was unveiled. To the commemorators his modern standing had one principal cause: the publication in 1845 of Thomas Carlyle's book* Oliver Cromwell's Letters and Speeches. *In the following extract, Professor Worden considers the relationship between the two men.*

In October 1918 Sir Charles Wakefield, formerly Lord Mayor of London and later Lord Wakefield, offered the Academy a sum to commemorate the tercentenary of Sir Walter Raleigh. From this fund, the annual history lecture was founded. Since 1974 the subject has been drawn on a regular rotating basis from the medieval, early modern and modern periods.

Carlyle was not at ease with the protectorate. His account of it seems to have been hurriedly drawn together. For him the earlier Cromwell, the warrior-hero and agent of divine destruction, had transcended politics. As protector, charged not with destruction but with reconstruction, Oliver was obliged, as a merely mortal ruler would have been, to haggle with parliament. Carlyle acknowledges that Cromwell's godly policies were pursued 'with only partial, never with entire success.' The fault lay with the nation, which had not 'rallied' to him – a damning failure, 'the most significant feature in the history of an epoch' being 'the manner it has of welcoming a great man.' The nation's rejoicing on Charles II's return proved its unworthiness. Carlyle had earlier supposed, what classical and Renaissance political theory had taught, that a community will be drawn, as by a magnet, to the leadership of great souls. He found instead that it resists it. In Carlyle's narrative the protector becomes a worn-down figure, a subject for pathos and pity, bearing on his solitary shoulders a cause that will not survive him. Like other heroes of Carlyle, he becomes more significant for what he was, for the ideals and qualities he represented, than for what he did.

Oliver Cromwell by Samuel Cooper.
By Courtesy of the National Portrait Gallery, London

Not only had the nation failed Cromwell. So had Puritanism. At first Carlyle, or at least a side of him, saw Cromwell merely as the most heroic representative of that heroic movement, which itself was the representative – because it represented the best – of England. Yet Puritanism's 'mad suicide' after Cromwell's death showed that it, like the Long Parliament which it had controlled, was unequal to its divine task. Having held up 'the Puritanic age' for emulation, Carlyle acknowledged that it had had its shortcomings.

They were those of the society from which Puritanism emerged. Carlyle was never at home with the early-modern period. He knew about, and (mostly) warmed to, medieval feudalism. He knew too that the French Revolution had brought feudalism's final and inevitable destruction, and that democracy, to which he could not warm, was inevitably replacing it. It was the non-feudal and non-democratic aspects of society, from the fourteenth century to the eighteenth, that perplexed him. He knew from Scottish sociology about the stages of social development. He approved of the energy, industry and ingenuity with which communities advance their social organisation and economic resources. He accepted, what in recent decades had become an orthodoxy, that the English civil war had been in some way related to the rise of a commercial class. He recognised that the 'fighting' of the high middle ages had 'given place to trading, ploughing, weaving and merchant adventuring', and that that change, too, was irreversible. Yet Carlyle, who rebuked historical nostalgia, succumbed to it. Hard as he tried to bring alive the texture of the society that had produced Puritanism, its starched ruffs and fringed breeches and pointed beards, his heart lay with the frugal spontaneity of an earlier age. He yearned for the time when kings were 'raised aloft on bucklers with clangour of sounding shields'. He

wanted to think of the Puritan leaders as a continuation of the feudal ideal, as an 'earnest religious aristocracy', the last of England's ruling classes to combine rank with intellect. Yet intellect itself had assumed early-modern forms which Carlyle found easier to admire than love. The age had been sicklied-o'er with the pale cast of thought, trusting too much to words, possessed by the self-consciousness of which the most heroic times are free.

If only Cromwell had been born in the middle ages! Carlyle's imagination links him to William the Conqueror, who sorted out the 'potbellied' natives; and, behind him, to the Norse kings commemorated in Icelandic sagas. Yet even the medieval age cannot contain Carlyle's hero. He is a 'primeval' figure, his exploits decked with mythological and anthropological imagery, his place among the 'sanhedrim of the gods' announced by proto-Wagnerian outbreaks of thunder, lightning, fire. Carlyle, who set out to heroise Puritan society, instead created a hero beyond society.

*

How did Carlyle's book, a work at once so hostile and eccentric to its age, come to be embraced by it? At least a part of the answer must lie in the central perception of his enterprise: that Cromwell's letters and speeches are extraordinary documents; and that unlike the customary pronouncements of rulers, which are couched in language intended to conceal the character within, they convey an authentic image of the inner man. The *Letters and Speeches* spoke to an age eager to explore that subterranean emotional landscape of past minds which the 'philosophic' historians of the eighteenth century were now reproached for having missed. Cromwell, unknowable from the jumbled and scattered versions in which his words had earlier been printed, now stood, enthused one reviewer, 'in bodily and mental presence before us. We live, speak, correspond with him'.

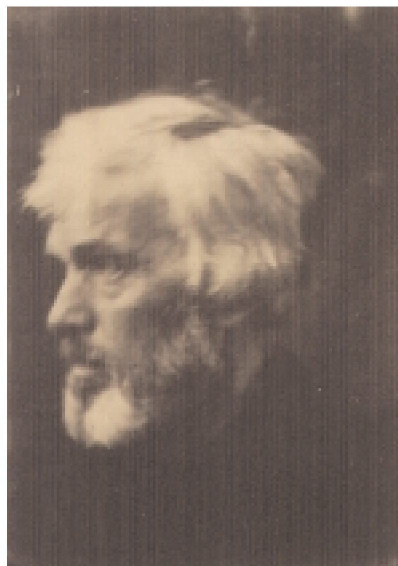
There was praise too for the artful vividness of the work. ... While planning the *Letters and Speeches* Carlyle made a note to himself that the battle of Dunbar was 'one of [Cromwell's] great scenes.' In the book it is immortally so.

Though the beguilements of Carlyle's artistry should never be underestimated, the magnetic properties of the *Letters and Speeches* had another source too: the intensity of the bond between author and hero. Repeatedly Carlyle's own memories and self-assessment determine the emphases of his narrative. There is the formation of impregnable, steadying values during Cromwell's long period of modest obscurity before his entry on the world's bustling stage. There is Oliver's devotion to his godly mother; his hypochondria (for Carlyle always a sign of grace); his rescue from agonies of despair through religious conversion. When Carlyle reaches Cromwell's maturity he links the solitary burden of his hero's decision-making with his own humbler but no less solitary responsibilities of biographical resurrection. Sometimes we can hardly tell, from Carlyle's personal pronouns, which of the two men is speaking.

Perhaps Carlyle himself scarcely knew. Men who described the public lectures he gave in 1838–40 reported the manner of his delivery – the struggle of an uncouth, clumsy speaker to give voice to earnestness and sincerity – in terms which strikingly anticipate Carlyle's own accounts of Cromwell's delivery. In the *Letters and Speeches* 'my friend Oliver' joins Carlyle against the hollow proprieties of classical structure and diction. The literary indecorum of the book, its offences against grammar and syntax, its unevenness of pitch and proportion, its jump-starts and moments of spontaneous combustion, its very warts as it were, are vindicated by the features of Cromwell's character and speeches which they mirror.

Professor Worden has been awarded a three-year British Academy Research Professorship to write a new biography of Oliver Cromwell.

The Carlyle Letters project, an Academy Research Project based at the University of Edinburgh, is publishing The Collected Letters of Thomas and Jane Welsh Carlyle



Thomas Carlyle by Julia Margaret Cameron (reverse image). By Courtesy of the National Portrait Gallery, London

From Laurel to Fig: Petrarch and the Structures of the Self

The following extracts are taken from the Italian Lecture, delivered by **Professor Nicholas Mann FBA***, Director of the Warburg Institute, University of London, on 9 November 1999 at the British Academy.*

In 1916 Mrs Angela Mond offered funds for a lecture series 'to be on some subject relating to Italian literature, history, art, history of Italian science, Italy's part in the Renaissance, Italian influences on other countries, and any other theme which the Council may consider as coming with the scope of such a Lecture'. The lectures are delivered biennially.

'You may perhaps have heard something about me, although it is not very likely that my obscure little name will have been able to travel far in time and space. And perhaps you would like to know what kind of a man I was, and what became of my writings, especially those whose reputation may have reached you, or whose name you may have heard mentioned ...' The voice, reaching successfully across space and time, is that of Francesco Petrarca, to whom I shall henceforth refer as Petrarch, planning for posterity in an autobiographical letter specifically addressed to future generations and, like so much else that he wrote, unfinished. The project was an unusual one for the fourteenth century, and indeed for the Middle Ages as a whole: autobiography was not a common genre in an age less insistent on the value of the individual, however insignificant, than our own; the few examples that we have, if they are other than merely formulaic in content, reveal the overarching influence of the *Confessions* of St Augustine.

Even in those opening words, Petrarch reveals some of his characteristic traits: a modesty almost unbecoming in one sufficiently convinced of his own reputation to address future readers; an awareness of the importance of his works as the vehicles for that reputation; an implicit faith in the power of the text – the letter – to reach those to whom it was addressed. The picture that he proceeds to sketch of himself is marked as much by its self-indulgence as by its lucidity, but it is far from complete, for the story that it tells peters out in about 1351, almost a quarter of a century before his death. It would seem that he started to write it in the 1360s, and that he continued to work at it until at least 1371. Yet the narrative, which naturally shows all the benefits of hindsight, does not live up to its own promises: for a fuller picture we must look elsewhere. The fact that we can, and that Petrarch has left us so much material for the documentation of his own life, is probably more significant than his failure to complete his one exclusively and overtly autobiographical text. It turns out that in the last seven years of his life (1367–74) he frequently chose to look back, in letters and in polemical texts, at the events of earlier years, but it also becomes apparent that this retrospection is coloured by the desire to make of the recollection of things past an artful and coherent narrative, what he several times called a *'fabula'*. Into that narrative he wove his various works, and as we unpick its threads with the benefit of our hindsight, we become aware of underlying structures which hold it all together, interlacing events, real or imagined, with all manner of texts which both evoke and on occasions actually constitute those events.

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It is plain that writing well and living well are in Petrarch's case inseparable, and linked by a single fundamental method, which is that of imitation. By this I do not mean what we might call plagiarism, but *imitatio* in the creative sense in which we constantly encounter it in Petrarch's writings. He was deeply aware of the traditions on which he depended: thus we find him looking to the authors of antiquity not only for literary genres – from epic to eclogue – or structures – from epistle to dialogue – but also, more narrowly, for thoughts and words, while at the same time he may imitate them in the reported actions of his life. It is rare to find a moment of biographical significance which does not have a classical or other illustrious example behind it. To quote but one example, Petrarch's ascent of Mont Ventoux is explicitly linked to the climbing of Mount Hemo in Thrace by Philip V of Macedon as related by Livy, and is thus firmly located in an historical and classical context, while its unusual nature is deliberately emphasised by the royal example that he is following.

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The first of Petrarch's crises is explored in the memorable letter (*Familiares* IV 1) in which he tells how on 26 April 1336 he and his brother Gherardo came to climb Mont Ventoux. The starting point in the text is *cupiditas videndi*, a desire to see from the top of the mountain that St Bernard would have called *curiositas*, and a state of sin. Petrarch's account appears highly circumstantial, and I shall not linger over the details of the climb, except to say that he and his brother set off before dawn from a little inn at Malaucène, each with a servant. Gherardo went shinning up the mountainside by the steepest but shortest routes, while Petrarch kept looking for easier paths on the lower slopes, being ready to climb for longer if the incline was less steep. So that by the time Gherardo reached the upper ranges, Petrarch was still struggling some way below. Finally, though, he caught up with his brother, but almost immediately started his search for easier paths and found himself going down into the valleys again. 'Thus, as before,' he ruefully exclaims, 'I encountered serious trouble: I had tried to put off the effort of having to climb, but the nature of things does not depend upon human desires, and it is impossible for a body to arrive at a summit by descending … '

One may pause at this stage on the slopes and ask what is going on. Scarcely, I think, a feat of mountaineering. We should first note the stamp of Lactantius upon the narrative: in an extended passage of the *Divine Institutes*, he deals with the image of the Pythagorean Y, which Petrarch elsewhere associates with the crucial crossroads that arise at crisis points in a man's existence. Lactantius writes to the Emperor Constantine that there are two paths along which all life must proceed: one which leads to virtue and to heaven, which is steep and rugged from the start; the other which sinks to vice and to hell, and which at its beginning appears to be pleasant and well-trodden, but later becomes becomes steep, rough with stones, overgrown with thorns, and interrupted by deep waters or violent torrents.

Finally, after repeatedly falling back in the Lactantian manner, and after explicitly comparing his rather unsuccessful method of climbing with his equally indirect approach to the blessed life, Petrarch reaches the summit. There, he falls into a meditation, inspired by the impossible panorama that opens out before him. He looks back over his 'perduti giorni': a decade of sins, ambition and desires, and gives his retrospection an explicitly Augustinian tone by quoting the beginning of the second book of the *Confessions*: 'I want to remember the abominable deeds that I perpetrated in those days, and the carnal corruption of my spirit. I do this, my God, not because I love those sins, but so that I may love you …'

But the role of St Augustine does not end there. For it turns out that Petrarch had carried up with him (surely not by chance) his copy of the *Confessions*. He lets the book fall open and reads the first passage that comes to his eyes, in that part of the tenth book where Augustine considers the role of memory and the function of the images of the past that we store inside ourselves. He proceeds explicitly to relate his experience on the mountain top at the age of thirty-two to the dramatic conversion of Augustine under the fig tree at the same age, lighting upon a passage in St Paul's Epistle to the Romans.

Thus Petrarch establishes a clear parallel of considerable spiritual significance. And if we should be in any doubt as to the credentials of his act of imitation, he immediately dispels them by reminding us that Augustine was himself imitating – or claiming to imitate – St Anthony, who had come by chance across a passage in the Gospels which had commanded him to 'go home and sell all that belongs to you'. The implications of this chain of *imitatio* are that Petrarch's version of the ancient divinatory practice of the random consultation of books, the *sortes Virgilianae*, has led him to a fundamental turning-point on his journey: from the sinful desire to see to the healing need to know himself.

Professor Mann is the British Academy's Foreign Secretary. An account of his first months in office can be found on page 36.

On the 'Origins' of Science

The following extracts are taken from the third annual 'British Academy Lecture', delivered by **Professor Sir Geoffrey Lloyd FBA** *on 18 November 1999 at the British Academy. He considers below three case studies taken from the ancient world illustrating the different conditions under which scientific investigations were carried out.*

In 1998 the Academy launched a major new lecture series, the annual keynote British Academy Lecture, to mark the move to Carlton House Terrace. Lectures are intended to address a wider audience than the purely scholarly and to advance public understanding of the subjects the Academy exists to promote.

Babylonian records for the study of the heavens are enormously rich, stretching back to the second millennium BCE. We find many predictions in the early omen texts, taking the form of conditionals: if so and so (the sign), then so and so (the outcome).

But then from some time around the mid-seventh century there was a shift – many of the phenomena that had figured in the protases of the omen texts, the if- clauses, came to be rigorously classified and precisely predictable, that is not just in terms of an ideal pattern but including the deviations from such.

The possibilities of determining, in advance, when a planet would become visible after a period of invisibility, or when an eclipse of the moon or the sun would occur, offered an altogether new scope for prognostication. Admittedly much remained beyond that scope. The scribes squabbled not just about what could be predicted, but about what had in fact been observed. One writes: '[He who] wrote to the king, my lord, "the planet Venus is visible" ... is a vile man, an ignoramus, a cheat! ... Venus is [not] yet visible'. But a clear difference opened up between a style of prediction that focused on the good or bad fortune that would result *if* a celestial phenomenon occurred, on the one hand, and, on the other, one that predicted such celestial phenomena themselves.

The ability to predict phenomena did not mean that they were no longer considered ominous. On the contrary, eclipses, in particular, were still considered inauspicious – not that they were thought to be causes of evil events to come, only signs of them. At the stage when the scribes were able to predict one (or its possibility), they could and did warn the ruler, who set about diverting disaster from himself by the ritual of the substitute king (*namburbû*). Some wretch who was considered dispensable was put on the throne, so that whatever mischance befell would happen to him, not to the real king, who was addressed meanwhile as 'the farmer'.

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The Chinese distinguished between *li fa* and *tian wen*. The first is conventionally translated 'calendar studies', but it included other computational work as well, for example in connection with eclipses. The latter is the study of the 'patterns in the heavens', essentially qualitative in character, but including both cosmography and the interpretations of celestial phenomena thought to be ominous.

These studies were a matter of *state* importance, indeed of personal concern for the emperor. He was considered responsible not just for the welfare of the state, but for preserving harmony between heaven and earth. The so-called 'monthly ordinances', *yueling*, set out precisely what the ruler and the whole court had to do to ensure this harmony, the music to be played, the kind of food to be eaten, down to the colour of the dresses the court ladies should wear. The *yueling* texts end the account of each month with dire warnings as to what will happen – natural disasters and political ones – if the ritual is not followed to the last detail.

The heavens needed to be scrutinised for *any* sign that might be thought to contain a message for the ruler, his ministers, or any aspect of state policy. That involved, potentially, a vast programme that was carried out in an Astronomical Bureau designated for the purpose.

The Bureau lasted for some 2000 years, down to the last imperial dynasty, the Qing. Their more purely astronomical performance was mixed. Among the more notable successes were firstly calendar regulation, and determining more and more accurate lunar and solar eclipse cycles; and secondly, discriminating between what was strictly predictable and what was not. Among the latter, Chinese records of novae, supernovae and sunspots are the most complete we have down to the seventeenth century. If mistakes were made – when an eclipse that had been predicted did not occur, for example – they were sometimes excused by the argument that the special virtue of the emperor had averted the phenomenon. The incorrectness of the prediction was then not chalked up *against* the astronomers, but *for* the emperor.

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Different conditions prevailed in Greece, where students of the heavens did not usually work for kings, and could not count on regular support from state institutions. Although I am not one, usually, to risk generalizations, let me propose the following observations with regard to Greek astronomy in the fourth century BCE. First, reputations depended on impressing not a ruler, but your contemporaries, not just fellow specialists but even the general public. Secondly, teaching was one of the main ways of earning a living, and that is connected, thirdly, with the institution of the public lecture or debate, the main vehicle both for building up a reputation and for attracting the necessary fee-paying pupils (what may be not too anachronistically termed the lecture circuit).

Correspondingly, there was a premium on originality: you were not going to impress a lecture audience very much by telling them what they knew already. One tactic often used to get your own, new, ideas across was the demolition of everyone else's: that favoured the highly critical scrutiny of foundations. For your own part, you had to try to make your own position immune to such criticism: in this context, a rigorous notion of demonstration was developed and used in fourth-century Greek mathematics and related inquiries.

The key fourth-century astronomer was Eudoxus. The main feature that marked his work out from that of, say, the Babylonians was that he attempted geometrical models from which the movements of the planets, sun and moon could be derived and so explained. It is pretty clear that he fell some way short of giving a fully quantitative would-be demonstrative model – that was not to be achieved until Ptolemy in the second century CE – but that was almost certainly his aim.

The contrast with what we know of Babylonian astronomy is a double one. From the seventh century, the Babylonians were in a position to make some impressive predictions of certain planetary phases on the basis of observed periodicities, but they had no interest whatever in geometrical models, setting out the configurations of the planets and showing how their apparent irregularities could be seen as the product of a combination of regular motions. Much later than the Babylonians, in the fourth century, Eudoxus made at least a start at geometrization.

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The three case studies I have sketched out suggest first that science developed very differently in Babylonia, China, and Greece, both in the nature of the investigations undertaken, and in terms of the social and intellectual institutions within which the investigators worked. And in some cases there appear to be connections (between the work and the institutions), not that I am proposing a determinist thesis, that the institutions determined the outcome, as if every individual was similarly affected by them. That clearly would be extravagant.

But then the second point that emerges is the *tension* between different factors that may all be thought to have had some part to play, a tension that serves to underline that there was no one factor that *just* favoured development. The advantages and disadvantages of each system are, in a striking way, the mirror images of one another. On the one hand, state support, the creation of institutions such as the Chinese Astronomical Bureau, carried enormous advantages, offering stable employment for a very considerable staff of specially trained investigators. Yet such institutions could also inhibit innovation – state interests determined the agenda – and they ran the risk of ossification.

On the other hand, without such institutions individuals were far more free to choose their own research programme – and yet have no secure job. The rivalries that went with such insecurity in Greece contributed to the radical scrutiny of assumptions, but just as surely inhibited the formation of a consensus, the sense of the advantage of a joint endeavour of individuals united behind an agreed research programme. For all the impressiveness of Greek intellectual whizzkiddery, for continuity of sustained effort in the observations of the heavens the Chinese won hands down.

Professor Lloyd is jointly organising an international symposium on the nature of Greek and Chinese sciences to be held in July 2000, for which he has received Academy support through the British Conference Grants scheme.

Computers, Language and Speech

A joint Royal Society/British Academy discussion meeting took place on 22–23 September 1999, organized by **Professor Karen Spärck Jones FBA, Professor Gerald Gazdar FBA** *and* **Professor Roger Needham FRS***, who report on the event.*

There has recently been a rapid development in the use of statistical techniques in both written and spoken language processing. This implies that there are important issues to address about the interaction between formal symbolic theories of language, on which language processing has been primarily based, and the new statistical approaches. The meeting held at the Royal Society focused on this interaction, and was particularly timely because there is an increasing demand for natural language processing systems that are able to cope with bulky, changing or untidy material, for instance systems that can select relevant content from text streams or summarise audio news broadcasts. Statistical methods for extracting patterns from data can help here, and improvements in information technology mean that there are now the powerful machine resources needed to apply these.

The central question addressed in the meeting was how best to combine rule-based and statistics-based approaches to natural language. More specifically, it provided an opportunity for the text and speech communities to exchange their respective findings and ideas. For the text community, the issue is how to enhance text interpretation and generation, which have been mainly done using symbolic, rule-based approaches, with corpus-based strategies that would suggest, for instance, that for a particular type of text one syntactic analysis rule is more likely to be applicable than another. For the speech community, the question is how to enrich speech recognition or production, hitherto predominantly statistics-based, with prior knowledge of a symbolic kind, for example incorporating linguistic models of syllabic structure and stress into statistical models for word recognition.

Some of the papers illustrated the interaction between statistical data and model rules for speech processing, whether in recognition or synthesis. Others were concerned with text or transcribed speech. At the same time, the papers addressed many different language levels from the components of words, through intermediate units like phrases or sentences, to discourse units like whole dialogue turns, to extended text, and even to the real world domains that underlie linguistic expressions – for example, the real world of airports, airlines, flights, meals, dates and times that underpins automated phone enquiry and booking systems that operate in this domain.

Several papers started from the use of statistical data and pushed this past words to capture larger unit regularities and hence higher-level language structure, for example conventional relationships between turns in a dialogue; others also started from the data, but attempted to leverage pattern capture by exploiting independent linguistic features, constraints or rules, for instance about word pronunciation. But the complementary strategy – starting from the rule end but modifying and developing an initial model in the light of observed usage – was also represented.

The papers illustrated a wide range of techniques for capturing statistical regularities and for representing language structure, both as exhibited in discourse and embodied in resources like grammars and dictionaries, in a way suited to linking data and rules. Again, just as the papers attacked different language levels, they also addressed different subtasks within the scope of a comprehensive language processing system, for instance from word recognition in interpretation to style constraints in text generation. They also illustrated the role of statistically-motivated approaches for some application tasks, like translation.

The meeting's practical implications were illustrated by the fact that several papers touched on the 'unknown word' problem. New compound words, or new names, for example complex company names, are a challenge for language processing systems. But procedures that rely on memory, i.e. past data, are bound to fail here, so appropriate ways of invoking rules are essential.

Finally, a number of papers addressed the inputs and outputs for work in this whole area, namely the general requirements for systematically described corpus data as input, and the evaluation of the results of data analysis, both from a methodological point of view and as illustrations

of the performance that language processors exploiting statistical resources can currently achieve.

The forum and format of the meeting, both prestigious and neutral, were well suited to an international event cutting across institutional affiliations. The fact that the meeting was organized jointly with the Royal Society enhanced the interdisciplinary character of the proceedings and was helpful in particular in reaching scientists and engineers, to complement the Academy's linguists and phoneticians. Attendance was good and included many younger researchers, as the organizers had hoped.

It is, of course, difficult to say whether a meeting held only a few months ago, in an area in which media-friendly 'discoveries' and 'breakthroughs' do not figure, and where the papers have only very recently been published, has had an effect. But the discussion that followed each paper was extensive and invariably constructive. And the feedback from those who attended was uniformly positive: one participant commented that it was the only such event at which he had felt moved to attend every paper, and the only one at which he had no cause to regret any of his attendance. More generally, the time was clearly right for such a meeting and the comments made by participants suggest that it will encourage relevant research, both by those who were there and by those who seek out and read the published papers.

The proceedings of the meeting (including reports of the discussion) were published in April 2000 by the Royal Society, in the Philosophical Transactions: Mathematical, Physical and Engineering Sciences Series A, Volume 358, Issue 1769.

Indo-Iranian Languages and Peoples

To mark the centenary of the birth of Sir Harold Walter Bailey FBA (1899–1996) a symposium was held at Brooklands House, Cambridge, on 16–18 December 1999. The symposium was planned by Professor Nicholas Sims-Williams FBA, with the sponsorship of the British Academy and the Ancient India and Iran Trust. **Dr Elizabeth Tucker**, *University of Oxford, reports on the event.*

Sir Harold Walter Bailey FBA can be described without any risk of exaggeration as one of the most remarkable scholars of the twentieth century. Born in Wiltshire on 16 December 1899, but brought up in Western Australia without formal schooling, he taught himself one language after another, to such good effect as to win the chair of Sanskrit in the University of Cambridge at the age of 36, to become the world's leading expert in Khotanese, the mediaeval Iranian language of the kingdom of Khotan in Chinese Turkestan, and to be knighted for his services to scholarship in 1960. He was a Fellow of the British Academy for over fifty years, from 1944 until his death in 1996 – which is a record! – so it was highly appropriate that the symposium which marked his centenary should be jointly sponsored by the British Academy and the Ancient India and Iran Trust, the educational charity based in Cambridge, which he had helped to set up and to which he had left his prodigious library.

Three birthday cakes, each inscribed with the numeral 100 in the Sogdian language (photograph: R.E. Emmerick)

The three-day symposium, which began with a birthday tea-party and the First Sir Harold Bailey Memorial Lecture, delivered by R.E. Emmerick FBA, brought together 44 participants from the UK, France, Germany, the Netherlands, Finland, Russia and the USA. The scheduled sessions at Brooklands House, held in the homely but impressive surroundings of Sir Harold Bailey's library, were interspersed by enthusiastic discussions, to which all those present could contribute. In keeping with Bailey's own publications on Indo-Iranian, the chronological, geographical and linguistic span of the papers was wide, and only a selection can be mentioned here.

James Mallory examined archaeological models that might provide clues about the migrations of Indo-Europeans to Asia, and admitted how difficult it is to identify an 'Indo-Iranian' material culture across so vast an area. His tentative hypothesis was that some Indo-European steppeland tribes had passed through the distinctive Bactria-Margiana/Oxus zone, emerging and moving southwards with the same language, but with a different material culture, social organisation and religion.

The only paper on Sanskrit was Asko Parpola's discussion of how Vedic dialect features may be correlated with the movements of Indo-Aryan tribes during the second and first millennia BC. However, Bailey's Middle Indic interests were strongly represented by three papers on the languages of Buddhism: K.R. Norman FBA on Pali, Oskar von Hinüber on Buddhist Hybrid Sanskrit, and Richard Salomon on the new materials available for the study of Gāndhārī.

The most archaic Iranian languages present considerable problems, because of the small size of the Old Persian epigraphic corpus, and the transmission of the Avesta via a very defective medieval manuscript tradition. Jost Gippert explained how this manuscript tradition is now being re-evaluated with the aid of present day electronic technology: a digitized database of variant readings can be used to study not only the

interdependence of the manuscripts, but also dialect variation within the corpus, and correspondences between Avestan and Vedic.

The recently retrieved Bactrian documents, dating probably from 342–781 AD, are of outstanding importance for Middle Iranian philology. Nicholas Sims-Williams reported on the linguistic discoveries, and Franz Grenet outlined the history of the Kidarite and Hephthalite kingdoms that encompassed Sogdiana, Bactria, Margiana and NW India during the 5–7th centuries AD.

Alexander Lubotsky used present-day Ossetic evidence to argue that loans from its remote ancestor, a language of the Ancient Scythians, were present in Old Persian and Avestan. Ivan Steblin-Kamenskij discussed the historical position of Wakhi in a most entertaining manner, and proved how Bailey's work is being carried on by distributing a list of 300 Wakhi addenda to Bailey's *Dictionary of Khotan Saka*.

Contributions to this splendidly successful event will be published in the *Proceedings of the British Academy*.

The following extract is taken from R.E. Emmerick's memoir of Harold Bailey, published in the Proceedings of the British Academy *volume 101 (see page 29).*

Incredible as it may seem, despite the fact that Bailey was publishing books and articles at an enormous rate, it should not be forgotten that he was all the time heavily engaged in teaching, much of it voluntary. Many students of the classical languages who had an interest in comparative philology used to ask him to read Vedic hymns with them, which he did with great enthusiasm, an enthusiasm that made a lasting impression on most of them. I do not know whether it was always so, but by the time I participated in these classes, reading texts with Bailey really meant listening to him etymologise each of the words of the texts successively. Grammar and syntax do not seem to have interested him very much, but sometimes he would talk for hours on the form of a single word. At a speech in Queens' in 1960 he confessed: 'I have talked for ten and a half hours on the problem of one word without approaching the further problem of its meaning.'

Bailey's teaching method was the very reverse of interactive and would no doubt be frowned upon by educationalists, but those with sufficient ability could in this way derive maximum profit from his vast resources of knowledge. Word soon got around that Bailey was a mine of information that he delighted in sharing with students and professors alike. Many who came with a simple question were amazed at the casual way in which he was able to produce from his vast library book after book and article after article that had a bearing on the question.

Bailey did take care of his students' interests. He would not only invite them to tea to meet visiting scholars, but was solicitous of their welfare in general. He was for example concerned about how Ratna Handurukande coming from Ceylon would cope with the cold and kept a thick rug on a chair in case she needed to cover her feet during supervisions. I myself was amused to receive from Bailey a letter dated 31 May 1962, in which he wrote: 'I write just to remind you that the Examination Part I (your two Khotanese Papers) begins on 4 June but suppose you will not overlook it. Best wishes, HW Bailey.'

The Survey of English Place-Names

The English Place-Name Society has been in existence since 1923, and has been supported morally and financially by the British Academy for most of these 77 years. The main purpose of the Society is to conduct and to publish a national place-name survey. **Professor Richard Coates**, *President of the English Place-Name Society, outlines the original aims of the project, and traces the paths of new developments springing from the central project.*

The Survey of English Place-Names was formally adopted as an Academy Research Project in 1970. The Society publishes the results of the Survey county by county, and supplementary material and commentary is published in its annual Journal. Further details can be found via www.britac.ac.uk/arp

The brief of the English Place-Name Society (EPNS) in conducting the Survey of English Place-Names was quite clear: scholars on the project were to collect spellings of place-names from ancient documents, arrange them, deduce the origin of the names and publish the results in book form. This looks like a recipe for humdrum work, and it might lead one to wonder why on earth the Survey is not finished. There were, after all, 39 traditional counties in England; most of the early counties were published at the rate of one volume per year, and mostly one volume per county, until the Second World War. So why is Lincolnshire projected to take up 29 volumes, and why have there been important developments of the original goals?

The pioneers, Sir Frank Stenton FBA and Sir Allen Mawer FBA, certainly had an agenda which is recognized today as very restrictive. They regarded place-name study as a handmaiden of historical study, and specifically English historical study. Its job was to reveal some of the secrets of the intermittently-lit centuries between the coming of the Anglo-Saxons and the flowering of their literate culture. Angles, Saxons, and maybe even Jutes – who went where? Could dialect in place-names reveal anything about this? Were any of the lost places mentioned in the *Anglo-Saxon Chronicle* and by Bede – *Fethanleag, Icanhoh, Infeppingum, Wippedesfleot* – recorded in medieval legal documents before their names disappeared for ever, and could their location therefore be recovered? Did place-names reveal anything of English social organization, or about the assimilation of the invading Danes of the ninth century? This led the Survey to be a very English operation, conducted mainly by scholars of the English language, mainly in English departments in English universities, with some major input from English language scholars in Sweden.

Inevitably, major changes have marked the progress of the Survey. Firstly, some of the old certainties disappeared. Place-names themselves controverted some initial assumptions. The names constructed according to the ancient formula *X-ingas*, 'sons of, followers of, X', like Hastings, were assumed to be original and archetypal settlements of the Anglo-Saxons until John McNeal Dodgson established that these names and pagan cemeteries disobligingly failed to coincide to any significant degree; such names must therefore be later than the initial settlement phase. Secondly, the names came to be seen as having their own interest as linguistic objects, rather than merely as historical indicators. At the broad-brush level, that meant that all names, and not just the names of parishes, Domesday manors, medieval farms and hundreds and wapentakes, were worthy of collection and analysis. Occasional disparaging remarks in early volumes about 'other names' in some parish being 'of no great interest', and therefore ignored, are now viewed as completely out of order. The size of a county project accordingly inflated in two stages, firstly to include field- and other minor names that were of special historical interest or of great longevity, and then to include all field-names, using the forms in the nineteenth-century Tithe Awards as the basis, in order to give the fullest possible account of the onomastic landscape of individual parishes. A first codification of the field-name data was provided in John Field's *English field-names: a dictionary* (1972), and the topic was treated discursively in his *History of English field-names* (1993). Place-name study now intersected with agricultural history as well as national history. At the linguistic level, Dodgson also demonstrated that the structure of place-names could be far more varied than previously believed, for example in that the grammatical case of the first element in compounds could be other than the genitive.

Contact with historical and physical geography and with geology has also borne much fruit since around 1965, and set up new paradigms of research. In his inaugural lecture at the University of Nottingham delivered in that year, Kenneth Cameron FBA demonstrated that there was a correlation between names with the element *by* (and other Danish elements) and particular types of surface geology in the East Midlands, especially recent gravels and blown sand and the fringes of areas of Boulder Clay. (See the map in Figure 1.) That told us something about the Danish settlement, because their farms were on strata that

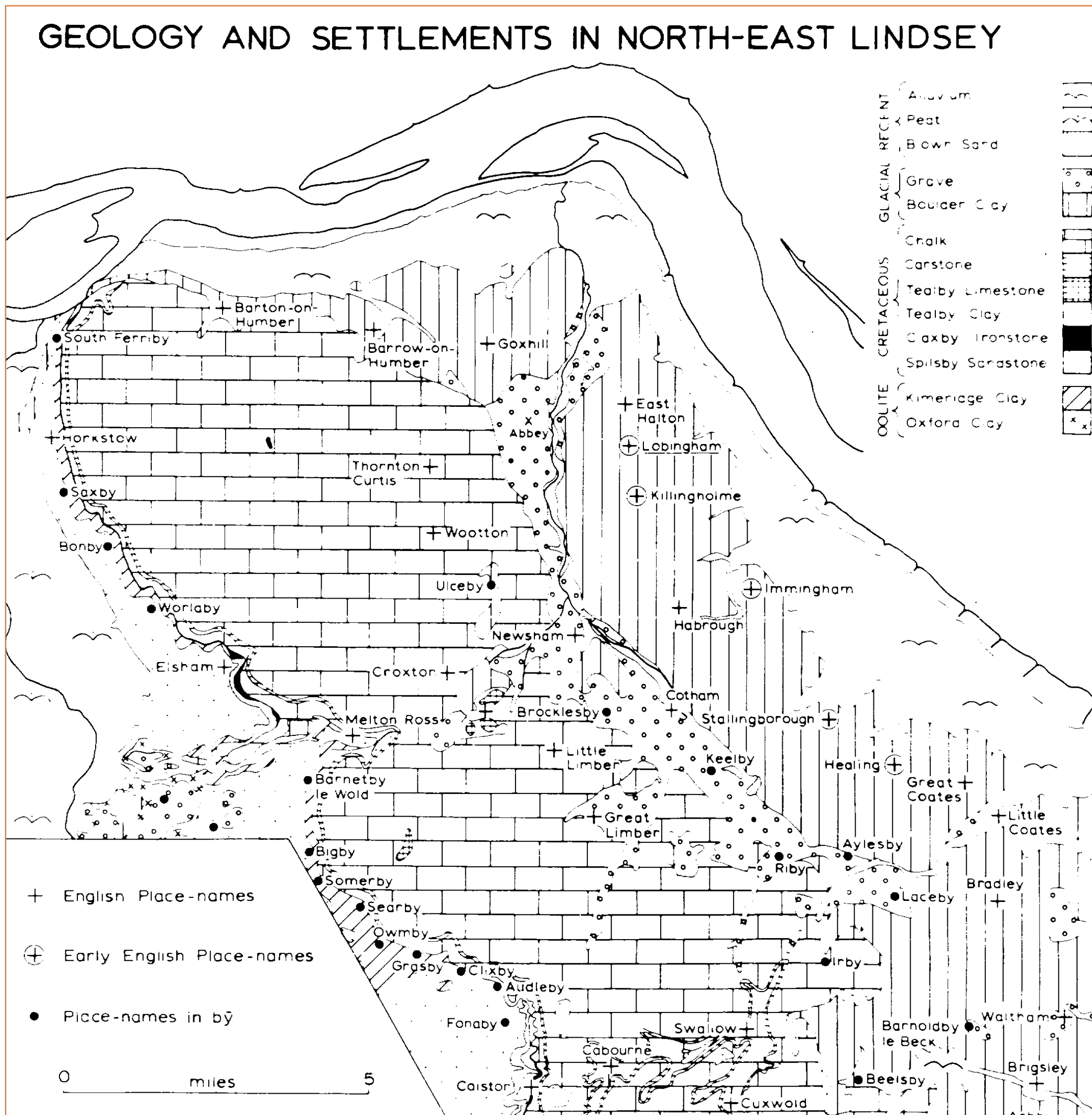


Figure 1: K. Cameron, Geology and settlements in north-east Lindsey (1965)

yielded soils of a type markedly poorer than those of the neighbouring places with names of English origin. The Danes had accepted inferior, and probably virgin, land to farm; many must therefore have come as settlers under the protection of the Great Army, and not as warlords or decommissioned soldiers expropriating the English. Place-name study had been able to illuminate history in an unexpected way: the Danish settlement of much of Lincolnshire must have been peaceful.

New understandings have been achieved through the work of Margaret Gelling FBA and Ann Cole about the Anglo-Saxons' perception of landscape. We once knew vaguely that *dun, hyll, ora* and *ofer* all meant 'hill'; from their work on correlating name-elements with landforms, we now know that they denoted hills with different characteristics, respectively 'hill with a summit suitable for a settlement', 'hill with an irregular outline', 'slope, bank', and 'flat-topped ridge or tip of a promontory'. Similar increased grasp of the finer points of Old English lexical semantics has been achieved in relation to stream-words, e.g. *burna* 'intermittent stream, clear stream' as contrasted with *broc* 'slow-moving stream with muddy, ill-defined banks', each with characteristic vegetation, and with words for valleys, e.g. *denu* 'long, steep-sided valley' versus *cumb* 'short valley with a bowl-shaped end' and *hop* 'confined valley' (in the north and west of England and the borderlands). Dodgson has given us a typology of sites named with *hamm* 'topographically partly surrounded land', e.g. 'land in a river-bend', 'enclosure', etc.

All these essentially interdisciplinary developments have meant that the county surveys are edited by

scholars with a much keener eye for the evidential value of names, and for the role of environment in elucidating names, than our great predecessors had. A further dimension of increasing linguistic subtlety needs to be brought out. The pioneers' concentration on names formed in English and Scandinavian, the staple of English and Medieval departments, has been found limiting. It has always been known, of course, that the English were preceded in Britain by Brittonic Celts, and that their language must have impacted on the landscape. As the Survey progressed westward, the need for expert appreciation of the history of that language was felt more and more, and Celticists have contributed greatly to the Survey, especially the volumes on Cumberland and Cornwall, the areas where Brittonic speech held out longest. They have also maintained a watching brief in other counties. Whereas the older tendency was to try to explain the most difficult names as English, it is now normal to experiment with full Celtic solutions.

As well as the long-term inflation in the size of the county projects – only Rutland has been squeezed into one (500-page) volume since 1943 – we have seen recent diversification in the range of publications. The current Director, Victor Watts, has instituted three new series of volumes ancillary to the Survey. We now have a Popular series. This does not imply that the earlier classic works were unpopular, but responds to the fact that there is public demand for regional survey volumes at a level of detail significantly less than that offered by the classic volumes, and with greatest concentration on the names of towns and villages. Lincolnshire is the first county to be so treated (by Kenneth Cameron), but the first volume of Margaret Gelling's county survey *The place-names of Shropshire* is organized in a comparable way. We have a Supplementary series, whose prime function is to fill in what are now perceived as holes in the coverage of the classic volumes, the first being about the minor names of a parish in West Sussex, West Thorney. And finally we have an Extra series, intended for works which are related to place-name study but which are not county surveys at all; the first is a book on *English place-names in skaldic verse*. This recognizes that the study of place-names can be enhanced by lights shone from many different directions.

The Survey has recently benefited from much related activity financed by grants other than the crucial bedrock funding from the Academy and now the AHRB, and from the preparation of other significant research tools. The Leverhulme Trust financed a project called *The vocabulary of English place-names*, which sets out to update A.H. Smith's 44-year-old dictionary of words found in place-

afnám ON, *n.* 'plot taken from common or undeveloped land'. In OWN prose texts *afnám* tends to mean 'a share reserved before the general division of property', while in 14th-century Swedish *afnām* is found with the meaning 'land severed from an estate'. In English usage, however, the term seems specifically to denote land newly enclosed for private cultivation (cf. Atkinson 1886, Ekwall 1918:195–6).

ME often has *of-*, from OE, and it is interesting that a parallel OE ***innām** (apparently the same process seen from the opposite viewpoint, a taking *into* cultivated land rather than *from* undeveloped land) seems to have existed independently. Moreover, OE *ofniman* is attested. The distribution of ME *ofnam*, however, suggests that it is an Anglicisation of the ON term.

The term is common in northern minor and f.ns. It is often unclear whether it is used as a name or a common noun.

(a) Avena'croftes c.1270 Cu:436 (**croft**).

(b) Ofnam (f.n.) 1160 YN:329, Haynholme 12th YW, *avenames* (f.n.) c. 1208 YW:2·60, Yanham (f.n.) 1208–49 We:1·75, *Lavenum* (f.n.)1252 YW:1·161, *Ofnumes* (f.n.) c.1255 Cu:165, Aynhems 1290 YW, *Afnames* (f.n.) e.13th Ch:4·198, Little Aynam (st.n. Kendal) 1409 We, Avenham 1591 La.

~ ON *nema* 'to take', ON *af*, OE *of* 'from'. Cf. ***innām, inntak.**

ONP *af·nám*; MED *ofnăm*; EDD –; OED –.

Figure 2: D. Parsons and T. Styles, sample entry from The vocabulary of English place-names, *fascicle 1 (1997):* afnám

names; the first fascicle was published in 1997 by David Parsons and Tania Styles, and the second is imminent. (See the sample entry in Figure 2.) At the end of the Leverhulme grant, in 1996, the project was taken over by the British Academy's Humanities Research Board. Its successor, the AHRB, is financing a one-year project, directed by Richard Coates and David Parsons, called *A digital archive of the place-names of England*, which is taking the first steps to making a database of place-name spellings which will be available and interrogatable online. It is hoped to have the original EPNS volumes for Hampshire (unpublished) and Sussex (published in 1929–30) ready in late 2000, and a pilot collection for Suffolk, constructed from scratch, well advanced by the end of this year. In 2001, we shall see the publication of Victor Watts's important new *Cambridge dictionary of English place-names*, the first new countrywide dictionary since the fourth and final edition of Eilert Ekwall's monumental work in 1960 and its successor from OUP by A.D. Mills published in 1991.

The main line of the Survey continues, but informed by the far-reaching developments that I have outlined. The counties currently being published, in multi-volume form, of course, are Dorset, Leicestershire, Norfolk, Lincolnshire and Shropshire; active but as yet unpublished are Cornwall (apart from a fine dictionary of Cornish-language elements by O.J. Padel), Durham, Northumberland, Hampshire and Kent; just begun under new editors are Lancashire and Suffolk, where the original endeavour had lapsed. Staffordshire is stalled owing to the death of the editor after one volume had been published; and Somerset enjoys the bleak distinction of being the only county that has never had any fully active editorial attention. All other counties have a complete published survey of widely varying degrees of coverage. Most scholars who take on a county these days accept that it will represent at least a substantial portion of a life's work and that they will require a battery of varied skills and disciplinary standpoints in addition to linguistic ones. Everything has conspired to make this project more difficult and more fascinating, both for the public who regularly fill halls for lectures given by EPNS scholars, and for the scholars themselves.

Corpus of Anglo-Saxon Stone Sculpture

A celebration was held on 14 July 1999 to mark the publication of the fifth volume in the series under the General Editorship of **Professor Rosemary Cramp***, who here describes the launch party and the new publication.*

The publication of each volume of the British Academy's Corpus of Anglo-Saxon Stone Sculpture has been a cause for celebration, but the publication of the latest volume, *Lincolnshire*, by Paul Everson and David Stocker, was something of a milestone. It was the first volume in the series to cover a single county and as such was the first for which there was one key centre at which a publication event could appropriately be held. The opportunity to publicise the series was therefore seized, and a very enjoyable launch party was held on 14 July 1999 at Edward King House next to the cathedral in Lincoln, including a reception which was sponsored by the Academy and arranged by the Publications Officer, James Rivington.

The event was linked to the annual residential meeting of Lincoln Cathedral's Fabric Advisory Committee and was attended by the Dean of Lincoln the Very Reverend A.F. Knight, the Lord Lieutenant of Lincolnshire Mrs B. Cracroft-Ely, and her honour the Mayor of Lincoln Councillor L. Woolley, as well as many distinguished scholars of Lincolnshire's history and archaeology and of Anglo-Saxon sculpture, including several Fellows of the Academy, and members of the project's steering committee which oversees the Academy's investment in this important area of scholarship. The event was prominently reported in the local press next day and a report was broadcast on Radio Lincolnshire.

Part of a grave-cover from Burton Pedwardine, Lincolnshire, with bull's head motif

The evening began with a lecture by the two authors of the Lincolnshire volume, which outlined the conclusions of their own survey, and also paid tribute to the earlier scholars in this field, in particular the Revd D.S. Davies early in the century and Dr L.A.S. Butler in the 1950s and 1960s. Both were masters of the most essential tool for research at this period, a bicycle.

The new volume catalogues nearly four times the quantity of items logged previously, predominantly of later pre-Conquest date, and it takes a distinctively archaeological approach to this large body of material. On the one hand, the ubiquitous nature of tenth-century and later funerary sculpture allows it to be used as evidence both for the development of local graveyards and also for the chronology and context of the parochial system in the region. On the other hand, the quantity of sculpture with various repetitive features permits the identification of separate groups of standardised products, mainly grave-covers and grave-markers. These have identifiable quarry sources and distinctive distributions, and were predominantly transported by waterways.

The restricted nature of these distributions can best be explained in relation to political developments in the territory of the Danelaw in the tenth and eleventh centuries. Earlier Anglo-Scandinavian forerunners of these patterns can also be identified – in Lincoln and the Lindsey region with links either to the Viking kingdom of York or the Scandinavian homelands, in the south of the county with a different local character characteristic of the Trent valley. By contrast, pre-

The Corpus of Anglo-Saxon Stone Sculpture was established as an Academy Research Project in 1972. Its aims are to publish fully-illustrated catalogues of Anglo-Saxon carved stones, with discussions of their context and significance. The series is published by the Academy. Further details of the work of the Committee and the volumes published by the Academy may be found via www.britac.ac.uk/arp

Viking items, though of high artistic quality, are rare and specialised in location and function.

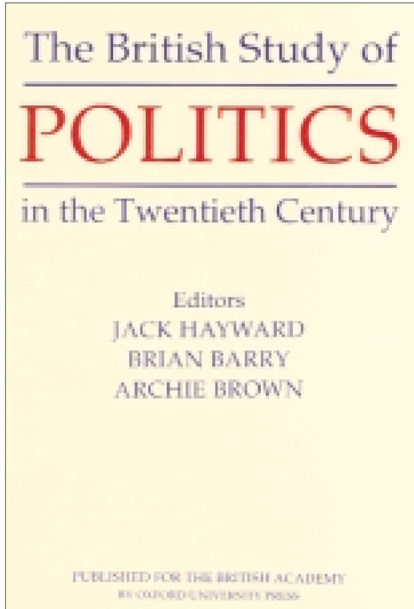
At the reception afterwards a short presentation was given, reviewing the progress of the Corpus to date. Those who have served on the Academy's steering committee under the chairmanship of Sir David Wilson FBA were thanked for the support they have lent since the project was established.

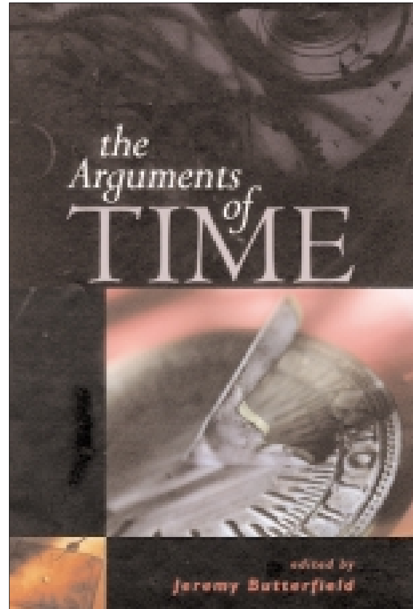
Professor Martin Biddle FBA rounded off the occasion by proposing congratulations to Professor Cramp for guiding the Corpus successfully through the first five volumes.

Figure 1 (below): Sites with sculpture in Lincolnshire

Publications

All the British Academy publications listed here are distributed by Oxford University Press.





The British Study of Politics in the Twentieth Century was launched at a reception held at the Academy on 13 October. For an extract from Professor Barry's concluding chapter, see page 32.

An extract from one of the essays in *The Arguments of Time* can be found on page 35.

British Academy 'Centenary Monographs'

The most significant event has been the publication of the first two British Academy 'Centenary Monographs'. The British Academy was established by Royal Charter in 1902 and therefore will be celebrating its Centenary in 2002 (for more information on the foundation of the Academy, see page 51). As part of a programme of events leading up to the Centenary, the Academy is publishing a series of major monographs to demonstrate the vitality of British scholarship at the start of the new millennium. The subject spread of the Centenary monographs will reflect the Academy's wide coverage of the humanities and social sciences. Some volumes will consider developments in scholarship in the 20th century, while others will look forward to the challenges of the next. Some monographs will simply take the opportunity to address a topic of current relevance.

The British Study of Politics in the Twentieth Century, edited by Jack Hayward FBA, Brian Barry FBA & Archie Brown FBA. ISBN 0-19-726191-4

This is a timely reminder of the extent and influence of a specifically British contribution to political thought and to the understanding of political processes and policy outcomes. It is a deliberate effort of intellectual self-consciousness to improve British political scientists' understanding of their own discipline. The team of contributors is exceptionally distinguished, mainly senior people in their fields but including several outstanding younger scholars.

The British study of politics throughout the twentieth century is charted and interpreted for the first time by a team of major scholars brought together on the initiative of the Political Studies section of the British Academy. The authors trace the growing professionalism of political science in the second half of the century, while not neglecting earlier contributions to the field by historians, philosophers, lawyers, politicians and journalists.

Specialists in the various branches of the discipline provide a critical appraisal of work in areas where British scholarship has been important. Their chapters go beyond disciplinary history to provide interpretations of the interplay between the tumultuous political developments of the century and the framework of analysis for interpreting political life.

The distinctive strength of political theory and the history of political thought in British universities is examined, and attention is paid to influential institutional analyses, both comparatively and in Britain, as well as to the study of political parties, interests, elections and public opinion. The innovative contribution of British authors to analyses of nationalism, totalitarianism and authoritarianism is dissected and an influential British approach to the study of international relations scrutinized. Broad-ranging introductory and concluding chapters provide overviews of the development of Politics as an academic discipline in Britain and assess past trends and future prospects.

The Arguments of Time, edited by Jeremy Butterfield FBA. ISBN 0-19-726207-4

This breaks new ground within the philosophy of time, by showing that it bears on such topics as memory and the experience of time in literature, quantum gravity research in physics, and the control of human action in psychology. Nine essays by outstanding senior figures from Britain, the Americas, and Australia – commissioned on the initiative of the Philosophy section of the British Academy – address fundamental questions about time in philosophy, physics, linguistics, and psychology. Are there facts about the future? Could we affect the past? In physics, general relativity and quantum theory give contradictory treatments of time. So in the current search for a theory of quantum gravity, which

should give way: general relativity or quantum theory? In linguistics and psychology, how does our language represent time, and how do our minds keep track of it?

The period July–December 1999 was a very busy one for the Academy's publishing programme. In addition to the two volumes listed above, a further 11 volumes were published.

Proceedings of the British Academy

World Prehistory: Studies in Memory of Grahame Clark, edited by John Coles FBA, Robert Bewley & Paul Mellars FBA. *Proceedings of the British Academy 99* ISBN 0-19-726196-5

Sir Grahame Clark (died 1995) was the foremost figure in world prehistoric studies – indeed, he invented the idea of a 'world prehistory'. He established pioneering research projects, sending out his students to all corners of the world. This volume presents new developments and perspectives in Clark's major fields of interest, as well as reflecting on his own contribution to archaeological scholarship. Many of the eminent authors are former students or colleagues, from as far afield as Australia, New Zealand, South Africa and the United States. The topics covered range from the origins of our own genus in Africa around two million years ago, to the issues of the Later Stone Age and the emergence of civilization in Northern Europe, Anatolia, and south-east Asia. The volume arises from an Academy conference held in November 1997.

Reform in Great Britain and Germany 1750–1850, edited by T.C.W. Blanning FBA & Peter Wende. *Proceedings of the British Academy 100* ISBN 0-19-726201-5

These nine papers, by leading British, Irish and German scholars, show how and why, in a crucial period of history, these countries preferred change that was gradual and consensual to radical and violent revolution. In the study of late eighteenth-century Europe the concept of 'reform', both in theory and in practice, has been neglected compared to the attention lavished on its more glamorous relation 'revolution'. Yet it was reform not revolution which characterised the experience of both Great Britain and Germany from 1750 to 1850. This volume takes a comparative approach to shed all manner of new light on old problems.

The British ship of state sailed untroubled through the turbulence created by the French Revolution without having to do much more than take in the occasional sail and flog the odd mutineer. Germany was certainly revolutionised after 1789, not least by the destruction of the Holy Roman Empire, but it was change imposed from outside, not generated from within by domestic subversion. Indeed, the various forms of exploitation suffered at the hands of the French Revolutionaries and their heir, Napoleon, only served to strengthen a long-established German preference for gradual change through reform.

Though violent and rapid change may be more dramatic than gradual adaptation, this volume reveals that the study of the latter stimulates just as much intellectual excitement.

The volume arises from an Academy conference held in September 1997.

Proceedings of the British Academy 101: 1998 Lectures and Memoirs ISBN 0-19-726209-0

Contains the texts of 12 British Academy lectures (on literature, history, economics and politics), and 12 obituaries of Fellows of the Academy.

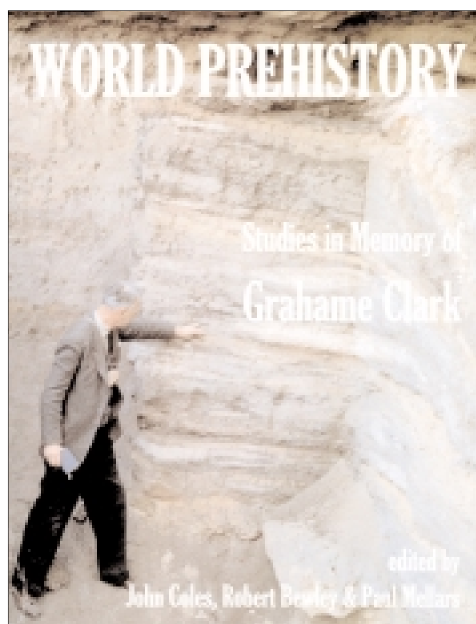
An extract from the obituary of Sir Harold Bailey can be found on page 21

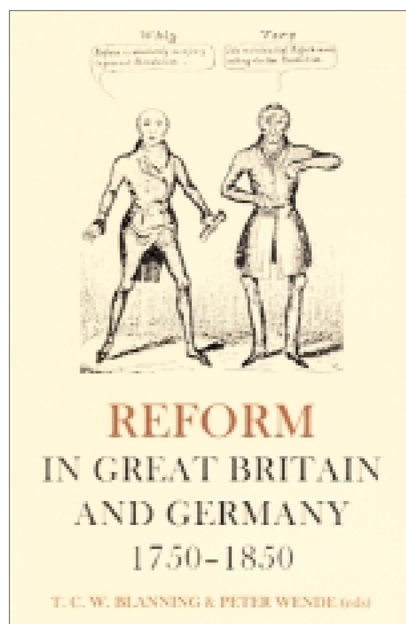
Postdoctoral Fellowship Monographs

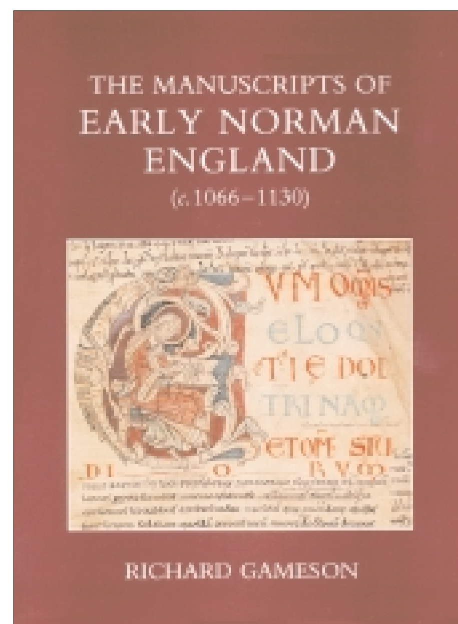
The Academy operates a scheme for the selective publication of monographs arising from its British Academy Postdoctoral Fellowships – to assist individual PDFs by providing a prestigious publishing opportunity that will be seen as a mark of excellence, and to act as a showcase for the PDF scheme itself. The Post-doctoral Fellowship Monographs series is now well established, with three more volumes appearing at the end of 1999:

The Manuscripts of Early Norman England (*c.* 1066–1130), by Richard Gameson. ISBN 0-19-726190-6.

This will be the standard work of reference for the field for many years to come. It provides for the first time a comprehensive guide to the books, texts and literary culture of England in the generations after the Norman Conquest. It includes succinct descriptions of all the surviving manuscripts, complemented by an alphabetical listing of the texts there represented; while a separate inventory details the texts







known from book-lists. A substantial introduction discusses the growth of English book collections as a whole during this period, and surveys the intellectual interests attested by the texts that were collected. Twenty-four plates illustrate palaeographical developments. This is a vital source for the study of early medieval cultural history.

The Cut: Reading Bataille's *Histoire de l'œil*, by Patrick ffrench. ISBN 0-19-726200-7

Patrick ffrench provides an imaginative theoretical reading of an unsettling masterpiece by the French writer Georges Bataille, recognised now as a major figure in twentieth-century French literature. The obscene, erotic and disturbing text *Histoire de l'œil* (1928), is a traumatic event in the history of modernity. The structure, mechanisms, and violence of Bataille's text are analysed in detail, as is the role it has already played in critical theory. Dr ffrench seeks to position *Histoire de l'œil* in its true context, as a key moment in the culture of the first half of the 20th century.

Kuwait 1950–1965: Britain, the al-Sabah, and Oil, by Simon C. Smith. ISBN 0-19-726197-3

Based on a wide range of official and private papers, this study examines the development of relations between Kuwait and Britain during the reign of Shaikh Abdullah Salim – a period of spectacular expansion in oil production. Of particular concern are Kuwait's role in the post-war British economy, the survival of the al-Sabah ruling family in an era of unprecedented change, and the interaction of Kuwait with the Arab world. The volume is essential reading for anyone wishing to understand the background to the politics of the Gulf.

Academy Research Project volumes

Corpus of Anglo-Saxon Stone Sculpture V: Lincolnshire, by Paul Everson & David Stocker. ISBN 0-19-726188-4

The wealth of pre-Conquest sculpture in Lincolnshire, recorded here definitively for the first time, forms a crucial source for our understanding of the Anglo-Scandinavian period in this region. Illustrated by excellent photographs, the catalogue contains fresh discussions of such famous carvings as Crowle, Edenham, and South Kyme. It also includes many newly discovered pieces and important re-evaluations of others. Several major groups of sculpture are identified, extending across the East Midlands in the tenth and eleventh centuries. The authors discuss how this material provides evidence for settlement and administrative structures, both lay and clerical, in this part of the Danelaw.

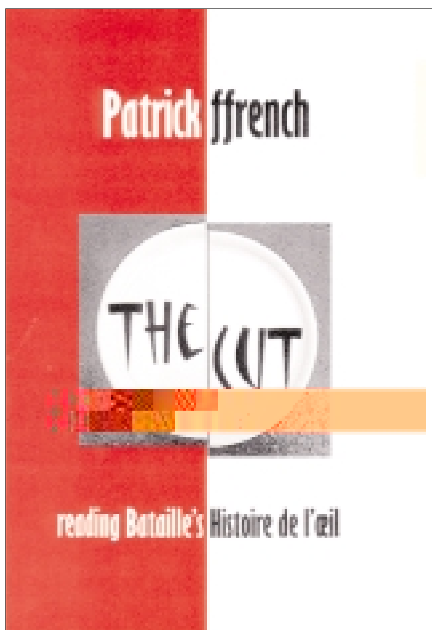
The volume was launched at a reception in Lincoln on 14 July. See page 26

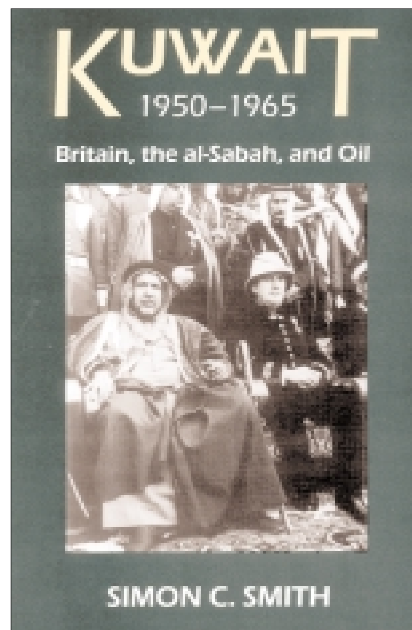
English Episcopal Acta 15: London 1076–1187, edited by Falko Neininger. ISBN 0-19-726179-5

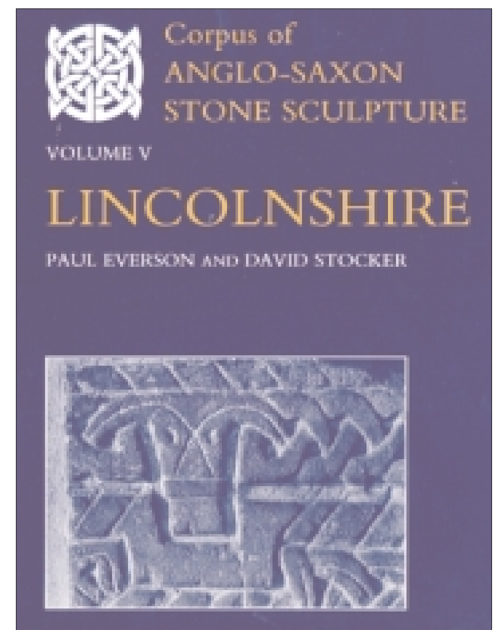
London was the largest city in the Anglo-Norman empire, and its bishops were therefore figures of the utmost importance. The 250 acta recorded in this volume testify to their role in the development of episcopal government and its documentation. One of the most significant figures of the twelfth century was Bishop Gilbert Foliot (1163–1187), who tangled famously with Thomas Becket. The volume contains important additions and corrections to Morey & Brooke's edition of Foliot's correspondence and updates our understanding of the man and his acta in the light of the latest scholarship.

English Episcopal Acta 18: Salisbury 1078–1217, edited by B.R. Kemp. ISBN 0-19-726198-1

This latest *EEA* volume publishes the acta of the bishops of Salisbury 1078–1217, during which period the see was located at Old Sarum. This distinguished sequence of five bishops includes Roger, Henry I's chief minister, and Hubert Walter, afterwards archbishop of Canterbury and justiciar. The acta contain a wealth of fascinating detail not only about the churches, monasteries and clergy of the diocese (covering Berkshire, Dorset and Wiltshire), but also about a great variety of legal, administrative, social, economic and cultural matters of the period.







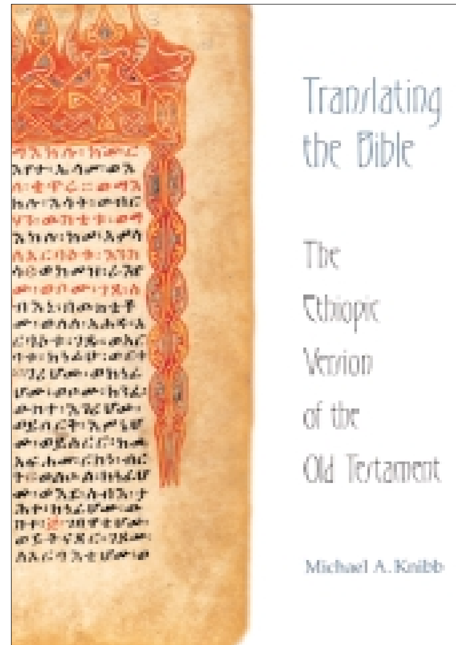
Other volumes

Translating the Bible: The Ethiopic Version of the Old Testament, by Michael A. Knibb FBA. *Schweich Lectures on Biblical Archaeology 1995.* ISBN 0-19-726194-9

These Schweich Lectures tackle the origin, history, and character of the Ethiopic translation of the Old Testament. This version is of fundamental importance both in terms of the influence it has exerted on Ethiopian life and culture, and as one of the 'daughter versions' of the Greek Old Testament – yet much remains unknown or uncertain about it. Professor Knibb argues that, notwithstanding the criticisms that have been made of it, the traditional view of the history of the Ethiopic version – translation from the Septuagint in the fifth–sixth century, revision on the basis of the Syriac-based Arabic texts in the fourteenth century, and a further revision in the fifteenth or sixteenth century on the basis of the Hebrew – is broadly correct, but that this view is in need of development and refinement in many details. The majority of the book is devoted to a study of the mode of translation, to 'translation technique'. There is a discussion of general aspects of the translation and syntactical issues, and the question of consistency and diversity in the translation-equivalents that are used is also addressed. Many of these issues are of general relevance to other ancient Bible translations.

Information Technology and Scholarship: Applications in the Humanities and Social Sciences, edited by Terry Coppock FBA. ISBN 0-19-726205-8

The impact of information technology is reviewed by scholars who are leading pioneers in the application of that technology to research in their disciplines. From both a general appreciation of their fields, and from their own personal research, they discuss whether this impact amounts to a paradigm shift, posing new research themes and new approaches. This volume provides a unique overview of IT across a wide range of disciplines in both the humanities – archaeology, history (art, cultural, demographic, social), linguistics, music, philosophy and theatre studies – and the social sciences – economics, human geography, law, psychology, social anthropology and sociology. The volume provides a benchmark of the situation in the late 1990s from which future progress can be assessed.



Politics as a Vocation

In an edited extract from his chapter in The British Study of Politics in the Twentieth Century, **Professor Brian Barry FBA** *considers how the study of politics in Britain became professionalized over the course of the last century. In contrast to other contributors to the volume who provide a wealth of information about the work done by British political scientists in the twentieth century, Professor Barry inspects not the product, but the producers.*

Numbers make a difference. The number of university teachers grew two and a half times between the turn of the century and the outbreak of the Second World War. It then increased fourteen-fold between 1939 and 1991. Since then, numbers have continued to increase in response to a rapid growth in student numbers, despite declining funding per student. As far as the study of politics in particular is concerned, in 1950, a 'rather relaxed community of about a hundred scholars formed the membership of the Political Studies Association'. This figure can be compared with the current PSA membership of around 1,100 (to which must be added a proportion of the 900 members of the British International Studies Association). A discipline with a hundred or so members must behave in a different way from one with over a thousand, and the study of politics in the first half of the century, before the founding of the PSA, is markedly different from the second half.

The most striking feature of the study of politics in Britain in the first half of the century is its very weak tendency to disciplinary boundary-maintenance. Jack Hayward reminds us that not only had British academics managed until 1950 without a professional association, but even then they thought only that an annual meeting 'ought to be possible' and the 'publication … perhaps even of a journal' might be considered. There were journals for academics to publish in before the founding of *Political Studies* in 1953, but they catered for a readership that was quite largely outside academia; indeed, in 1923, the first year in which *Public Administration* was published, only ten per cent of the articles were written by academics. I surmise that the hesitation about starting a journal arose not so much from financial worries as from doubts about the possibility – or perhaps even the desirability – of encouraging academics to publish articles addressed primarily to their peers.

I have no way of showing the pervasiveness of the early hostility to the article as a mode of academic communication. However, I can offer some anecdotal evidence from the LSE. Reginald Bassett, one of the senior founders of the PSA, took the view that the only appropriate form of scholarly discourse was the book. And as late as 1987, Elie Kedourie rejected a case for promotion based (in addition to a book) on a number of articles in leading journals such as the *American Political Science Review* with an expressive shrug and the single word 'Articles!'.

The peculiarity of politics is highlighted by a comparison with sister disciplines of economics and philosophy. The *Economic Journal* and *Mind* both began publication around 1890, and provided a forum for technically demanding work. Yet the number of British academics in these subjects was comparable to the number in politics. We may reasonably ask how those other disciplines would have progressed if articles had had to be accessible to anyone with a professed interest in the subject, regardless of their background. The crucial difference appears to be that economics and philosophy both had a core of technique, and, even though postgraduate qualifications were a rarity, teachers had at least normally studied those subjects as undergraduates. This enabled the content of the curriculum to become over time more arcane, accessible only to those with an increasingly specialized background. Teachers of politics failed in the first half of the century to make even an undergraduate qualification in the subject a requirement.

One index of the professionalization of the subject, since the foundation of the PSA, is the way in which the PhD has ceased to be an option, regarded in some quarters with deep suspicion, and become a virtual necessity for the acquisition of a permanent appointment. This change did not occur until a long way into the second half of the century. When I proposed to do a doctorate in 1958 it was explained to me that doctorates were only for people with something to hide – the words used by Sir Isaiah Berlin that have stuck in my memory – such as a second-class degree from a first-rate institution or any sort of degree from a second-rate institution. If control over recruitment is critical to the maintenance of any guild, we can say that in this respect professionalization has now been achieved. Admittedly, politics is still more hospitable to those with doctorates outside the

subject than its sister disciplines (a phenomenon that is also observable in the United States and elsewhere), but to a great extent academics are now reproducing themselves within the discipline.

Another aspect of professionalization is the tendency to address fellow academics rather than interested outsiders. The explosion of journals in all branches of the discipline in Britain since the 1970s means that publication – and for the most part publication addressed in the first instance to other academics – has become the professional norm.

Here again, the change occurs mostly in the second half of our period, as a new (and larger) cohort moved in to the system and progressed through the ranks. Thus, when the *British Journal of Political Science* (founded in 1971) had been running for a couple of years, Tony King and I, its first two editors, were struck by the absence of contributions from senior academics in Britain. To find out what was going on, we commissioned a count of articles in all journals by British academics of the rank of senior lecturer and above, which showed that very few were publishing articles anywhere: we were not being singled out for neglect. Of course, this finding still requires interpretation. Were we looking at a cohort whose members eschewed journal publications throughout their careers, or was it that promotion led to putting away childish things such as articles? I can only offer the guess that it was some of both.

What have been the incentives facing academics who have chosen to pursue a career in the study of politics, and how have they changed in the past half-century? Universities have maintained a uniform hierarchy of positions, but this stability conceals something approaching a revolution in the way in which promotions are made. In the 1950s and 1960s, a handful of powerful figures dominated appointments to chairs. Outsiders were especially well placed to manipulate appointments to chairs in those universities (the vast majority) in which each department had a single professorial head. Since only professors took part in the appointment of professors, and by convention a professor could not play a part in his own replacement, the committee making the decision necessarily contained no internal members with any competence in the subject to be filled. In these circumstances, the criteria that formed the basis of recommendation had a profound effect on the pattern of appointments. Moreover, beliefs about these criteria, even if unfounded, will have had effects on the calculations of aspiring academics. It was widely held that one eminent professor wrote rave references for all his protégés, regardless of their merits: he was accused by those aware of this foible of 'crying swan'. A solid appreciation of Association Football made up for a lot, with another powerful personage, in the way of lack of academic talent. A third was thought to place little weight – if anything perhaps a negative weight – on publication, and his own record and that of his protégés seemed to support this.

As late as the end of the 1970s I was interviewed for a chair at a quite well-regarded provincial university by a committee consisting of several local councillors and businessmen, plus an assortment of professors from around the university. I shall say of the occasion only that the pen of a Tom Sharpe would be required to do it justice.

Entertaining as the study of what F.M. Cornford called the 'peculiarities of powerful persons' may be, it should not conceal the more important systematic point that such persons existed. Over a period around five years either side of 1980 – no doubt at an uneven pace across the whole of the higher education system – the old ways fell into disrepute. It came to be felt that appointments and promotions must be made on grounds that could stand up to public scrutiny. Numbers themselves surely made a difference here. As the number of universities grew, the number of jobs and the number of candidates increased, and the candidates came from an increasingly large and heterogeneous set of institutions. It is scarcely to be wondered at if the previous cosy arrangements broke down. A committee charged with appointments or promotions wishing to act in a way that is publicly defensible is virtually driven to giving a dominant role to publication. Once under way, the tendency to weight publications is virtually self-reinforcing. For if all serious candidates have publications, this puts appointing committees in a good position to form a judgement of their relative merits, based on their actual achievement, which leaves correspondingly less room for sponsors' speculation about the potential of candidates to determine decisions.

The implication is that the transformation in the role of publication was already essentially complete by the time the Research Assessment Exercise (RAE) was introduced in 1986. Nonetheless, it must certainly have concentrated the minds of any remaining laggards. For while the RAE ratings of departments did not affect their position directly, because any money earned on the basis of them was paid to their universities, the universities themselves

normally reacted by rewarding and punishing departments within them for doing well or badly in the RAE. This in turn gave those in departments responsible for making or recommending appointments and promotions strong incentives to pay a lot of attention to publication.

The editor of *Political Studies* has recently remarked on the steadily rising number of submissions to the journal and suggested as one explanation 'a different, more "publication focused" culture among the more recent members of the profession'. Setting aside appointments and promotions, highly visible publication is the key to rewards that lie outside an academic's own department or institution. These include invitations to present papers at conferences in (sometimes) interesting places, membership in international networks, and successful competition for externally-awarded research funding. It may be said, with some justice, that playing this particular game is not everybody's idea of a good time. However, the conjecture offered here is that the choice of playing it or refraining is less and less a matter of personal taste. Conformity to this model is increasingly regarded as what makes for a successful academic career – almost as much among those who are not successful on this criterion as among those who are.

What all this has left out, of course, are the intrinsic awards of research – *Rerum Cognoscere Causas*, as the motto of the LSE has it – as an end it itself. Max Weber wrote of those who respond to the academic calling most intensely as feeling that they are in the grip of 'a demon who holds the fibres of their very lives'. Some who are driven by the desire to know will be satisfied to get things straight in their own heads. Others will wish to get it straight in some written form, but be reluctant to go through the additional efforts required to get it into publishable form. Even those who have publication in mind may prefer to wait until an entire large-scale project is completed before letting it see the light of day. But for better or worse (in many ways worse, no doubt), this is incompatible with the emergent professional norm, not to mention the exigencies of the RAE. Among the reasons (a list of which is circulating on the Internet) explaining why God would not obtain tenure at a major American university is one that runs: 'Sure, He created the world, but what has He done lately?'. The academic anxious to be in the swim had better have done something lately.

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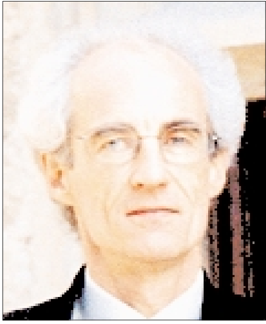
Past, Present, Proust

In an extract from the Centenary Monograph produced by the Academy's Philosophy Section, The Arguments of Time*, edited by Dr Jeremy Butterfield FBA,* **Professor Gregory Currie** *considers whether fiction can tell us anything about time. His chapter is entitled 'A Literary Philosophy of Time?' and here he takes a case study from Proust.*

The work most often cited as a source of literary ideas about time is Proust's *In Search of Lost Time*. In the final volume, Marcel, reclusive, disillusioned with literature and with life, visits the house of the Duke de Guermantes. As he arrives, his mood is lifted by a series of apparently trivial experiences – the impression of a paving stone beneath his foot, a sound, the touch of a napkins – on which he reflects while waiting to join the company. These experiences, like his earlier taste of the cake dipped in tea, bring a joyful indifference to the vicissitudes of fate and reveal themselves as recollections of past places and events. An involuntary memory, quite unlike the lifeless photographic recollections we actively summon, has recreated the past *in* the present; so Marcel concludes. From this he draws three further consequences, ethical, metaphysical and aesthetic. The first is that if we think life trivial, we judge it so on the evidence of active memory, which 'preserves nothing of life', whereas we should use the evidence of 'life itself', namely that provided by involuntary memory. The second is that such moments disclose the existence of a timeless essence which each one of us possesses and which experiences the fusion of temporal moments from outside time. The third is that such experiences, because they bring the past to life, allow an otherwise impossible but aesthetically desirable combination. For in such a case imagination, which is otherwise bound to absent things, can combine with a lively impression of the presentness of what is in fact past.

These, anyway, are Marcel's conclusions. But Marcel is a creature of fiction, and it is strictly speaking true only that it is fictional that he draws these conclusions. What are we supposed to take from this? Perhaps we should see in this episode an invitation to reflect on our own experience of memory, and perhaps to enter imaginatively into Marcel's experience, thereby gaining an experience like his. And then the question would be: do we find in this reflective-cum-imaginative projection grounds for accepting Marcel's conclusions? Let's take a closer look at the second of the three philosophical conclusions that Marcel draws, the one about time: that involuntary memory discloses the existence of a timeless essence which each one of us possesses and which experiences the fusion of temporal moments outside time. It is by some distance the least plausible of his conclusions. It is antecedently improbable, since the weight of evidence (especially the evidence we *now* have) tells us that we are biological beings wholly part of the natural, temporal order. It suffers from at least the suspicion of incoherence, because this atemporal being (or atemporal part of Marcel's being) seems to be capable of acting *at a particular moment*, the time immediately before Marcel's entry to the Guermantes mansion. And the experience that Marcel bases his conclusion on is in fact very poor support for that conclusion. What, for example, makes Marcel so sure that the experience is that of a fusion of past and present in a timeless being, rather than merely the activation in the present of a memory trace – certainly a very lively one – of a past event? It's not just that Marcel's memory might be deceptive; I hope we all accept that memory can be vivid but illusory. Rather, there just doesn't seem to *be* anything in the memory experience itself that Marcel describes which would suggest the outlandish metaphysics he subscribes to. As an example of the philosophy of time in a literary context, this is disappointing.

Gregory Currie is Professor of Philosophy at Flinders University, Adelaide, Australia.



From the Foreign Secretary

The Foreign Secretary, **Professor Nicholas Mann FBA** *reflects on his first months in office.*

The President was good enough to comment, at the September 1999 meeting of Council, that the new Foreign Secretary had 'hit the ground running'. It seems to me that I have hit the ground flying: the new season of diplomatic activity took me, and Jane Lyddon, to four countries in as many weeks. The principal motive for this almost frenetic flurry was the formal renewal of the Academy's existing Exchange Agreements with the Academies of Latvia, Estonia, the Czech Republic and Slovakia; for good measure the annual meeting of the Royal Society's European Science Exchange Programme (of which the afternoon session is the province of the Academy) was this year held in Slovakia, in the neo-gothic castle of Smolenice, some 50 km from Bratislava, which was formerly a rest-home for exhausted Eastern Bloc academicians.

Above: *The Foreign Secretary, Professor Nicholas Mann FBA, and Professor J Velemínský, Deputy Director of the Board of International Cooperation, sign the Agreement between the British Academy and the Czech Academy of Sciences, watched by (L–R) Dr M Mráz (Director of the Philosophy Institute), Mr A Magala (desk officer, British exchanges), Professor V Herold (Head of the Division of Humanities and Social Sciences), Ms J Lyddon (Assistant Secretary, British Academy), Professor F Šmahel FBA (Director of the Centre for Medieval Studies, Prague) and Mr P W H Brown (Secretary, British Academy).*

Below: *Copies of the British-Czech Agreement are exchanged as Mr Magala, Dr Herold, Ms Lyddon, Professor Šmahel and Mr Brown look on.*

The formal signing ceremonies, and the different manners of laying out tables and flags, and disposing persons, for them, would provide a fertile field for a structural anthropologist. An early acquaintance with the works of Claude Lévi-Strauss left me with a rich appreciation of cultural differences, and of varieties of formality and solemnity, but also, in all seriousness, of the overwhelming welcome extended by our hosts, their commitment to the development of the Agreements, and, especially in the Baltic States, the real need for the kind of assistance that the Academy can provide.

There was, furthermore, a not very hidden agenda to the visits: to gain as much information as possible about academic structures and needs in the countries concerned, and to discuss fruitful ways of extending collaboration beyond the traditional confines of the Exchanges, which are habitually out of balance (though happily in the

Professor Juri Engelbrecht, President of the Estonian Academy of Sciences, and the Foreign Secretary sign the new Agreement in the grand hall of the Estonian Academy, Tallinn.

The Foreign Secretary and Dr Dušan Kováć (Scientific Secretary of the Slovak Academy of Sciences) sign the new British-Slovak Agreement at Smolenice Castle, watched by Dr I Horváth (Head of the Foreign Relations Department, Slovak Academy) and Mr PWH Brown (Secretary of the British Academy).

The President of the Latvian Academy of Sciences, Professor J Stradiņš, and the Foreign Secretary exchange signed Agreements, watched by (L–R) Dr D Šveica (Head of the International Department), Ms I Skrīvele (responsible for British exchanges) and HE Stephen Nash, the British Ambassador.

direction of those most in need). In pursuit of this purpose, we were able, between Riga, Tallinn, Tartu, Prague and Bratislava, to pay formal visits to nine Institutes or university departments, one university library and one university museum, and thereby to gain considerable insight into both the problems and, as it is usual to say these days, the opportunities facing our hosts. Whereas in some countries the old Soviet model of the monolithic Academy of Sciences with a cast of thousands distributed across numerous client-institutes has been maintained, it appears more usual for the national Academies to divest themselves of their institutes and to revert to the role of learned societies, sometimes (as for example in Estonia) endowed with an advisory role to Government.

At the level of individual disciplines, in so far as these were represented by the Institutes that we visited, it was noteworthy that philosophers were both the most eager to engage in collaboration with foreign partners, and at the same time perhaps the best equipped to do so by reason of their existing networks of international contacts. It is clear, however, that the new-found ability of the Overseas Policy Committee to fund a variety of joint activities presents a real chance to diversify the Academy's role, to promote the research of younger scholars, and to forge new relations where they can be of real value.

The President of the Estonian Academy of Sciences and the Foreign Secretary toast future British-Estonian relations.

Overseas Policy

In his first six months as Foreign Secretary, Professor Nicholas Mann has visited Latvia, Estonia, the Czech Republic and Slovakia to renew Exchange Agreements with the Academies of Sciences in these countries. His account of these journeys appears on page 36 of this *Review*. A number of other Exchange Agreements are due for renewal as part of an ongoing review of activities, and, in each case, efforts are being made to increase support for collaborative projects, and to encourage collaborative research between British and foreign scholars.

Partnership funding: new opportunities

The Overseas Policy Committee has been considering the possibility of entering funding partnerships with other appropriate bodies, and has agreed to work with the Association of Commonwealth Universities (ACU) on a scheme to offer grants for one or two years for collaborative projects between British scholars and scholars in a Commonwealth university outside the UK. This scheme is being advertised by the ACU, with applications sought by a closing date of 31 May 2000.

Negotiations are also in progress with the Research Support Scheme in Prague, which is funded by the Soros Foundation, to offer support for joint research projects involving British scholars and scholars from countries within the RSS remit (that is Central Europe, Eastern Europe, and countries of the former Soviet Union). The Academy is also making plans to organise a joint conference with the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science in 2001.

International organisations

The Academy has appointed Professor William Doyle FBA to serve, from January 2000, as Professor Derek Beales's successor as its representative on the European Science Foundation Standing Committee for the Humanities. Professor Christopher Howe, of the School of Oriental and African Studies, has agreed to serve as the Academy's representative on the ESF Asia Committee. The Academy is at present participating in three programmes, *Cultural Exchange in Europe,* c. *1400 –* c. *1700; Musical Life in Europe 1600–1900: Circulation, Institutions, Representation*; and the work of the *Asia Committee*. It has also agreed to provide funding for the programme on *Changing Media – Changing Europe*, due to begin during 2000.

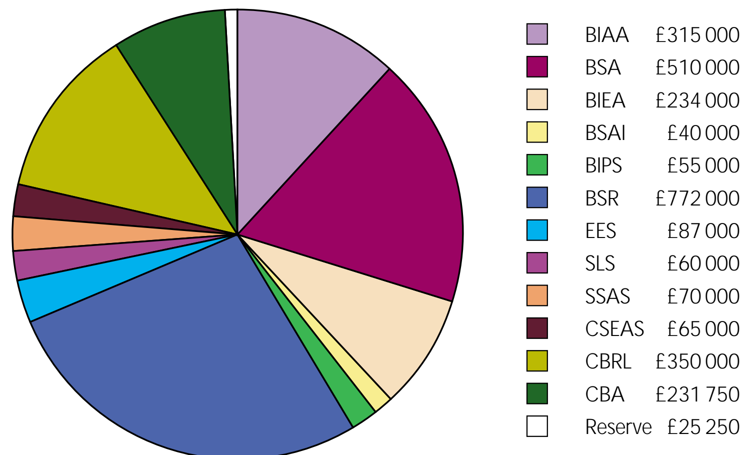
The annual meeting of partner organisations in the European Exchange Scheme, held in Bratislava in October 1999 (and referred to by the Foreign Secretary in his report), provided, as usual, a valuable opportunity for the discussion of matters of general concern among academies and research councils from a range of countries throughout Europe. Although the Academy's links with partner academies and research councils in West Europe are largely informal, the annual European Exchange Scheme meeting offers an opportunity to discuss new programmes and ways of collaboration, as well as developing the personal links which facilitate exchange programmes.

The Academy is seeking to develop closer links with the European Union. While it is unlikely that the Academy will itself wish to seek EU funding or to disseminate information on EU funding possibilities – this is already done both by the UK Research Office (UKRO) based in Brussels, and by individual universities in the UK – a greater awareness of policy issues under discussion in Brussels, and more involvement in the decision-making processes, in conjunction with other European partners, may prove beneficial for the humanities and social sciences.

At a meeting in December the Overseas Policy Committee considered applications for inclusion in its various exchange programmes. The Committee also considered applications for Joint Activities and Networks, and made a total of seven awards for Joint Activities and four awards for the new Network grants. Details are given in the lists of grants on the Academy's web site, accessed via www.britac.ac.uk.

British Schools and Institutes Overseas and Sponsored Societies

The Academy's sponsored Institutes and Societies have continued to be active in a variety of ways over the course of recent months, including conferences, lectures, taught courses and major fieldwork projects. A number of monographs and journals published by the individual organisations have also appeared. The total grant-in-aid budget for the institutes and societies in 1999/2000 was £2,815,000, and a chart indicating the Academy's grant-in-aid to individual institutions is shown right.



Recent conferences have included *The Qajar Epoch, Art, Architecture and Culture* which was hosted in September by the British Institute for Persian Studies in association with the Iran Heritage Foundation. In Rome, a conference on the work of Sir Edwin Lutyens, who contributed designs for the British School at Rome's building, was hosted by the School in October.

In London, lectures at the British Academy during the latter half of 1999 have included the following: *Heat and Dust: Excavations at Germa (Fezzan) 1997–1999* by Professor David Mattingly (Society for Libyan Studies); *We came back to Chagar Bazar: renewed excavations 1999* by Dr Augusta McMahon (British School of Archaeology in Iraq); *Persia and the European Powers after World War I* by Professor Yann Richard (British Institute of Persian Studies); and *How to visit the City of Rome: new interests and approaches at the turn of the millennium* by Professor Alastair Small (British School at Rome).

The British Institute at Ankara has recently established a new summer course in the Archaeology of Anatolia for undergraduates from UCL, led by the Director Dr Roger Matthews. Meanwhile, under its new Director Dr Paul Lane, the British Institute in Eastern Africa has undertaken a variety of new initiatives which have helped to raise the Institute's profile and reputation amongst local institutions. These include a joint seminar scheme run with IFRA (the French Institute for Research in Africa) in Nairobi.

Work on a number of major archaeological fieldwork projects has continued over the course of recent months, under the auspices of individual Institutes or Societies. For example, the British Institute of Archaeology at Ankara has continued to support work at Çatalhöyük, (see illustration overleaf) and has also undertaken a third season of survey in northern Anatolia (Project Paphlagonia), although a planned season of survey and excavation on the Anastasian Wall had to be cancelled in the aftermath of the huge earthquake which hit Turkey in August. The BIAA has also been involved in a survey to assess damage to archaeological sites caused by the earthquake. Fieldwork supported by the British School at Athens has included projects at Sparta, Agia Kyriaki (Melos), Villa Dionysus (Knossos), Nea Roda and the Kophinas Minoan peak sanctuary. Work has also continued on the British School at Rome's Tiber Valley project, which studies the changing landscape of the region from 1000 BC to AD 1300 and now involves scholars from a number of British and Italian institutions. The first phase of a new interdisciplinary project entitled 'Mapping Rome' was completed in December 1999. The British Institute in Eastern Africa has also been involved with two interdisciplinary projects in conjunction with local scholars: the first concerns environmental history, Iron Age settlement and soil erosion in Tanzania, and the second is a study of changes and continuity in settlement organisation and distribution in Nyanza Province. Meanwhile, the Egypt Exploration Society continues to support work

The following research bodies are supported by the Academy: the British Institute of Archaeology at Ankara, the British School at Athens, the British Institute in Eastern Africa, the British School of Archaeology in Iraq, the British Institute of Persian Studies, the British Scool at Rome, the Egypt Exploration Society, the Society for Libyan studies, the Society for South Asian Studies, the Committee for South East Asian Studies, the Council for British Research in the Levant and the Council for British Archaeology

on its four core fieldwork projects at the major sites of Qasr Ibrim, Amarna, Sais and Memphis.

Projects currently aided by the Society for South Asian Studies include the Bannu project, which is now focussing on Akra, and the Sri Lankan Archaeometallurgy Project, involving a survey of ancient wind powered smelting sites. The Committee for South-East Asian Studies, meanwhile, has continued to provide support for a number of major projects throughout the area, both archaeological and non-archaeological, in particular the Niah project in Borneo which investigates the prehistory and history of human/rainforest interactions in Sarawak.

Fieldwork in Libya continues at Fezzan and Euesperides, and it is hoped that the renewal of full diplomatic relations in 1999 will enable the Society for Libyan Studies to expand its cultural links in the region. Similarly, the improvement in relations with Iran has meant that the British Institute for Persian Studies has been able to increase the level of its activities in the region, and it has now re-opened its Library to local university staff and graduate students. Meanwhile the British

Çatalhöyük : A Neolithic Anatolian tell.

About 9000 years ago early farmers settled at Çatalhöyük, building small, densely packed, rectangular mudbrick houses, accessible via roof openings. It was home to 5,000–10,000 people, with old houses being infilled and new ones constructed on top thereby creating the 20 metre high mound seen today.

The site achieved international acclaim in the early 60s when first excavated by James Mellaart for its 2/3 dimensional art in the houses. The current project, begun in 1993 under the direction of Professor Ian Hodder FBA and the BIAA, is studying early sedentary and 'urban' life through its wealth of well preserved plant and animal remains offering valuable information on early domestication and agriculture. Within the houses a complex society with highly organised spatial order is being revealed; the dead were buried beneath the floors, some spanning two to three generations.

Latest technology is being used for analysis, interpretation and conservation of this site (pictured above). On-site facilities have been built to accommodate the large international team undertaking the work and using the research centre.

School of Archaeology in Iraq has undertaken the preparation of a Nimrud database, incorporating all registered objects from 13 seasons of BSAI excavations. It also continues to be involved in excavations at Tell Brak and at Chagar Bazar.

The Council for British Archaeology continues its involvement in its four key areas: research, conservation, education and communication. Its new Director, Mr George Lambrick, formerly of the Oxford Archaeological Unit, took up his post in October 1999. The CBA also supports the work of the *British and Irish Archaeological Bibliography* which has recently moved into an office in the British Academy's building.

The Council for British Research in the Levant is also in a period of development and change, following the appointment of its new Honorary Secretary, Dr Mark Whittow, and of the new Director in Amman, Dr Bill Finlayson, who took up his post in December 1999. The CBRL merger Committee also met for the last time in December, thereafter to be replaced by a Council, which will include several members of the original committee. Meanwhile the CBRL's Jerusalem Officer has organised a series of lectures and workshops throughout the region in the course of recent months, aimed at establishing the role of the organisation. It continues to support major field activities including work at Gaza, Wadi Faynan and Jezreel.

The annual meeting of the BASIS Forum (BASIS is the Board for Academy-Sponsored Institutes and Societies), which is attended by representatives of all the Institutes and Societies as well as by the members of BASIS, took place at the Academy in November. This year, participants were invited to comment on a number of issues relating in general to the work of the overseas institutions, including funding for archaeological fieldwork, opportunities for research support from the EU, and health and safety issues relating to fieldwork overseas, as well as ways in which Institutes and Societies might seek to embrace a wider range of disciplines. The Forum also discussed ways in which to raise the profile of the Institutes and Societies in the UK, for example by a series of conferences or exhibitions, and by taking advantage of the opportunities offered by the World Wide Web. Many of the Institutes and Societies have recently developed very impressive pages within the Academy's own web site, giving details of their activities including lectures, publications, fieldwork programmes and grant schemes in support of research.

Representatives of the Institutes and Societies also had the opportunity after the Forum to meet briefly with the members of BASIS designated as their assessors, in order to discuss issues of particular relevance to their organisation, and this was agreed to have been a useful exercise. A programme of visits by assessors to individual institutions is also planned, commencing in 1999/2000, with the aim of familiarising assessors with the organisations and of following up issues arising from the Wilson Review which was carried out in 1994/95.

Research Awards

Extracts from reports recently received on work undertaken with the help of Academy grants can be found on page 46.

During the period August to December 1999, the Grants Committee made just under 200 awards in the research and conference grants schemes. The range and variety of work to be undertaken has continued to be broad, and the full list of successful applications can be found on the Academy's web site via www.britac.ac.uk. Some research projects require only a modest amount of funding to enable significant progress to be made: for example a grant of £690 enabled Dr J P Wild to carry out fieldwork in the important site of Berenike in Egypt, where finds of Indian textiles have thrown entirely new light on early Indian textile production, and a little-known aspect of Romano-Indian trade. Others need a more substantial injection of funds, and awards of the order of £3,000–4,000 have been made, typically to fund sustained periods of research abroad. As an example of what may be achieved even with the relatively modest sums available under the small grants scheme, Jonathan Del Mar reports (*opposite*) on his work on editing a complete new version of Beethoven's Nine Symphonies.

The demand for conference grants has fluctuated. Initially, there was heavier demand for grants to support British Conferences, but latterly the volume of applications for Overseas Conference Grants has picked up significantly. It may be that it has taken a little while for the academic community to become fully aware that the scheme for Overseas Conference Grants in the humanities (suspended by the HRB) has been reinstated. In the period covered by this *Review*, 83 conference grants have been awarded. The Committee has approved support for two major congresses taking place in future years: the Academy is pleased to be associated with the International Geographical Union Congress which will be held in Glasgow in 2004 (the conference was last held in the UK forty years ago); and with a 'special occasion' conference commemorating the centenary of Queen Victoria's death, *Locating the Victorians.* The Modern History Section of the Academy is also participating directly in the latter conference, and, in association with the Public Understanding and Activities Committee, will be organising a 'strand' on one of the days of the conference, dealing with the organisation of Victorian intellectual life.

Consultation

The extensive consultation exercise initiated by the Grants Committee on the scope of the Academy's research support has now closed. Some 120 subject associations and learned societies have been consulted, as well as the Academy's Humanities and Social Sciences Groups, and Section Standing Committees. Separately, a cohort of 240 previous award-holders has been surveyed. The Grants Committee is charged with analysing the results, and any revisions to the Academy's schemes will be announced in early summer, to take effect from the next academic session, 2000–01. Early indications showed that there was strong support for small grants, with the current upper limit of £5,000 for individual awards. Most respondents urged that provision for these awards, if it could not be increased, at least be ring-fenced at the current level of £1.5 million p.a. There was support also for the introduction of a scheme to provide an intermediate level of funding, between £5,000 and £20,000, to fill the gap between the Academy's small grants, and the large project grants offered by the AHRB and ESRC. A full report on the results of the consultation will be made available in due course.

Publications

33 books resulting from previous grants have been received, and 24 articles. These are in the process of being catalogued and will be lodged in the Library in due course. Subject matter ranges from *Regional Mycenaean Decorated Pottery* to *Chinese Wills under the Law of Hong Kong*; from *An introduction to the work of Peter Sellars* to *Parliamentary foreign policy in democratic Poland*; and from *Naval Strategy and Policy in the Mediterranean* to *The Caribbean-born population in 1990s Britain: who will return?*

New Urtext Edition: Beethoven Symphonies 1–9

Jonathan Del Mar *began his work of compiling new Urtext Editions of the nine Beethoven Symphonies in 1995. Until now the edition most commonly used by orchestras has been the Breitkopf & Härtel, made as long ago as 1862–4, and the past four years' research will result in the first complete scholarly edition of the Symphonies since that date. The method of research normally uses as a base the standard Breitkopf score, comparing this in every detail with all surviving sources, primarily from facsimiles and paper copies of microfilms; specific queries are then checked against the original manuscripts, held in repositories all over Europe. This project has been supported throughout the period by small research grants from the British Academy, and the final symphony, No. 7, will appear in June 2000. Here Jonathan Del Mar reports on the preparation of Symphony No. 5, which was published in November 1999.*

In many ways, the Fifth Symphony was the most scary of all to research. Over the last 30 years or so, several studies of the Fifth have been published, highlighting a quantity of details in the authentic sources, yet the chief problem, whether or not Beethoven intended a full repeat of the scherzo and trio (making in effect a five-part movement, like Symphonies 4, 6 and 7), has remained intractable. To publish yet another edition, but still to have to admit defeat over this crucial issue, was a depressing prospect.

Meanwhile, the other problem facing the editor of the Fifth Symphony is that Beethoven's autograph is one of the most, if not the most, fearsome and tortuous of all his manuscripts where the deciphering of every detail of the text is concerned. Even the fine 1942 facsimile is in countless places inadequate for the unravelling of all its complexities. Often the apparently forbidding mass of deletions can simply be brushed aside, and the valid text is clear enough; but in some places, the sheer extent of revision and correction causes a real problem in the disentangling of one detail or another of what Beethoven actually intended to stand.

With these two problems staring me in the face, I decided to abandon all compromise and tackle the beast head-on. Instead of studying photocopies, or even the facsimile (a copy of which I was incredibly lucky to procure), I booked a two-week trip to Berlin, and remained in the library there from dawn to dusk every day, checking every single detail from the original manuscript. This is quite certainly the first time that this manuscript has been checked in such detail since Beethoven's first copyist wrote out the first performance score from it back in 1808. Several entirely new textual features were revealed (including a new note where until now we have heard silence), and some essential insights into the gestation of the work were gained; but the repeat problem remained elusive.

And then, sitting at my desk at home one evening at midnight, I was blessed with inspiration. Suddenly it dawned on me what the missing link was: a detail in the duplicate first performance parts which proved that they were copied from the Stichvorlage score (now lost, sadly destroyed in 1943 in the bombing of Leipzig). As these performance parts *included* the repeat (all written out in full), this proves that the Stichvorlage – until now assumed *not* to have included the repeat – *was* copied with the repeat (which we know Beethoven had originally stipulated), and was even sent in this state to the publishers. Only there were all the pages containing this written-out repeat bodily excised, an operation which could only have been carried out on Beethoven's own instructions. This, together with two pieces of already known evidence (for example Beethoven's explicit correction, in a letter, of a mistake the publishers made when they excised the repeat), makes the case as good as water-tight, and the problem may at last be regarded as solved. At last, I felt the new Edition had justified its existence.

Otherwise, the task was very much as usual, with the checking of all authentic sources. A trip to Vienna was necessary to document Beethoven's hand-written corrections in the few first-performance string parts surviving there; the corrections were written in red crayon, so are hard to spot on photocopies, but are immediately evident in the original. More important was a visit to Prague, where all the wind and brass parts, similarly corrected by Beethoven, are held in the Roudnice Lobkowicz collection, Nelahozeves Castle. Then, once the basic job of editing was completed, all these trips had to be made once again in order to settle the final queries.

56

255 a tempo

Fl. I II
Ob. I II
Clar. I (Si♭) II
Fag. I II
Cor. I (Mi♭) II
Clno. I (Do) II
Timp.

pp
Clarinetti in Do/C

a tempo

arco
pizz. *)
arco
Viol. I II
Vle.
Vc.
B.

pp
sempre pp
[p]
arco
pizz. *)
pp sempre pianissimo
p

267

Fl. I II
Ob. I II
Clar. I (Do) II
Fag. I II
Cor. I (Mi♭) II
Clno. I (Do) II
Timp.

p [p]

pizz.
arco
Viol. I II
Vle.
Vc.
B.

pp
sempre pp

*) Regarding dynamics, see Critical Commentary / Zur Dynamik, vgl. Critical Commentary

A page from the scherzo movement of Beethoven's Fifth Symphony as it appears in the new Bärenreiter Urtext Edition. Highlighted in blue is the 'new' note discovered (in Beethoven's autograph manuscript) in the course of intensive research into all the original sources for the work.

The result of all this, then, is a Beethoven Fifth hardly different from that which we have always known, but free of an appendage (the extra repeat in the scherzo) which had recently become almost 'politically correct', and therefore something of a thorn in the flesh of those musicians who were convinced it was wrong but lacked the evidence to substantiate their instinct. Otherwise, where discoveries are concerned, the new note in the scherzo mentioned above (bar 268, cellos) is amusing, but goes by in a flash; more significantly, perhaps, there are four bars in which the first violins play with the woodwind instead of resting (first movement, bars 325–326, 329–330); and most entertainingly, three bars (finale, bars 309–311) where the cellos and basses join in the general celebratory cavorting instead of (as hitherto) chugging away on a repeated note. This last error was due to a misreading of one of Beethoven's favourite types of ditto marks, often a source of ambiguity when deciphering the manuscripts of this most idiosyncratic – but also meticulous, and therefore particularly fascinating – of the great composers.

Publication details

Ludwig van Beethoven. Symphonies 1–9. *Urtext.* Edited by Jonathan Del Mar.

Kassel: Bärenreiter, 1996–2000

(Full Score; Critical Commentary; Orchestral Parts; Study Score; Vocal Score of No.9)

Reports on Recent Work

The following examples are taken from progress reports received during the period of this *Review*, on work funded by the Academy. They give an indication of the range of activity supported. Some grants are awarded to enable essential groundwork for a longer-term endeavour to be accomplished, with the main fruits of the research expected further down the line. Such projects may have a gradually phased output in terms of publication or other dissemination. Other projects are designed with a more immediate outcome in mind, where publication, often in article form, can be expected within a relatively short period of the primary research being completed. Conferences, of course, have their natural flowering in a one-off occasion, which may or may not result in published proceedings in due course.

Research Grants

Archaeological investigation of a Cromwellian shipwreck off Duart Point, Mull

As a Scottish-based scholar, Dr C.J.M. Martin was awarded a grant through the Academy's Transitional Fund (pending the fully UK-wide coverage of the AHRB, which has since been achieved). The project involved the excavation of part of a small Cromwellian warship lost in a storm in 1653, while suppressing a royalist revolt in the West Highlands. The ship was rediscovered in 1979 and is now designated a 'protected wreck'. Documentary research has identified the wreck as that of the *Swan*, a vessel built for Charles I in 1641. The ship was copied from a Flushing privateer in an attempt to counter piracy in the Channel approaches and the Irish Sea. She may therefore be seen as a very early prototype of the frigate.

A two-month season took place in the summer, the Academy's grant providing funds for diving time and post-excavation study. Some 121 finds and samples were delivered to the National Museums of Scotland. Two items of exceptional importance were noted: a substantially complete naval guncarriage, and an elegant panelled door, apparently complete. The excavation of these items raises questions of archaeological methodology and subsequent treatment, and they will be dealt with next summer; in the meantime, the area has been secured with sandbags for protection during the winter.

It is becoming evident that this small royal warship demonstrates the same kind of lavish decorative extravagance as that with which the *Sovereign of the Seas* (another of Charles I's ships) had been embellished and which drew much contemporary criticism. The *Swan* wreck is thus a microcosm not only of contemporary naval architecture, warfare and shipboard life, but of Charles I's vision of his navy as an expression of kingly prestige.

A documentary on the Swan *was recently shown on BBC 2. Interim reports and articles have also been published in the* International Journal of Nautical Archaeology *and elsewhere. Dr Martin is Reader in Maritime Studies at the University of St Andrews*

The Geography of Unemployment in Britain: Persistence and Change

Dr R.L. Martin was awarded a small research grant to support his direct research costs whilst he held a one year 'Thank-Offering to Britain' Fellowship. (The Fellowship was endowed from the proceeds of a 'Thank-you Britain Appeal', initiated by the Association of Jewish Refugees as a mark of gratitude to Britain for its provision of a home for Jews persecuted by the Nazi regime.) Dr Martin used his research grant to purchase and process datasets. His study considered how the incidence of unemployment has varied between different regions and different localities across Britain between 1970 and the present. One amongst many of his findings demonstrated that joblessness in some areas, particularly the traditionally high-unemployment areas, has come to be underestimated owing to the substantial increase in the number of adult members of the labour force registered as sick (which takes them off the official unemployment statistics). The perceived narrowing of the spatial unemployment disparities since the end of the 1980s may therefore be misleading.

Dr Martin concludes that, in combination, his findings on a number of factors demonstrate that the changes in the local geographies of unemployment have more to do with shifting incidence of economic development and net job creation than with local problems of labour market inflexibility. Dislocations caused by uneven economic restructuring and development – increasingly determined by external global pressures – are the fundamental factor behind the continuities and changes in the map of unemployment.

Several publications have emanated from the research, and others are in preparation, including a book on Labour Market Geography for Polity Press. Dr Martin is Reader in Economic Geography at the University of Cambridge

Giotto's design of the Arena Chapel, Padua

Dr L. Jacobus was awarded a research grant to investigate the design history of the Arena Chapel, clarifying the relationships between the building and the frescoes within it. Dr Jacobus's preliminary researches indicated that there were at least three changes to the design of the building at its east end, and each of these changes had implications for the design of the frescoes. Following detailed scrutiny of the Chapel in two separate trips to Padua, and inspection of related archives, Dr Jacobus has been able to establish that Giotto was closely involved in the design of the architecture of the Arena Chapel and his design originally included a stained glass window at the Chapel's East End (soon replaced by a hinged panel, with an image of God the Father by another hand). She has further established a case to suggest that the frescoes on the chancel arch featuring scenes from the Annunciation were especially designed to provide a visual accompaniment to the divine office celebrated on the Feast of the Annunciation (or Golden Mass).

Accounts survive of the 'plays' with music that were re-enacted on the Feast day, and of the liturgical vestments worn by cleric-actors taking the parts of the Angel and the Virgin. Details of costume and pose in Giotto's frescoes suggest that the figure of the Virgin Annunciate may be understood as an actor 'performing' in the Golden Mass. At other times of the year, however, the fresco may be read unproblematically within

the sequence of frescoes of *The Life of the Virgin*. Detailed examination of the effects produced by natural and artificial light falling on the frescoes highlight certain aspects of the drama. In its original condition, gilded rays were scored into the plaster, radiating from around the Angel, and pouring down on the Virgin Annunciate. Dr Jacobus suggests it is possible to reconstruct something of the Mass that took place. The Angel and the Virgin could be seen immediately below the window. Soon, choristers' voices would be heard singing their dialogue, beginning with the words 'Ave Maria, gratia plena, Dominus tecum'. The morning light, pouring through the stained glass image of God the Father, would be mystically transformed into a visual emanation of the Holy Spirit. Giotto's figures became animated by sound and light, performers in a synaesthetic spectacle unlike any other Golden Mass. Dr Jacobus suggests that her interpretation of the *Annunciation* enhances our understanding not only of Giotto's creative achievement in the design and decoration of the Chapel, but also of the ways in which medieval art could excite devotion in its beholders.

Dr Jacobus is a Lecturer in History of Art at Birkbeck College, London. She has published four articles on the Arena Chapel, and is preparing a full-length book on the subject.

Conferences

Women and Brainpower

The British Academy provided a grant to help Royal Holloway present a conference focusing on women's contribution to intellectual life. The conference, organised by Professor P.J. Corfield, considered such questions as whether there were essential, biologically-derived differences in brainpower between men and women, or whether their roles were socially-constructed; whether the arrival of female brainpower had changed the ethos of intellectual life and, if so, in what ways; and whether J.S. Mill's analysis was still the most relevant one: educating women simply doubled a nation's intellectual capital. The conference sought to answer not the Freudian question 'What do women want?' but instead 'How do women think?'

Contributions included discussions of the different ways in which societies have dealt with the bodily dimension of women's experiences, for example how new mothers and post-menopausal women have been regarded; the *salons* of eighteenth-century France; the presence of women in anti-vivisectionist movements and the range of Victorian explanations, from the 'essentialist' claims that women were sentimental hysterics, to celebrations of women's sympathy with other oppressed groups (non-humans); and the opposition to higher education for women, amongst many other themes.

The conference coincided with the 150th anniversary of the foundation of Bedford College for Women in 1849, and the opening of the new Bedford Centre for the History of Women.

The Past and Present of Leprosy

A conference on the modern and archaeological contexts of leprosy was held at the University of Bradford in the summer. The Academy provided assistance with the air fares to bring over three scholars from the Czech Republic, who would otherwise have been unable to attend. All three scholars have written in the most appreciative terms of the opportunity to share their research with scholars from over 20 different countries, from Russia, through Vietnam, to South America. They showed how their researches related to archaeological data, and it was, indeed, under this aspect of the subject that the Academy's backing had been sought.

Clinical leprosy, the medical and social history, palaeopathology, immunology, epidemiology and microbiology of leprosy were all represented at the congress. The papers and posters will be published in due course.

Alfred the Great Eleventh-centenary Conference

On the occasion of the 1100th anniversary of Alfred's death, the University of Southampton hosted a major interdisciplinary conference reassessing his life and achievements. Contributions included new judgements about Alfred's reign based on new metalwork and coin discoveries; and on new work on the laws and his translations. Scholars debated whether Alfred's reign was characterised by continuity or innovation; whether he drew on insular precedents or continental exemplars. Some saw parallels between Alfred and contemporary Celtic, Frankish and Bulgarian rulers which probably owed as much to common preoccupations and Biblical study as to direct contact and exchange of ideas. The major gap which emerged was between those who were impressed with the immensity of Alfred's achievements, and others who felt that there was a surface gloss which concealed botched and incomplete work, which might indicate that Alfred knew what he wanted to have done, but did not have the time or means to achieve it. For example, the sense of purpose in the lawcode conflicts with its poor internal organisation, which would have made it difficult to use in practice. The differing views made for stimulating discussion, and the varying perspectives will be made available in the published proceedings.

The Chairman of the Conference, Professor Timothy Reuter, commented that the 1999 views of Alfred's reign will not only be strikingly different from those prevalent when his millenary was celebrated in 1901, but have developed significantly from those aired at the 1100th anniversary of his accession in 1971.

Academy programmes to support advanced research 1999–2000

Research Appointments

Research Professorships

The scheme offers a prestigious series of awards, first offered in 1999. Awards are designed primarily for established scholars who have already published works of distinction in their field. Applicants should have a major programme of work which would benefit from a sustained period of support. The Research Professorship awards enable scholars to be relieved of their normal teaching and administrative commitments for three years.

Research Readerships and Senior Research Fellowships

These schemes are aimed at established scholars in UK universities who are in mid-career, having already published works of distinction. Awards allow scholars to undertake or complete an approved programme of sustained research, while relieved of their normal teaching and administrative commitments. Readerships are tenable for two years, and Fellowships for one.

Postdoctoral Fellowships

One of the Academy's most popular schemes, this programme enables outstanding younger scholars to obtain experience of research and teaching in the university environment, which will strengthen their curriculum vitae and improve their prospects of securing permanent posts by the end of the Fellowship. Awards are tenable for three years.

Research Projects

The Academy supports a series of major infrastructural research projects, which are designated 'Academy Research Projects'. This programme is currently under review. In addition, the Academy makes annual grants to collaborative international projects on behalf of the UK, and provides a substantial contribution to the *New Dictionary of National Biography*.

Research Grants

Research grants are available to support the direct expenses of a research programme, such as travel and maintenance, consumables, specific IT costs excluding hardware, and certain pre-publication costs. The upper limit of award is £5,000. Following extensive consultation with the academic community during 1999–2000, a number of adjustments will be made to the scope of the small grants scheme with effect from September 2000; and a new scheme for Larger Research Grants (over £5,000 and up to £20,000) will be introduced. Details will be issued shortly.

Conferences

The Academy offers three main forms of support for conferences: *Overseas Conference Grants*, providing travel expenses for a British scholar to present a paper abroad; *British Conference Grants*, offering a contribution to the costs of conferences in the UK, particularly to assist with the costs of bringing key overseas speakers to participate in a conference held in Britain; and *Major International Congress Grants*, giving large grants to contribute to the administrative expenses of running a major worldwide congress in the UK. In addition, block grants are available for learned societies/subject associations to support the attendance of scholars at conferences overseas.

International programmes

Exchanges

The Academy provides opportunities, through exchange agreements with other Academies, research libraries and other research organisations for British scholars to carry out individual research programmes or to collaborate in joint programmes with overseas scholars. Research visits (in either direction) are supported, as well as attendance at joint seminars or conferences, and the holding of workshops in connection with joint projects. The exchange programme may be particularly valuable for scholars wishing to work in countries where access might otherwise be problematic. Logistic and other support in arranging a research programme is available from the relevant partner organisation.

Joint activities

A special programme has recently been established to support international joint activities involving British scholars in collaboration with foreign partners. The research programme should be clearly defined (not open-ended) and involve partners from one or possibly two other countries.

Networks

A new initiative has been developed to promote small networks of scholars from different countries meeting over a period of three to five years to work on particular issues or questions of methodology. This scheme is intended to support research which is wide-ranging in scope, and broader than that for which the 'joint activities' programme has been developed.

Visiting Professorships and Fellowships

This scheme enables distinguished scholars from overseas to be invited to spend a minimum of two weeks in the UK. The main purpose is to enable the visitor to pursue research, but the delivery of lectures and participation in seminars is also allowed. A British sponsor must apply on behalf of the overseas scholar.

British Academy Visiting Lectureships

This is another new scheme, and is designed to enable a limited number of distinguished scholars from overseas (up to 4 a year) to be invited to spend around 2 weeks in the UK, to deliver a lecture or series of lectures and/or seminars.

Special international symposia and Meetings

Funds are available to support the organisation of conferences or symposia in the UK and/or overseas, usually organised jointly by the Academy and another partner institution (in certain cases, a foreign Academy or university must be involved).

Full details of the Academy's programmes can be found on the web site at www.britac.ac.uk/guide

Diary of Events

Lectures marked ★ take place at the British Academy at 5.30 pm and are freely open to the general public. There is no admission charge but because of limitations on space those wishing to attend are asked to inform Rosemary Lambeth on 020 7969 5264, or email: rosemarl@britac.ac.uk.

All those interested are also welcome to attend symposia marked ★, but for these meetings it is essential to register in advance. A small registration fee is charged for some events. Please contact Rosemary Lambeth for details about individual symposia.

Summer 2000

4 May
Beginning in the Middle
Professor P D Holland, Shakespeare Institute
SHAKESPEARE LECTURE ★

16 May
The Legend of the Great Game
Professor Malcolm Yapp, School of Oriental and African Studies
ELIE KEDOURIE LECTURE ★

17 May
Wallace Stevens: Hypotheses and Contradictions
Professor Helen Vendler, Harvard University
WARTON LECTURE ★

25–26 May
European Science Foundation
Meeting of the Core Group of the Standing Committee of the Humanities of the European Science Foundation
and
Meeting of Senior Administrators concerned with the Humanities

7–8 July
Humanities and Social Sciences Forum
Meeting of representatives of English-speaking Academies, Learned Societies and Research Councils.

8–9 July
Rome and the Mediterranean World
Conference to be held in Oxford and London ★

12 July
Science and its history as portrayed in literature and the arts
Evening of readings and commentary with Professor John Carey FBA and Professor Sally Shuttleworth ★
Part of 'Science Communication, Education and the History of Science' held during the day on 12 July at the Royal Society

Autumn/Winter 2000

14–15 September
The European State and the Euro
Conference organised by Professor Kenneth Dyson FBA ★

20–22 September
British Constitution in the Twentieth Century
Workshops in preparation for a series of public lectures in 2002, and accompanying British Academy 'Centenary' publication

29–30 September
Prosopography in the twenty-first century: Late Roman and Byzantine
International Colloquium ★

26 October
KEYNES LECTURE IN ECONOMICS ★
Professor J. Sutton FBA

1 November
'Till old experience do attain
To something like prophetic strain':
Revision and renewal in John Milton's last poems
Dr Margaret Keane
CHATTERTON LECTURE IN POETRY ★

2 November
White masculinity: Smuts, race and the South African War
Professor Shula Marks FBA
RALEIGH LECTURE IN HISTORY ★

3 November
Social Challenges Facing Britain
Seminar preliminary to a British Academy 'Centenary' publication in 2002

7 November
4th annual BRITISH ACADEMY LECTURE ★
Professor Amartya Sen FBA

22 November
THANK-OFFERING TO BRITAIN LECTURE
The Lord Chancellor, Lord Irvine of Lairg

4 December
Translators, Knowledge and Cultures
One-day symposium addressing translation historically as a process concerned with knowledge ★

6–7 December
Artefacts and Images of the Ancient World
British Academy/Royal Society joint discussion meeting ★

12 December
'Beowulf' and perception
Professor Michael Lapidge FBA
SIR ISRAEL GOLLANCZ MEMORIAL LECTURE ★

Spring/Summer 2001

23–24 February
Wetland landscapes and cultural responses
Two-day conference ★

10 March
Bayes' Theorem
One-day discussion meeting ★

11–12 May
Aerial Archaeology – into the future
Two-day conference ★

12–15 July
Locating the Victorians
Major international conference commemorating 150 years since the Great Exhibition, and the centenary of Queen Victoria's death. To be held at the Science Museum and Imperial College, with collaboration from the Natural History and Victoria & Albert Museums. The British Academy will host a strand on *The structure of knowledge*

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From the Archive

One hundred years ago

The first seed was sown of forming a national Academy to represent the humanities and social sciences.

The following is the text of a letter sent by the Secretaries of the Royal Society to certain distinguished men of letters.

The Royal Society
Burlington House, W.
November 21, 1899

Sir,

We are directed by the President and Council of the Royal Society to inform you that a project for the foundation of an International Association of Academies has been under consideration for some time. A preliminary gathering of representatives of the principal Academies of the world was held at Wiesbaden in the autumn of the present year [October 1899]. The enclosed "Proposed Statutes of Constitution and Procedure" will inform you as to the resolutions adopted.

It is probable that the first formal meeting of the Association will be held in Paris in 1900, and that the resolutions of the Wiesbaden Conference will then be formally accepted as the basis of the constitution of the Association.

Until the meeting took place at Wiesbaden, it was uncertain whether the Association would be formed of Scientific Academies only; but, as you will see, it was decided to form two sections, the one devoted to Natural Science, and the other to Literature, Antiquities and Philosophy.

Although the conditions which Academies claiming admission must fulfil were not formally defined, it is understood

(1) that no Society devoted to one subject or to a small range of subjects will be regarded as an "Academy", and

(2) that, as a rule, only one Academy will be admitted from each country to the literary and scientific sections respectively.

So far as we are aware, there is no Society in England dealing with subjects embraced by the "Literary" Section which satisfies the first of these conditions. It is therefore unfortunately the case that, as matters at present stand, the United Kingdom will only be represented on the Scientific Section.

It is not for the President and Council of the Royal Society to suggest a remedy, but they wish the facts of the case to be laid before some eminent representatives of the branches of knowledge which would probably be included in the Literary Section.

It might be possible for a number of Societies which are at present isolated to form some kind of union among themselves, which would constitute an Academy in the sense above defined. In the event of that or any similar project being satisfactorily carried out, the delegates of the Royal Society who attended the Wiesbaden Conference have reason to believe that the presence of British representatives on the "Literary Section" would be welcomed by their foreign confreres.

We enclose a list of the names of the gentlemen to whom this letter is being sent, and we may add that if further information is wanted we shall be happy to give it, and that one or more of the delegates to the Wiesbaden Conference would be willing to attend any meeting which might be called to discuss the matters herein set forth.

We are, Sir,

Yours faithfully,

[Sir Michael Foster and A.W. Rucker]
Secretaries R.S.

The persons who received that letter conferred with each other, and at a meeting held on 14 December 1899, drew up a statement of their views to be communicated to the Royal Society.

Soc. Antiq. Lond.,
Burlington House, Piccadilly, W.,
December 15, 1899

Gentlemen,

In answer to your letter of the 21st November, 1899, I beg to inform you that, in accordance with the suggestion therein, a meeting was held in these rooms on 14th December, at which were present: The Rt. Hon. A. Balfour, Rt. Hon. James Bryce, the Lord Acton, Sir John Evans, Prof. Jebb, Rt. Hon. W. E. Lecky, Sir Alfred Lyall, Prof. Sidgwick, Sir Wm. Conway, Sir E. M. Thompson, Mr. Leslie Stephen, and myself. The other gentlemen suggested were unable to attend. It was carried unanimously that the meeting desired to thank the Royal Society for their courteous communication with regard to the formation of a British Academy, such as would come within the limits laid down in their letter, but that the idea of such an Academy formed by the simple federation of existing Societies was not one that appeared to meet the views of those present.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

[Lord] Dillon
P.S.A.

This letter, along with a 'Plan' for a new Academy received from Professor Henry Sidgwick, would be considered by the Council of the Royal Society at its meeting on 18 January 1900.