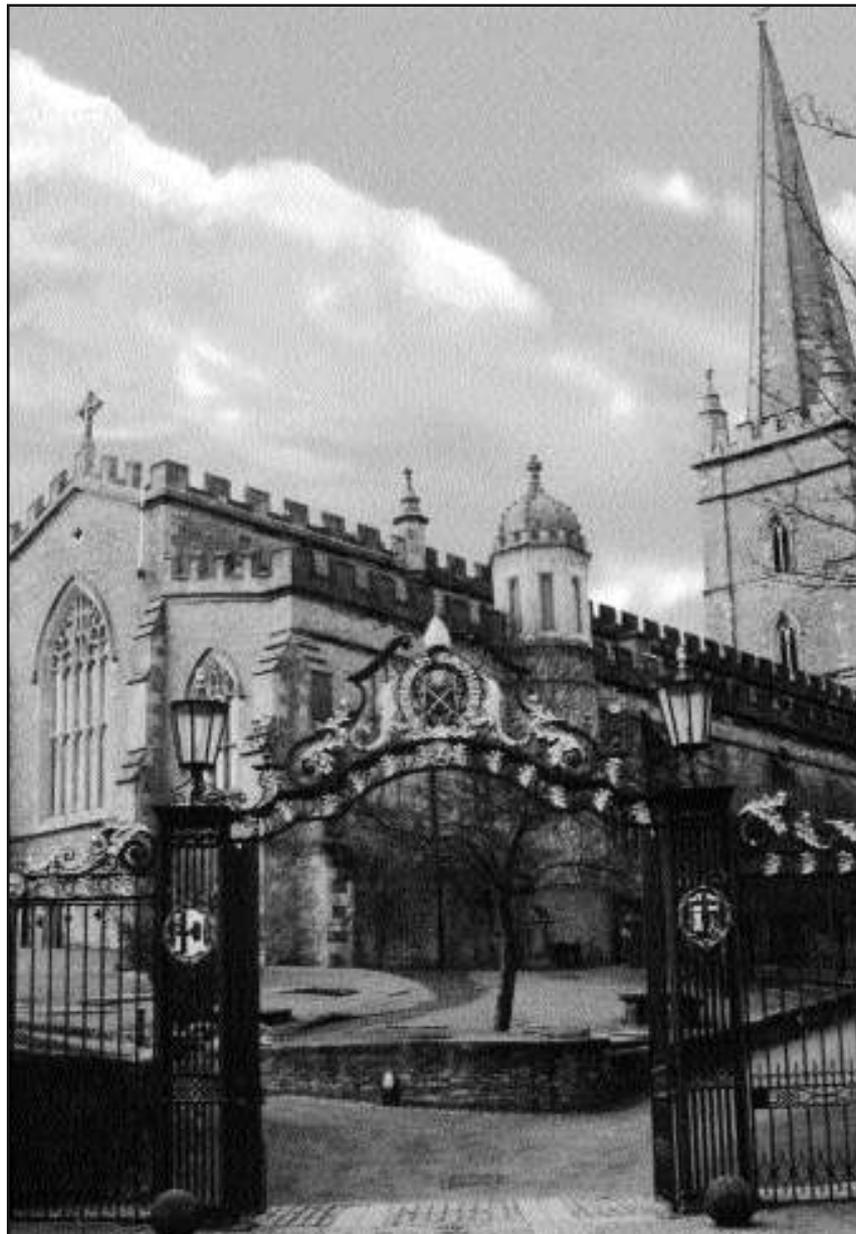


TRANSACTIONS OF THE LEICESTER LITERARY & PHILOSOPHICAL SOCIETY.

VOLUME 95

AUGUST 2001



'If Stones could Speake'
The Writer as Reader
Orwell and the Secret State
The Europeanness of shakespeare
Alfred Russel Wallace
Graduate Education in the UK
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Reporting on Sport
Trees and Woods in Art and Reality
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Cover picture: St Columb's Cathedral, Londonderry

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IF STONES COULD SPEAKE...

Presidential Address by Mrs H.A.E. Lewis

Delivered on October 2 2000

INTRODUCTION

Lord Mayor, Lady Mayoress, Ladies and Gentlemen,

For some years the Lit and Phil has had an important place in my life. It is a distinguished organisation of which Leicester can be very proud and it has made a considerable contribution to the quality of life in our city. It is a great honour to be invited to be its President. I shall do my best to ensure that we have an interesting and successful season.

Last year we were privileged to have a most distinguished President in Lord Attenborough. He made it clear when he accepted the invitation to be our President that his busy filming schedule would make it difficult for him to attend meetings of the Society. When he was able to come he gave us a wonderful evening which few of us will ever forget. I should like to place on record our appreciation of the support Lord Attenborough gave to the Society. He has written to me to send his good wishes to the members of the Society and to thank us for honouring him with the Presidency.

In Lord Attenborough's absence the duties of the president were undertaken by the past presidents and I thank them for their hard work and commitment to the Society. In particular thanks must go to the Life Vice President, Dr Trevor Ford, who undertook the majority of the tasks.

It is always an honour and a pleasure to welcome the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress to the opening meeting of the season. We value our long and historic links with the City of Leicester and with New Walk Museum with which we have been so closely associated since its foundation.

Londonderry in the County of that name is a city with an enthralling past. At times it has played a significant role in the history of the British Isles It is often known by its earlier Irish name - Derry. The prefix London is a 17th Century addition.

The city borders County Donegal in the Republic of Ireland. It lies on a beautiful bend in the River Foyle on the western bank where the land rises gently. The Foyle widens out at its northern end into a wide sea lough - Lough Foyle. The river made Derry a place of strategic significance despite its geographical remoteness. Until 1922 there was no political border and the province of Ulster consisted of nine counties rather than the six which comprise the state of Northern Ireland.

I was born in the city and have strong family associations with the area.

Derry had its origins in the sixth century as an early Christian centre. The Irish saint, St. Colmcille, also known as St. Columba and St. Columba came from his

birthplace in County Donegal to escape plague and founded a monastery there. Later he would set sail from Derry for Iona to found another monastery from which parts of Scotland and Northern England were reintroduced to Christianity. Columba was an interesting man. A medieval biography described him as a charismatic figure; tall, striking and of powerful build and impressive presence. He was a prince by birth as a member of the mighty O'Neill clan. He combined the skills of scholar, poet and ruler with a fearless commitment to God. He was clever, passionate and, at times harsh, but mellowed with age.

The name Derry comes from the Celtic word meaning an oak grove. Oaks had mystical and ritual significance for the Celts. The name Derry appears in many Irish place names and in other places associated with the Celts.

Doire Colmcille, anglicised as Derry, was the oak grove of St. Colmcille. The Saint loved the place, calling it his 'dear little oak grove' where 'the angels

of God sang in the glades and every oak leaf held its angel'.

It is said that the famous Derry hymn writer Mrs Cecil Frances Alexander, wife of a nineteenth century Bishop of Derry later Primate of all Ireland, had the hills surrounding the walled city of Derry in mind when she wrote the words:

There is a green hill far away
Without a city wall

By the twelfth century monastic Derry was developing as a place of commercial and secular interest. It was the nearest settlement Ulster had which could be described as a town. Its history at this period is sketchy. The Vikings raided and the great Celtic chieftains regularly fought amongst themselves.

The old Celtic ways continued until the English came on the scene. In 1155 the Pope granted the Lordship of Ireland to Henry II in an attempt to bring the maverick Celtic church under the control of Rome. Since that time the islands of mainland Britain and Ireland have been inextricably linked.

Derry was always vulnerable to attack from the sea and the city was often at the heart of conflict. However, the exact history of the city up to the fifteenth and early sixteenth centuries is not well chronicled.

After the reformation in 1536 a clearer picture emerges. At this time Catholic Ireland was a real threat to England. Fear of an Irish revolt blighted the last days of Elizabeth I. Phillip II of Spain, her old enemy, saw Ireland as a convenient backdoor to England by which he could destroy England's power at sea and re-establish Roman Catholicism in the country. His plan failed with the defeat of the Armada in 1588. Nonetheless the only area of Ireland which could be relied upon to be loyal to the English crown was that around Dublin known as the Pale. Those living beyond the Pale still bore allegiance to the Irish Chieftains.

At the time Ulster was the most intensely Irish part of the island and the powerful Ulster chieftains jealously guarded their vast estates. None was more aggressively patriotic than the mighty Hugh O'Neill. In a protracted struggle with the English, O'Neill was

eventually massively defeated in 1601. He had marched south to link up with the Spanish who had landed in County Cork. Once he had moved out of Ulster the English took Derry and established a fortification. Eventually he was compelled to surrender in 1603, ironically six days after the death of Elizabeth I.

The English conquest of Ireland was effectively complete. Power was levied from the English stronghold in Dublin. Protestantism became the official religion. Celtic law no longer applied and was replaced by English Common Law. The old Celtic system which had existed for over 1000 years was swept away. Only the Irish language and belief in Roman Catholicism remained of the old order. The native Irish clung to their language and religion making these the focus of resistance for future generations.

The Irish hoped O'Neill would rally his forces and lead them again against the English. He did not do so and in 1607 an extraordinary event took place. It is known as the Flight of the Earls. One night Hugh O'Neill and his allies silently put to sea from Lough Swilly to the west of Derry bound for mainland Europe. It was widely held that they had gone to seek support from France and Rome but they made no attempt at an Irish invasion. History has concluded that O'Neill, always a great fighter and patriot, had lost heart for yet another battle with the English. He never returned to Ireland and died broken hearted, it is said, in Rome.

The great Ulster estates belonging to O'Neill and his followers were confiscated by the new king, James I and VI. This action led to a milestone in the history of Derry - the Plantation of Ulster. Much of the confiscated land was in the region of Derry which was destined to change dramatically. The king was in dire need of money as he was faced with the burden of debt from Queen Elizabeth's wars. He put the Ulster estates to use by disposing of the land to various groups of Scots, English and chosen Irish who were expected to develop it. Thus we see the origins of the large numbers of Anglicans and Scottish Presbyterians in the north of Ireland today.

One group of developers had great impact on Derry: The London Livery Companies were encouraged, even coerced by the King to take up large areas of

land in the old county of Coleraine. Henceforth this would be called 'County Londonderry'. There had never been a 'County Derry' and 'County Londonderry' was a new creation. The city of 'Derry' would be known henceforth as 'Londonderry'.

The inclusion of the prefix 'London' has been a source of conflict between Protestants and Roman Catholics ever since. Protestants tend to use the name Londonderry and Roman Catholics prefer Derry. However in day to day conversation many just use the name Derry. A local radio presenter, eager to please all of the people all of the time referred to the city as Derry 'stroke' Londonderry and the city often is humorously known as Stroke City.

An interesting legacy of the O'Neill connection with the area is to be found in King James' establishment in 1611 of the Most Noble Order of Baronets, to encourage the development of Ulster. The coats of arms of all baronets include the Red Hand of Ulster, the symbol of the O'Neill clan

The London Livery Companies set about dividing the land but had little enthusiasm for their task. The area was wild and remote and the quality of the land was mixed. The financial commitment was enormous.

A development committee, an offshoot of the Corporation of the City of London, was created to develop the land and was known as "The Honourable the Irish Society", commonly called the Irish Society. It still exists but its activities are now largely confined to charitable works.

The Irish Society set about clearing the land and building timber framed prefabricated houses brought over from England and erected by London artisans.

The construction of the city is interesting and represents a disciplined approach to town planning in Ireland for the first time. Walls 16 feet thick, 24 feet high and about a mile in circumference were built. At intervals there were bastions to hold cannon, some still in position (Fig 1). Derry is now the only completely walled city in Ireland and the walls (open to walkers) are in a good state of repair.

There were four gateways. A main wide street runs from each and the four streets converge at a central square known as The Diamond, a name frequently

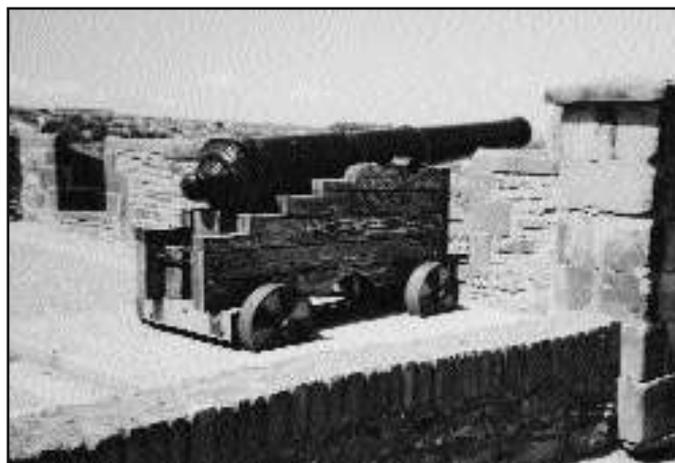


Fig 1. Derry City wall with cannon

used in Ireland for the central point of a town. Other streets run parallel to the 4 main streets giving a pleasing regular grid still in evidence with few changes today. This type of town plan was to be found in other Ulster Plantation towns.

The Irish Society built a splendid Protestant Cathedral (front cover picture), dedicated to St Columb, at the highest point in the city. This was the first cathedral to be built in the British Isles following the Reformation. It was built in the style of an English parish church. Five bells were given by Charles 1. My family has been associated with this Cathedral for many generations.

It was from the foundation stone (Fig 2) of St Columb's Cathedral that I took the title for this talk.

If stones could speak
Then Londons prayse should sounde,
Who built this church and cittie,
From the grounde.

Criticism was levelled at the Londoners for defects in their development plan: they had failed to put a badly needed bridge across the river and the house building programme was slow. However, it cannot be denied that the creation of Londonderry 'from the ground' constituted a huge achievement.

In the 17th century the defensive walls of Derry were put to the test and severely damaged on several occasions in rebellions but it was in the great siege of 1689 that they faced their greatest challenge.

In 1685 the Roman Catholic King James II succeeded to the throne. In order to secure Catholicism once

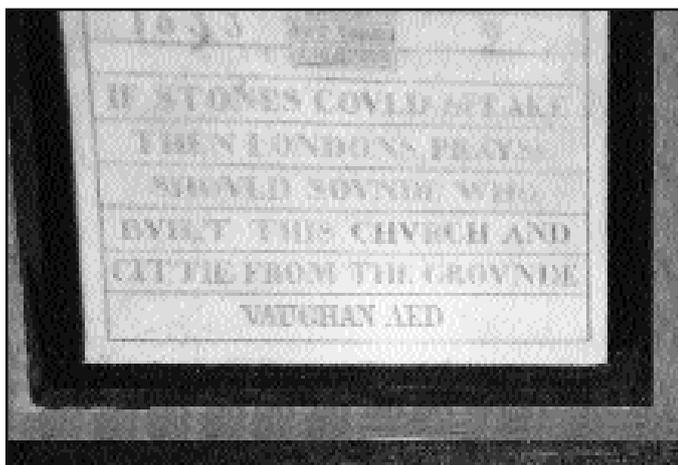


Fig 2 Foundation stone of St Columb's Cathedral

and for all James raised a large army and planned to invade Ireland. Success there would, he argued, enable him to move on and enforce Catholicism in England. The King landed in County Cork and marched northwards with the intention of concentrating his forces at the Protestant stronghold at Londonderry.

Thousands of Protestant plantation settlers in County Londonderry were filled with alarm and crowded into the small city swelling the population there to 10,000. They declared their allegiance to the Protestant William of Orange and his wife Queen Mary.

In April 1689, as the forces of the Catholic James II drew closer fear grew within the city. 13 young city apprentices seized the great keys and padlocks of the city gates and slammed the gates shut in the face of the King. The great siege of Derry began and lasted for 105 days.

In an effort to cut off relief ships from reaching the besieged, King James' troops constructed a boom of fir trees, chained together, across a narrow point on the River Foyle.

The privations of the besieged citizens were appalling. 7000 died and supplies of food were pitiful as the famous shopping list tells:

Horseflesh sold at 1/8 per lb

1/4 dog 5/6 (fattened by eating the bodies of the slain Irish traitors)

A cat 4/6

A rat 1/-

A mouse 6d .

A cannon ball hurled into the city by the King's troops carried terms for surrender tucked into its fuse hole. Back went the reply to the offer of terms in the famous words 'no surrender'. This cannon ball (fig 3)) is now in the porch of St. Columb's Cathedral.

The city's governor, The Reverend George Walker, a firebrand if ever there were one became the focus for raising morale amongst the citizens. An earlier governor had been suspected of negotiating a deal with the enemy and narrowly escaped the city with his life. His name was Lundy and ever since to be called a Lundy is a term of Protestant abuse synonymous with treachery. Governor Walker's history of the siege, although highly coloured, gives one of the best historical accounts of the event. He was later killed fighting at the Battle of the Boyne.

Conditions in the city were quite appalling when, on 12th August 1689, with less than a week's supply of food left, a relief ship, the Mountjoy, broke through

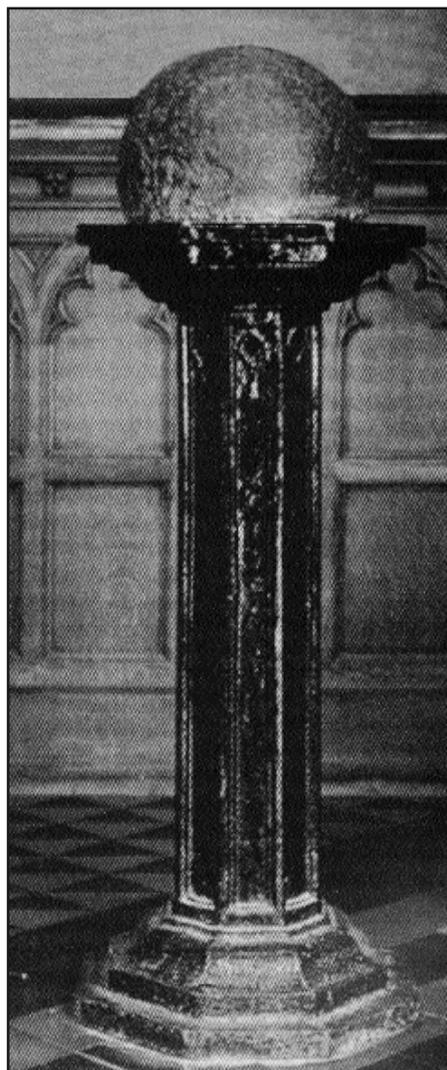


Fig 3. Cannon ball used for surrender message

the boom and with difficulty reached the stricken city with supplies.

This was the last great siege in British history and the most notable. A city which withstands siege is known as a maiden city and Derry/Londonderry/Stroke City is also known as the Maiden City. The Relief of Derry is marked by Protestants with a procession held on the 12th August each year. The colour of the sashes worn by marchers is known as Derry crimson, symbolising the blood shed and loss of life during the siege.

The thirteen apprentices who closed the city gates were, when they died, buried in a place of honour in the graveyard of St. Columbs Cathedral.

For William of Orange the refusal of Derry to surrender gave him a power base in Ireland and his campaign was crowned with success in the Battle of the Boyne on 12th July 1690.

Many historians, including Lord Macaulay, regard the ability of Derry to withstand siege as the single most important event in the Glorious Revolution which established the Protestant succession in England.

After the siege there was much need for rebuilding and the city grew and developed in the eighteenth century. There was much fine building and today the city retains many elegant features including its fine Georgian houses. Shipping became a major industry, based around the manufacture of linen. However, Derry could never become a major commercial centre until a bridge was constructed across the river. Emigration to North America increased rapidly. Many thousands of Roman Catholics saw no future in Ulster and left for America. Presbyterians despite their loyalty to the crown also were treated unfairly and joined the exodus to the New World. Derry was their point of departure and the city continued as a port for emigration well into the 20th century.

One important Eighteenth Century Derry dignitary was Frederick Augustus Hervey, Bishop of Derry and Earl of Bristol, a charismatic man with enormous intellectual interests. He was fabulously wealthy and was a great traveller. On his many tours of Europe he collected the finest artefacts which he brought back to Ulster to the two great houses he built for himself. Sadly neither house has survived. He also had a magnificent house called Ickworth, in Suffolk, now in the care of the National Trust.

The famous Bristol Hotels on mainland Europe were named after the Earl Bishop, as he was known. In times when hotel standards were unpredictable travellers knew that a hotel patronised by him was a superior place to stay. The Earl Bishop was an enlightened man. He contributed generously to the cost of building a Roman Catholic church and provided for the employment of the poor on public works. He paid for the building of the first proper bridge across the River Foyle. He was a remarkable man, devoid of sectarianism.

During the Second World War Derry once again had an important role to play in European and in world affairs. Its strategic importance as a naval base became vital in providing shelter for British and American shipping crossing the Atlantic. Allied ships were not welcome in the ports of the Republic of Ireland, a neutral country. British convoys were therefore directed round the headland of County Donegal and the port of Londonderry was a welcome haven for the North Atlantic fleet. It became the first United States naval base to be established in Europe. The Americans maintained a naval base there for many years.

After the war was over, Winston Churchill admitted that the only thing to frighten him during it was the U-Boat peril. Victory in the sea-lanes of the Atlantic represented a decisive shift in the fortunes of the war. The importance of Derry to the allied victory in the Battle of the Atlantic was recognised when the Derry harbour at Lisahally was chosen for the German U-Boats to make their surrender in 1945. 28 U-Boats were towed out to sea and scuttled.

Professor J. W. Blake, N. Ireland's official war historian endorsed Churchill's view when he stated that: from a British perspective Londonderry held the key to victory in the Atlantic and was the most important escort base in the north western approaches".

The Londonderry Air is a traditional folk tune from the area. To those of us who know and love the place this sweet melody is evocative. No words do it justice but when it is played in a simple arrangement on fiddle or on flute for me it recalls, like nothing else, the place where I was born

The Writer as Reader

Penelope Lively

Lecture Delivered on October 16 2000

THREE categories of reading seem to me to be seminal to any writer. First, and perhaps most crucial, there is the accumulated reading of a lifetime; then there is what I would call the inspirational reading that prompts the idea that fires a particular book; and then there is the reading that provides the ballast, fleshing out characters, setting and narrative.

Accumulated reading, the great random heap of books that each of us carries in the head, comprises childhood reading, the educational process, reading by choice and serendipitous reading. We are all formed by such reading, but writers perhaps above all.

I grew up in Egypt during the war, and was educated at home in a somewhat haphazard manner by someone conscientious but untrained. Books sent out from England frequently went to the bottom of the Mediterranean, and we fell back on what we had on our shelves - the plays of Noel Coward and Oscar Wilde, the stories of Somerset Maugham and the novels of Mary Webb. (Mary Webb now seems a little unlikely, but she was certainly there and accounted for a concept of English rural society that was to cause me much bewilderment when I eventually arrived in England as an adolescent).

This home education system centred around reading, and was devoted to the idea of narrative. The child was first read the story and then required to "tell back" in its own words; when you could write, you "wrote back". Science was omitted entirely from the system, except for something called "Nature Study", for which the text-book was *Eyes and No Eyes*, by Arabella Buckley, an elaborate guide to the flora and fauna of Devon waters. Armed with this, and net and glass jar, I went out into Nile-fed canals and ditches, trying to identify the monstrous catch with the more genteel world of Arabella Buckley. This "Science", which I was doing all by myself, produced my first written work, an essay called *The Flora and Fauna of the Lower Nile Valley*.

This totally unstructured and indulgent education did me no harm at all. But when I arrived at the age of thirteen at a school in the South of England, I felt as though I'd been flung into purgatory. It had never occurred to me that reading books was something

that people grumbled about, yet here I was surrounded by other 13-year-olds who hated the sight of them, and by teachers who subtly connived at this. One of the punishments was to be sent to spend an hour in the library reading. I remember also having my copy of *The Oxford Book of English Verse* confiscated by the headmistress with the words "There is no need for you to read this sort of thing in your spare time - you will be taught all that". That book and indeed poetry in general, still for me conjures up the heady thrill of forbidden private activity. When eventually I arrived at university, I was surprised to find that other people had been reading poetry openly for years, and that other grey-haired authoritative women spent their lives extolling the pleasures of reading!

Adolescent reading should be an undirected, accidental business, the point at which we engage seriously with books, start to select or reject, question and quarrel. Customised teenage reading barely existed in my day, but I believe a limited case can be made out for it today. However, it seems to me that the provision of much of the convenience reading directed at today's adolescents accounts for the alarm felt by many at the sight of books in bulk - library panic.

We discover what we like by virtue of what we find offensive. Through the Forties and Fifties vogue for lush, overblown writing (the Sitwells, Norman Douglas), I discovered that what I wanted was precise, accurate and understated writing. I admired wit, in the dictionary sense of apt association of

thought and expression, and arrived eventually at Ivy Compton Burnett and Henry Green, as well as many others who have in their different ways become models and exemplars for me. Literary taste is and always will be fickle. The problem for the committed reader -- and for the writer as reader -- is to absorb what the times are generating and approving, while retaining a firm grip on personal taste and preoccupations.

We read more than we ever remember. But once read, a book is there for ever buried in the subconscious, surfacing sometimes in unexpected ways. One of the most perfect examples of how this happens is the book by Elizabeth Bowen called *Mysterious Kor*, a powerfully atmospheric story set in wartime London in which two lovers are looking out over the moonlit city, a strange surreal landscape of facades with gaping windows, rubble, shadows, cliff-like gleaming stucco walls, unpeopled and silent. Only recently I came across Elizabeth Bowen's essay in which she talks of her obsession with Rider Haggard's *She*, with its exotic, abandoned city, an image that years later took over her vision, so that a half-forgotten literary experience produced language for her story that was all the more powerful and effective.

In critical language this is called intertextuality, a ponderous term for what seems to me to be an airy and often fortuitous process which enriches and illuminates literature. Too much introspection can be disastrous; it is one thing to be writing out of the cumulation of all that has been read; it is quite another to set about self-consciously to be a part of the stream. When a writer feels an attack of intertextuality coming on, it seems to me a good idea to take a cold bath.

It is tempting, but quite wrong, to find a spurious scientific imagery in the writing process, as though spores of literature were forever seeding and re-seeding, pursuing their way into the future like genes. Nonetheless writers are dependent on the literary past and the fodder of experience, and I believe profoundly that it is a positive advantage for reading to be eclectic and undisciplined. There is no training for a writer, and no way of learning to be a writer. Writers emerge from a random, confused and glorious medley of writings, and reading these provides the sustenance of the working writer.

This second category of reading, the inspirational, is in fact of several kinds. In any one week I myself read - or partly read - up to half-a-dozen books, from those which I am reviewing, through those which I read for pleasure, to the deliberate, but still to some extent random, reading which is going to feed my next novel.

A novel starts with an idea, which in turn arises from my own preoccupations, and these will have been fuelled by reading. The theme must be cut to size and given shape and expression, with characters, setting and a story, and this requires reading. Sometimes I know what I need to read; at other times I have to search library catalogues finding out. For my *Moon Tiger*, set in Egypt in the Second World War, I spent a great deal of time in the Imperial War Museum, with its invaluable archive of still photographs and film, but this for me was unusual, as most novels require much less preliminary work.

This is a far cry from the browsing, inspirational reading mentioned earlier, but it is equally necessary. If a novel rings true in the sense of its theme, emotions, morals and characters, that depends on the writer's skills and talents; if it rings true in the lesser, but equally potent matter of furnishings, that depends on the pains taken. Attention to detail is essential not only from an artistic point of view, but also vital if the author is to live in tranquillity after the book has been published. Sins of omission or commission will be visited upon him or her for ever.

For me the scrupulous reader has brought more pleasure than pain. My favourite correspondent in this category is the man who asked permission to use a quotation from *Next to Nature, Art* in an analysis of references to woodlice in art and literature. I now have the article, which appeared in *Isopoda*, a zoological journal, and it is entitled 'Woodlice in the Cultural Consciousness of Modern Europe'. It cites a passage in *Madame Bovary* where a woodlouse observed on a garden wall becomes a symbol of Emma's rejection of her circumstances, a condemnation of which my oniscologist correspondent takes a dim view. I thus find myself cited as "the anti-Flaubert of oniscological fiction" and I get two paragraphs to Flaubert's one!

Fiction owes a good deal to personal autobiography, but the best fiction transcends and manipulates

personal circumstances to create something that has universal resonance. This expansion of experience is prompted as much by what we read as by what we see, hear and do. For writers, this continuous relationship with what they read is absolutely central to what they will then write.

A question frequently asked of us all is, "Who are your own favourite authors?" It is a question that cannot be answered in a meaningful way simply because our relationship with important books is as fluid and flexible as personality itself. Over a lifetime, fiction seems to move with us, and to interlock with our imagination differently at each reading.

In my own life, some works are a constant presence, with the engagement ever changing. *Alice in Wonderland*, and *Alice through the Looking-glass*, which I first read as a child, I have revisited many times, seeing them differently but never losing the flavour of the first encounter. When I re-read *Dombey and Son*, always fresh, the perplexed fascination that I felt on first reading it at thirteen, comes smoking up from the pages.

For any of us, never mind writers, there is also a series of seminal encounters, reading experiences that chart our preoccupations and the way in which we see the world. Some 25 years ago, I discovered W.G. Hoskins' *The Making of the English Landscape*, and a new perception of the physical world helped to shape my early novels. Since then, an interest in the way in which we use memory has forked off in various directions, including a fascination with the nature of evidence, how there is no single truth about what happens to a person, but a number of conflicting truths. All of this has derived from a pattern of reading, sometimes purposeful, sometimes haphazard.

The lucky accident of falling upon the book that prompts a new train of thought always seems to me to be a miraculous process, as is the knowledge that there is potentially no limit to it.

One final area of a writer's reading experience is the essential one of example, though example is too pedestrian a word for what I have in mind. There are books that stop you in your tracks, lasting exemplars to which you pay permanent tribute. For me there have probably been a dozen such works, but if I had

to name three, they would be *What Maisie Knew*, by Henry James, Ford Madox Ford's *The Good Soldier*, and William Golding's *The Inheritors*. To me, each of these novels, different as they are, displays an aspect of fictional skill and ingenuity, and shows what fiction writing is all about.

All writers are susceptible to influence, not in the obvious sense of writing "like" someone else, for acceding to influence is not imitating but developing. The three novels I have named are an influence and an inspiration because they show what can be done with the novel as a form.

I spoke earlier of having been in my youth profoundly offended by the Sitwells, but I now see this as a thoroughly constructive adverse influence, pointing me in the opposite direction. One's own style is found neither by imitation nor avoidance, but by a mysterious osmotic process of experiment and self-criticism.

I feel under-privileged if I have not spent some part of each day reading; I feel badly done by if some of each week's reading has not been haphazard and unpredicted, for it is there, as often as not, that the lightning strikes, though I am deeply conscious that direction and affinities have been decided for me long ago.

The only advice that I am ever able to give to children or the young who have literary urges is: read - anything and everything.

Did Orwell Serve the Secret State?

Orwell and the Information Research Department of the Foreign Office

Peter Davison

De Montfort University

Lecture Delivered on November 6 2000

When my 20-volume edition of *The Complete Works of George Orwell* was published on 2 July 1998, it aroused gratifying press interest. What appealed to me less was the way a mere twenty of the edition's 8,500 pages were picked out for close scrutiny, much ill-informed and some bordering on the dishonest. In conjunction with Sir Richard Rees, Orwell had kept a private notebook in which he listed people he thought were 'unreliable'. Although there was a joke element in their exchange of names (Orwell seems to have included his income-tax inspector - hardly a threat to the state), their purpose was to note those who might undermine democracy, in particular, socialism in England, by communist subversion. It has been stated, falsely, that Orwell's notebook was passed to the secret service and Labour MPs in a position to know better went so far as to accuse Orwell of betraying a cause he had purportedly held dear. It was surprising that there should have been such a fuss about these twenty pages in 1998. Most of the details had been published not only in 1996 (and misleadingly attacked in *The Evening Standard* by a journalist and by Gerald Kaufman, MP), but seven years earlier in *The Sunday Telegraph* complete with a dozen photographs of some of those listed. In 1998 this was an old, old story, so one wondered why the fuss.

The talk endeavoured to show

- 1: why Orwell kept such a list;
- 2: why the Information Research Department came to be formed by the Labour Government in 1948;
- 3: how Orwell became involved as he lay dying at Cranham Sanatorium;
- 4: why some names were listed; and
- 5: as a tailpiece, a German reaction to the inclusion of one Soviet agent.

1: Orwell's experience in the Spanish Civil War fighting for the POUM against Franco taught him that his supposed Communist allies were culpable of treachery against their colleagues. He did not know what we now know that by the time he arrived in Spain in December 1936 the USSR had decided to eliminate their allies, the POUM. Nor did he know, what we also now know, that he and his wife were investigated for the Tribunal for Espionage and High Treason in Valencia, because they were associated with the Independent Labour Party and thus 'confirmed Trotskyists' (which they

were not). To be a Trotskyist usually led to imprisonment or death (as happened to some of Orwell's colleagues). The treachery he witnessed ensured he never trusted the Soviets, Communists, and Fellow-Travellers.

- 2: Many months of attacks on Britain by the USSR in the United Nations led to the Labour Foreign Minister, Ernest Bevin, reluctantly setting up the Information Research Department on 4 January 1948. This was a section of the Foreign Office and, in Orwell's time, very small. Its function was to provide briefing papers for British diplomats to respond to Soviet attacks and to distribute articles, books, and journals that demonstrated how democratic socialism worked. One of the journals widely disseminated abroad was *Tribune*; the Prime Ministers of India and Pakistan asked for help from the IRD to counter Soviet subversion in their countries.
- 3: In March 1949, when the Soviets were blockading Berlin, Orwell was visited at Cranham Sanatorium by a member of the IRD's staff, Celia Kirwan (now Celia Goodman). Celia had been a close friend for some years. She asked him to write articles for the IRD. Orwell felt too ill to do this but suggested

names of those who might be approached; one was Franz Borkenau. Orwell later sent a list of thirty-five names of those whom it would be unwise to ask for help because, loyal to the USSR, they might undermine British interests - Spain excepted. These names have not been released by the Public Record Office but can be suggested by analysing markings in Orwell's notebook. It is important to stress that these people were not being put in any danger: they were simply not to be trusted to write honest articles.

Human Rights), if it might damage 'the institution's image and reputation', a position akin to that of the former totalitarian governments.

The lecture was illustrated by 26 acetates of documents and people mentioned.

4: Of those names mentioned, some were of those whose folly rather than treachery led to their being duped by the Soviets. One such was J. B. Priestley. His *Russian Journey* (1946) maintained, among other things, that there was no Soviet secret police 'unless they were disguised as sparrows'. Some were covert Soviet supporters such as Konni Zilliacus, expelled by the Labour Party in 1949, but whom Orwell actually defended in the interests of freedom of expression; some were Soviet agents, such as the Labour MP, Tom Driberg (NKVD codename, LEPAGE), and Peter Smollett (or Smolka), codename ABO, a friend of the spy, Kim Philby. Instead of exposure, Smollett was awarded the OBE and was instrumental in blocking the publication of *Animal Farm*. He was so extraordinarily successful that the NKVD believed he had been 'turned' by MI5. As an example of how British Governments could be suborned, it was shown how, in Orwell's lifetime and for long after, they were persuaded not to expose The Soviets as perpetrators of Katyn and other Polish massacres.

5: Among reactions discussed was a demand by Deutschland Radio and Die Telegraph that the claim that Smollett/Smolka was a Soviet agent be retracted because his family was 'important in Germany'. Evidence from Oleg Gordievsky showed Smollett was an agent. Since then, the Mitrokhin Archive has exposed the extent of his service to the Soviets.

Orwell's sole aim was to uphold freedom and democracy. One can see from that German reaction, and those of some British politicians, how uncomfortable truth can be. Recently criticism of the EU has been forbidden by the European Court of Justice (in contravention to the European Court of

The Europeanness of Shakespeare

Dr Robert Smallwood

Director of Courses, The Shakespeare Centre, Stratford upon Avon

Lecture Delivered Monday November 20 2000

None of Shakespeare's plays is set in contemporary England. Even *The Merry Wives of Windsor*, though it seems to be, belongs, strictly speaking, in the same early fifteenth-century period as the history plays from which several of its characters are drawn. For the rest, Shakespeare chooses, clearly deliberately, and in contrast to many of his contemporaries, settings all over continental Europe, east, west, north, and south. The reading of source material that lies behind the plays is similarly Europe-wide in its scope, encompassing an extraordinary range of classical and modern writers from around the continent. Nor is Shakespeare's work ever narrowly nationalistic in tone: even *Henry V*, the most obvious candidate for such an accusation, ends with the solemn celebration of peace between France and England and a prayer that 'English may as French, French Englishmen, receive each other'.

A conspicuous feature of Shakespeare's Europeanness is his depiction of invasions of Britain from the continent. Surprisingly, there is no play in which such an invasion is straightforwardly unwelcome: in *King John* and *Richard II* the invaders come in support of English subjects wronged by English kings and in *Richard III* it is, in fact, the 'rags of France' (as Richard calls them) who depose the usurper and place Queen Elizabeth's grandfather, Henry VII, on the throne. Two plays which most clearly invite us to see mischief and evil in Britain opposed by more wholesome influences from the continent are *King Lear* and *Cymbeline*. In *King Lear* the invading army of the French Queen, Cordelia, has the support of every member of the audience in its attempt to destroy the tyranny of the British leaders, Goneril, Regan, and Edmund. In *Cymbeline* Shakespeare offers his most complete examination of Britain's place within Europe.

Cymbeline presents the quarrel over tribute between the British king and the Roman Empire with a war-party in England led by the Queen and her son Cloten (*Cymbeline*'s step-son). Their belligerent and jingoistic clichés have much in common with the style of the tabloid press today in its distorted and misleading treatment of issues very similar to those with which the play *Cymbeline* is dealing.

The football-supporter's view of Britain's place in Europe. That the Queen and her son are to be seen as unequivocally wicked influences is all too clear: the

Queen combines a career as poisoner with her Daily Mailish Eurosceptic views; Cloten is a rapist as well as an early prototype of *The Sun*'s Europhobia. The deaths of these two characters during the course of the play allow *Cymbeline* to repudiate their isolationist and 'Little Englander' policies and to re-espouse the pan-European ideal.

The opposed attitudes to the treaty with Rome in *Cymbeline* are curiously reminiscent of British attitudes to the Treaty of Rome today. The view finally presented in the play is, however, very clear. It ends in a huge peace celebration in which 'a Roman and a British ensign wave friendly together' and in which Britain's recent withdrawal from European integration is looked back on as a foolishly misguided but fortunately only temporary aberration. Even in his contribution of a single (long) speech to the play *Sir Thomas More*, Shakespeare makes clear his powerful commitment to his nation's place in a Europe-wide human community. It is, when one considers it, altogether unsurprising that celebration of Shakespeare's plays encompasses the whole of Europe, since the plays themselves celebrate the whole European community.

Leicester and Evolution: the story of Alfred Russel Wallace

Sandra Knapp

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Joint Lecture with the Natural History Section delivered on December 4 2000

Alfred Russel Wallace is justly famous for his collecting in the Malay Archipelago - he discovered new species of the fabulous birdwing butterflies and the equally magnificent birds of paradise. While recovering from a malarial fever on the island of Ternate, he sent a letter containing an draft essay outlining his theory of organic change to Charles Darwin, prompting Darwin to finally publish his theory of evolution by natural selection which changed biology forever. But Wallace was much more than the co-discoverer of natural selection. He was one of the greatest naturalists and collectors ever, and his exploits and discoveries still inspire today's generation of scientists. He was also the first real biogeographer - his meticulous interest in the distribution of animals, including people, led him to insights about the origin of species and to explanations of their existence in time and space.

Wallace was a younger son in a large family. His father was a teacher, but not a particularly good investor of money, and Wallace himself left school early to learn a trade. At the age of 21, (1844) he left his family, where he had been working with his brother William, a land surveyor, since their father had died the previous year. He decided to try to become a schoolmaster, and was offered a post at the Collegiate School in Leicester, where he taught drawing and had responsibility for the evening preparation of the boarders. He stayed there for about a year - a year that was to change the course of his life completely. In Leicester, as in most provincial towns of the day, there was a library - a veritable gold mine for a young man eager to soak up knowledge. Wallace borrowed books, and as he had time for several hours reading daily, took good advantage of the resources at his disposal. In Leicester he read for the first time Baron Alexander von Humboldt's English language version of his famous South American journey - *Personal Narrative of Travels to South America* - which Wallace says was "the first book that gave me the desire to visit the tropics." The Leicester library was also where Wallace met the enthusiastic young beetle collector Henry Walter Bates - a meeting that would change both their lives. Up to that time, Wallace's enthusiasm for natural history had been concentrated on the British flora, but Bates introduced him to the whole new world of

beetles, with thousands of different species, all readily collected near Leicester.

In 1846 Wallace's elder brother William died and Wallace left Leicester and teaching to sort out his affairs. William had worked on the opening up of the railways - he had left a small business in Neath, Glamorganshire and Wallace inherited his tools. The railway boom was reaching its peak, and trained surveyors were greatly in demand. With his new tools, Wallace began to work as a surveyor once again. He corresponded on a regular basis with Bates, about matters philosophical and biological - he had read the controversial *Vestiges of the Natural History of Creation*, anonymously published in 1844, the geologist Lyell's works and Darwin's *Journal of his Beagle voyage*. Wallace lamented his isolation in Neath, and was very lonely for intellectual stimulation. "I quite envy you, who have friends near you attached to the same pursuits. I know not a single person in this little town who studies any one branch of natural history, so I am quite alone in this respect." (letter to Bates, quoted in Wallace's autobiography).

In 1847 the railway boom collapsed and Wallace was out of work, fed up with isolation and ready for a change. He saved £100 from his work on the railways - in those days a tidy sum. His reading

inspired him to take a momentous step with his Leicester friend, Henry Walter Bates. They decided to explore the Amazon, collecting specimens to pay their way. The two young men were among the very first biological entrepreneurs.

Alfred Russel Wallace is best known today for his work in the Malay Archipelago, today's Indonesia and New Guinea. But he did not spring onto the scene as a fully fledged naturalist and collector in South East Asia. The tropics are difficult to work in - it is hot, the customs of the land are different and in the nineteenth century disease was a constant companion to the traveller. Wallace experienced all these things in the Malay Archipelago with equanimity and remarkable good spirits. It seems as though he stepped straight from middle England to the tropics without faltering, but this is certainly not the case. Like all the best collectors and naturalists, Wallace had practice. His trip to the Amazon - four years of collecting undertaken initially with Henry Walter Bates - taught him many lessons about how to operate as an independent scientist in a foreign land. In a way, his time in the Amazon was his apprenticeship - his master was the forest itself, and by learning its ways and how to find and capture its treasures he became a proficient naturalist and collector. But the trip to the Amazon did more than just teach Wallace how to collect - it cost him a brother, and ultimately, it almost cost him his life.

Returning to England with all his precious collections aboard the trading ship *Helen*, disaster struck. The *Helen* was carrying a cargo of balsam of capivi, a highly flammable substance, usually packed in wet sand. A few barrels of balsam were loaded at the last minute - and packed in dry rice chaff. Not a good idea - as one might expect, the ship caught fire and was beyond saving. All hands, including Wallace, evacuated to lifeboats and were eventually picked up many days afterwards - nearly out of drinking water and close to death. All Wallace's specimens and diaries were packed in the *Helen's* hold and were lost. The potential for loss runs through every scientist's mind as he or she returns from the field with precious collections or data. The time and effort spent is worth so much, but even more valuable are the objects themselves. If one has been to a previously unvisited area, these collections will be unique, and so precious they cannot be valued in monetary terms.

But not everything perished in the sinking of the *Helen*. As Wallace left the ship he grabbed a tin box from his cabin. In the box were his drawings of fishes from the Rio Negro and a few drawings of palms. Wallace published a little book about palms in 1853, but he kept his fish drawings with him for many years. He gave these to The Natural History Museum in 1904, characteristically modestly presuming they would be of some interest to people in the Zoology Department. The drawings are of course interesting to ichthyologists, but they are also beautiful objects in themselves - and to me symbolise the passion and joy of exploration, and the risk inherent in it, both then and now. His accurate and minute observation of detail ultimately led Wallace to one of the biggest and most controversial ideas of the nineteenth century - evolution by natural selection - this process truly began in the Amazon, but also had its roots in the intellectual stimulation he found while living in Leicester.

Further reading:

Footsteps in the Forest; Alfred Russel Wallace in the Amazon by Sandra Knapp. NHM. London. 1999.

Developing Graduate Education in the UK

Professor Robert G Burgess

Vice-Chancellor, University Of Leicester

Lecture Delivered on Monday January 8 2001

Graduate education is the fastest growing sector of higher education in the UK. The main trends have occurred at Masters level, but there have also been significant developments in terms of people studying for Doctoral degrees. Among the key developments have been Masters programmes developed full-time and part-time that are delivered face to face and also by distance learning (the latter being a trend that has occurred in the University of Leicester, which achieved first place as a provider of taught postgraduate courses in the Financial Times 2001 survey). Meanwhile, at Doctoral level, students have continued to study for the traditional PhD but there have also been many developments of professional or taught Doctorates, especially in fields such as education, engineering, business studies and clinical psychology. Indeed, in the University of Leicester there are over 300 students studying for the EdD (the Doctorate in Education) and also a cohort of students studying for the Doctorate in Clinical Psychology. These are some of the key trends that have resulted in universities, including Leicester, deciding that special provision has to be made for students working at graduate level through the creation of a Graduate School. But we might ask, what are the advantages and disadvantages of a graduate school?

Graduate schools are often seen as North American creations and it is therefore important that universities do not merely clone graduate schools and bolt them on to British institutions. Instead, it is essential that graduate schools are developed according to the structure in existence in the university concerned. But what are their advantages? First, they bring together all the students within the university - they provide critical mass so that students at graduate level are not left to cling on to the edges of their institutions. Secondly, they provide specialist provision, often providing research training. Thirdly, scholarships and bursaries are often given on a university-wide basis by the Graduate School. Fourthly, graduate schools are responsible for the recruitment and retention of students so as to ensure that there are common standards and hence good practice developed throughout the institution. Fifthly, they focus on submission and completion rates so as to ensure that departments and faculties support their students to submit and complete work within the designated time periods. Indeed, British universities have an enviable reputation world-wide for ensuring that students complete their work on time. But what are the disadvantages? Firstly, some people have argued the scale and scope of a graduate school, covering as it does, the whole of the university, impedes rather

than assists progress. Yet, they overcome the isolation that has been apparent in earlier years among British postgraduate students. Secondly, it is often asked, do graduate schools distract people from undergraduate education and are artificial barriers between undergraduates and postgraduates put in place? Once again, much depends upon institutions and the ways in which they can develop approaches to graduate education that builds upon high quality undergraduate work. Thirdly, the cost of graduate schools is often raised, but much depends upon graduate schools increasing income rather than just being an item of expenditure within universities. Finally, there is the ultimate question: do graduate schools make a difference for graduate students? The answer is that they should do if they address key issues. But what are these issues? Many reviewers have identified a series of common issues in graduate education, not only in the UK but world-wide. They can be identified as follows:

1. Should graduate students engage in education or training or both? Many people would point to the problems of students focussing entirely upon their degrees and the need to provide a wide range of training which incorporates access to a range of methodologies.

2. What is the time to degree? Fifteen years ago, British universities were quite rightly criticised for the lack of supervision and training of graduate students with the consequence that many did not complete their degrees within a four year time span. These days, time to degree has been reduced in the UK so it is the envy of the world.
 3. How can students be assisted to submit and complete their theses? Here again, graduate schools provide assistance in terms of systematic training, especially in the first year of Doctoral work.
 4. Is a critical mass required? Graduate schools can overcome the isolation of students within higher education institutions.
 5. Are specialist resources required at graduate level? Graduate schools themselves constitute a key resource for graduate students.
- Graduate education in the UK has the potential to result not only in a new generation of workers, but also a range of new work. Students who have an excellent research training can develop strong careers not only in higher education but elsewhere in appropriate institutional settings.

Ministry in a new Millennium

The Right Reverend Tim Stevens, Bishop of Leicester
Lecture Delivered on January 22 2001

We live in a post-modern society. It is characterised by choice, individuality and a "pick and mix" culture of ideas. It tends to avoid commitment, to see the short term and to contribute to the general decline of institutions including the Church.

Alongside institutional decline, and the demise of well established frameworks and values, has gone a steady increase in standards of living over the past 25 years. In spite of this, there is widespread evidence of renewed interest in spirituality. The evidence for this includes the record attendance at the National Gallery Millennium exhibition entitled "Seeing Salvation". The death of Princess Diana and the widespread reaction was further evidence and my own experience as Bishop during the last eighteen months suggests that there remains a widespread interest in the Church's involvement in the agenda for society.

At times like this, there are four particular priorities for the Church:

- a) To maintain public worship of the highest possible quality.
- b) To be ready to adapt traditional teaching to new perspectives on contemporary moral issues.

- c) To engage effectively in the issues of social justice - such as the Jubilee 2000 campaign.
- d) To relate the Christian tradition to contemporary scientific discoveries.

The evidence of those societies from which organised religion has been suppressed or repressed offer us something of a warning. A society which loses touch with the idea of the transcendent is a society vulnerable to manipulation by the short term self interest of those with power.

Sport And The Media

John Williams

Sir Norman Chester Centre for Football Research, University of Leicester

Lecture Delivered on February 10 2001

In the last two decades the relationship between TV and sport has changed dramatically. At the heart of these changes is the apparently relentless expansion of the global cultural-media industries, as they are increasingly driven to cover their escalating costs over the maximum market base. In cultural terms such developments have been argued to create, in the lexicon of postmodernist media theorists such as Kevin Robins: "A new electronic cultural space; a placeless geography of image and simulation.. .a global hyperspace.. .a world of instantaneous and depthless communication; a world in which space and time horizons have become compressed and collapsed."

In rather more prosaic terms, the debate about sport and TV centres largely about how terrestrial TV and the new satellite delivery systems should be controlled and financed and about the sort of access people are likely to have to the different sectors of the broadcasting network. Discussion is already going on, for example, about the precise future role of the BBC in covering international sport. Add to this the rapid growth in the number and audience reach of international satellite TV channels, backed by transnational capital and hungry for their own share of advertisers' revenue, and the picture emerges of a shift in some of the fundamental tenets of broadcasting of a kind which may be familiar to sports TV viewers in the United States but which is unparalleled in the still short history of the medium in Britain.

Opinion is still divided on the likely long term effects of these changes. On the one hand, neo-liberal 'free market' supporters of these developments point to the importance of producing what they describe as a leaner, fitter communications network and of making consumer choice paramount in the shaping of television output.

It seems self evident, however, that this focus only on the primacy of consumer choice largely ignores the massive inequalities of access to cultural goods created by the financial economy. Still increasing divisions between rich and poor in Britain make, of course, for substantial differences in access to some of the new media technologies which are popularly

supposed to increase access to the media and introduce wider consumer choice for all. Notwithstanding this fact, for many less affluent British people, television is their major news and information source. Moreover, over recent years cultural forms - music, the arts, films, the press etc. - which have previously been quite separate from television, have been increasingly drawn into its domain.

John Thompson describes this trend as the "mediation of modern culture", a process via which: "Pop music, sports and other activities are largely sustained by the media industries which are not merely involved in the transmission and financial support of pre-existing cultural forms, but also in the active transformation of these forms." There is plenty of empirical evidence to back up these claims. Think, for example, of the way in which British tabloid newspapers now devote miles of column inches every year to the activities and interests of the 'stars' from TV soap operas and sport, with their main focus being on individuals who are 'newsworthy', simply, it seems, for being famous. These outlets have increasingly become adjuncts to television, part of an increasingly television-saturated and television-centred cultural formation.

What is described above should make more clear the links I would like to draw between developments in media technologies and public access and the notions of citizenship and social democracy I began with. For one thing, if effective citizenship requires

free access to a range of information and explanations about the world around then, clearly, television, because of its cultural centrality, has become a key site in the struggle to secure and promote resources for citizenship.

Satellite and cable TV are at the heart of the new market-driven segmentation in TV broadcasting. After severe early problems, Rupert Murdoch's BSkyB has become the market leader here. The major reason for this apparent upturn in the fortunes of BSkyB is its move into the coverage of international sport in a big way, securing exclusive rights for a range of sporting events including international golf, test cricket and rugby union, but especially, from 1992, 'live' coverage of the FA Premier League.

In Britain, from 1954, top 'listed' sporting events were deemed the property of the nation, something which was to be made available to all citizens. Their universal availability, especially on BBC TV, was regarded as part of the public service brief of the corporation. The range of events covered by the protected list of the nation's sacred sporting events reveals much about the singular class and amateur traditions of sport in Britain. Television sport in Britain from the 1950s to the 1980s could be seen as a form of social cohesion - developing a series of major national and international events and building an audience for them. These events - The FA Cup Final, Wimbledon, the Olympic Games and the World Cup - became major national shared rituals; events that large numbers of people watched simultaneously, and, symbolically, shared. Undoubtedly, such cohesion was largely imaginary and was underpinned by a broadcasting conservatism which rendered sport as 'national events', as a form of negotiation and mediation in the politics of national culture, reflecting the interests inter alia of: the royal family; the public schools; gendered accounts of power - there was little women's sport covered; idealist attributions of historical continuity; etc., etc. Such sporting output on terrestrial TV is still understood and reproduced, nevertheless, within a framework which suggests stability and some degree of unity in shared national values.

The more recent developments in satellite sport are characterised much more by processes of fragmentation - a rapid growth in the number of top level competitions (eg the Grand Prix circuits in

tennis and athletics); the establishment of entirely new TV-oriented leagues like the new FA Premier League; the 'invention' of sports which combine entertainment and cod-sport features (e.g. beach volleyball) and the proliferation of outlets (four terrestrial channels, joined by more than a dozen satellite channels, at least two of them devoted entirely to sport). This self-conscious eclecticism produces an ideological coherence only in terms of the principles of the market place rather than of any constructed notion of the stability of the British nation. In these senses, discourses in media sport on national and regional characteristics - on 'who we are' - enter the hyperreal, and are reproduced in ever more rigorous and bizarre forms largely in order to sell particular products.

Traditional notions of important connections and associations between sport, community and place seem peculiarly vulnerable in the time-space compression age of satellite TV. The intense experiences of sports' spectatorship can help to form felt relationships with the locality or within the more immediate locale of the family and they can also provide for the re-experiencing of the past in the present. New developments seem much more strongly commercially driven. The growth of the sports clothing business, and the interpenetration of the worlds of fashion and sport, for example, have made images of sport part of the currency of everyday life, more central than ever before. Casual fashion and street wear are largely dominated by sport-derived styles. Surface appearances and the secondary circulation of images have become central to the image of sport. These effects are complex and far-reaching. For example, although the playing of 'American' sports in Europe (gridiron, baseball etc.) has not taken off, and TV audiences for these sports are small and declining, the merchandising of their products is booming in the UK, and is likely to increase following a recent commercial partnership established between the largest European sports business, Manchester United and its US equivalent, the New York Yankees baseball franchise.

By the same token, the recently retired US NBA basketball player, Michael Jordan, is a near-mythical sports figure in the USA, but also in the UK. He is especially popular among inner city black British youth. But Jordan was seldom, if ever, seen playing his sport on national television in Britain. And yet, he

has become a star name and face in Britain, even to people who don't follow US basketball; he was first choice of students in Brighton when they were asked in a recent poll which of 16 'celebrities' most influenced their values. Schoolchildren in China recently agreed that the two greatest men in history were Chou En-Lai and Jordan, who was also, tiresomely, declared in *Playboy* magazine to be, "more popular than Jesus" (*The Guardian*, 7 October, 1993).

Jordan is celebrated in Britain largely because he appears in ads, and because his name and image is heavily promoted and stylised via the expensive and massively popular Jordan Air range of sports goods and clothing. His global fame is also closely tied to a wide range of endorsements reputed to have earned the ex-basketball player around £23 million a year - or eight times the salary he earned as a player at the Chicago Bulls. Among other things, this apparently means Jordan must have no 'political' position, for example on the role of blacks in sport, which might alienate segments of the white market for his sports goods. Interestingly, too, when Jordan took the 'Stars and Stripes' into the arena in Barcelona for the presentation of his Olympic gold medal for basketball, it was less to display his 'patriotism' than it was to cover the name on his national tracksuit of a rival sponsor, Reebok. Here, quite clearly, it is increasingly the sponsors in sport who demand the kind of brand allegiance which has traditionally been the preserve of the nation state.

Part of the impact of television, the rise of sponsorship and the growth of the sports business has been to produce conflicting notions of the client. Who in these days of 'globalisation' is the customer for sport? Traditionally, it was the 'live' spectator, now greatly outnumbered by the television viewer. Today, sponsorship has become central; if the sponsors are paying for the event they must implicitly be a customer. It has been argued that, increasingly, television produces audiences, which it sells to advertisers, so the advertisers are a customer, and the television audience is merely the product. This seems to be especially the case in the new era of satellite delivery systems and de-regulation, in which the flow of sports coverage, and its format, is increasingly dictated by the demands of advertisers.

It is too simplistic, of course, to propose here the sort

of model in which pre-television traditions in sport (or anything else) reflect all that is good and of cultural worth and (post) modernity signals an inexorable slide into a rootless, and corrosive entrepreneurial swamp. The processes involved are inevitably more complex and contradictory than this, and the recent struggles in England over 'the future of football' have been dogged almost as much by unimaginative and conservative opposition to change from the terraces and stands as they have been by the sometimes crass commercialism of some of the new breed of football administrators.

Greater commercialism in many sports has brought new funds, better performances, improved stadia, professionalism in performance and staging, and some new sources of support and opportunities for grassroots development. However, there can be no question that television, advertisers, sponsors and corporate clients have come to exercise a significant - some may argue a near-determining - influence over top level sport. The rise of satellite television promises to push European sport a stage further.

Trees & Woods in Art and Reality

Oliver Rackham

Botany Department, University of Cambridge

Lecture Delivered on March 5 2001

Works of art are historical evidence: they reveal what trees and woods looked like in the past. Constable's paintings reveal a dramatic increase in trees and other vegetation around Dedham over 200 years. The scattered pines in Cézanne's pictures of southern France have, over a century, turned into great extents of pinewood (which burn from time to time). Art has another significance. Much of what passes for landscape history is really the history of what literate people wrote about landscape and what people are supposed to have thought about landscape. Paintings reveal part of the relation between people's attitudes to landscape and the actual landscape that they were attitudinizing about.

Pictures of trees and woods may be

1. topographical, of a particular place;
2. generic, 'A Wooded Landscape'; or
3. forming the background to a portrait, battle, martyrdom, etc. There are also landscapes designed as works of art; maps as works of art; and botanical illustration as a branch of art.

The earliest European landscape paintings are frescoes, some 3500 years old, excavated on the Aegean island of Santorini. They appear to depict the cavernous red, yellow, and black cliffs unique to that sea-volcano. They also show *Phoenix theophrasti*, the Cretan palm, now one of the world's rarest trees. However, many of the plants are stylized to the point at which, for example, commentators argue whether sea-daffodil (*Pancratium*) or papyrus is meant.

One of the greatest European landscape artists, Simon Binninck, flourished around 1500 in what is now Belgium. John Hunter drew my attention to 'November' in his book of the Labours of the Months. Amid a landscape of hedges and small fields, a coppice-wood shows three stages in its cycle of felling and regrowth. There are recognizable oaks, aspens, and elms; the coppice stools are small-leaved lime; and Binninck even puts in plants, such as broom and brambles, which spring up in newly-felled woodland. It is not just a 'A Wooded Landscape', but an individual wood with a personality still recognizable now. One day someone may identify it.

It is a real addition to knowledge about medieval woodland.

Binninck is exceptional. Anyone going into a gallery, taking a landscape painting at random, and asking 'What is that tree?' will seldom get a definite answer. Representing trees is perhaps the most difficult task in art, and few artists succeed. No picture (or photograph) of a big tree can be naturalistic: the reality is far too complex to transfer to canvas. Any tree picture has to be a caricature. The art of caricature is to identify the distinctive features (the 'jizz' of a tree, as bird-watchers would say) and discard the non-distinctive ones. Most artists keep the non-distinctive features. Many get no further than the traditional Army classification into Fir-trees, Poplars, and Bushy-topped trees.

It will be said that artists could portray trees if they wished, but thought it unimportant. One would hardly expect Turner or Picasso to get the trees right: that was not their job. For many others trees are mere space-fillers. But often an artist takes immense pains with the details, but still fails to draw a convincing tree. Trees are often more convincing in sketches than in studio paintings. Constable sketched a recognizable sort of elm at East Bergholt; in a painting for sale he has bushy-topped trees. Even pictures specially commissioned for identifying trees do not always capture their jizz: for many years a tree-recognition poster hung in the offices of conservation bodies without anyone noticing that the trees on it were not recognizable.

Lack of conviction may extend to whole landscapes. I tried to reconcile Gainsborough's picture, 'Cornard Wood', with the actual woods around eighteenth-century Great Cornard. Not only are the trees, though done with great care, barely identifiable as any particular kind of tree, but the scene lacks the infrastructure of woodland: coppice stools, banks and ditches bordering the lane, etc. Is it a work of imagination bearing, the sort of relation to real landscapes that Piranesi's *Carceri d'Invenzione* do to real Italian jails? No: Susan Foister has shown that it is really derived from a landscape by Ruisdael: a Dutch scene into which Great Cornard church has been inserted (giving rise, after Gainsborough's time, to the title 'Cornard Wood').

But Gainsborough was no mere copyist: he made the scene bland and generic by leaving out the dead tops and eroded roots that gave personality to Ruisdael's oaks. These were not to be long out of fashion: in Leicester Museum is a view of the Blean near Canterbury, by Thomas Sidney Cooper in 1832, which has two great oaks with the shattered tops and dead branchends so characteristic of oaks on the Blean.

Artists tend to depict some features of landscape and shun others. They love dead trees, even as far back as the fresco on Philip of Macedon's tomb, 336 BC. (Is this merely because dead trees are easy to draw?) Dead elms in paintings are part of the evidence for early Dutch Elm Disease. They love 'badlands, landscapes of erosion gullies which are common in Italy but adopted by French artists such as Fragonard and even Flemings. Many love pollards, which occur from the *Tres Riches Heures du Duc de Beny* through Dürer, Rembrandt, even Gainsborough (though rarely) and on to Arthur Rackham and later. A characteristic English art-form is portraits of ancient trees such as the Tortworth Chestnut.

Artists mysteriously avoid certain features known to have been common, such as open-field strip-cultivation in northern Europe. In Italy they shun cultivation terraces, preferring to depict sloping hedged fields. (Was there a textbook which said 'Never paint terraces'?) They avert their eyes from coppice stools and trees with more than one stem. Before Dürer, and even after, they seldom show distinctive mountains: Europe was slow to appreciate

the spiritual -quaints of mountains-. They rarely get timber-framed buildings right, even though timber-framing was itself an art-form.

Art influences landscape: people re-make the real world in the image of the art. Park landscapes of the eighteenth century are supposed to imitate the works of Claude Lorrain and Poussin. Although landscape designers and their patrons dated these Old Masters, the reality is more complex. There had been parks as deer-farms, such as Staverton in Suffolk, since the eleventh century, and it is now known that designer parks had been a feature of country mansions for at least 400 years. Moreover, 'Capability' Brown and Repton and their colleagues used to work round and incorporate woods, hedges, and ancient trees already on the site.

Baroque artists such as Poussin began to establish the belief in the 'ruined landscape' of Southern Europe. They depicted the lush badlands of middle Italy, with ancient Greek nymphs and heroes disporting in noble forests and crystal fountains. When travellers reached the real, dry, 'barren' Greece, they concluded that the landscape had gone to the bad since Classical times by human mismanagement. They could not know that ancient Italy was rather like Poussin's Italy, but very unlike ancient Greece and ancient Spain. This misunderstanding contributed to the modern belief in desertification. The Spanish Forestry Commission has been striving, so far with little success, to make Spain look like Italy.

Artistic cultures independent of Europe have their own priorities and values. The Japanese understand the personalities of trees. Not for them the bland, straight-grown, bushy-topped: their space-fillers are clouds, not trees. They love dead boughs and eroded roots. A few flicks of a tiny brush define the jizz of a pine and its difference from other species of pine. Equally perceptive is the art of Europeans in Australia, who set about learning the bafflingly complex individualities of the thousand species of eucalyptus, and using them to define the different landscapes of the new continent.

An Alien's Guide to Earthling Science

David Brodie,

Educational Author

Lecture Delivered on March 19 2001

The diversity of life on Earth is also seen in the diversity of sensory apparatus. Not only are we unable to imagine what it might be like to be a bat, we cannot begin to understand how a bat uses its ultrasound senses to create a moment by moment 'mental reconstruction' of the world that is good enough for navigation through trees, for catching insects, and so on. Yet a bat is a mammal, not so different from ourselves.

So if alien life exists then its ways of sensing its worlds might be very different from ours. An intelligent alien might be as fascinated by our perceptual systems as we are with those of bats. The 'thoughts' of such an alien would, in turn, be of interest to us.

Our alien might make a survey of Earth's living things, and one feature of interest might be the different types of response to light. Plant responses are real enough, but slow [or seems so to us]. Animals need to be able to respond to changes in the interactions of light that are taking place in its environment moment by moment - in a world of predator-prey relationships, speed of response is a matter of survival, and in this it seems that an evolutionary 'arms race' has taken place in the past.

Most people would agree that it is through the visual cortex that humans process sensory data to build our perceptions. And for most of us the data are provided by eyesight. [In blind people the visual cortex does not remain idle.] At the retinas, light interacts with matter - electrochemical changes initiate nerve impulses, and from these the brain rebuilds at least some of the features of the world outside the skull.

The nature of our vision matches the properties of the environment in which it has evolved. We do not sense ultraviolet light, or X-rays, and we have only crude sense of infrared. It might be no coincidence that while such radiations strike the top of the atmosphere at high intensity, they are absorbed before reaching the Earth's surface. There would be little point in sensory systems to detect UV or X-rays, at least. We do not detect radio waves, either. Again,

sensitivity to these ranges of the electromagnetic spectrum would be pointless. Though some radio waves from space do penetrate the atmosphere the wavelengths of these waves results in strong diffraction effects in the human-sized world, and so practical imaging is only possible with large receptors - such as radio dishes. In addition, there are few natural sources of radio waves.

The human visual system is matched to the physical properties of the atmosphere. Our alien might have very different sensitivities to the electromagnetic spectrum. If its evolution had taken place on a planet with a thin atmosphere, for example, then it might detect UV and use this for navigation through its world as we use our own 'visible' light.

The human species seems to have a unique level of relationship with symbols. These may be, at least in part, extensions of body language in primates and other mammals, and may well be related to the importance to each of us of the human face, with its array of features that we are extremely good at 'recognising'. We can build meaning from other patterns, too, of course.

Perhaps it is from this that we have developed what an alien might consider to be an obsession with symbols that we make on surfaces. Our range of techniques for doing this is awesome. We make marks with shapes that are 'shared', understood by all fully functioning members of the cultures into which we are born and in which we learn. But we have not stopped at written hieroglyphs; by way of direct light-surface interaction we have taught ourselves to 'store' the details of interactions that take

place over short time intervals - and produce photographs. We can manipulate the light - by refraction, for example, to produce magnified images, or by selective absorption and transmission to take advantage of the abilities of our visual systems to distinguish wavelengths of light and so to produce colour effects.

We can even use multi-stage processes to make visual images, which only use light for the final stage, for transfer information to our brains. Here the image production itself takes place through, for example, electron interactions in electron microscopes, or by way of probes that emit ultrasound and then receive the reflected ultrasound waves. In such ways machine-friendly data are converted into human-friendly imagery.

Artists' two-dimensional work may use symbols in a way that is intended to provide 'literal' representation, or they may escape from representation of the shared world and provide an expression of the artist's individual, if not entirely unique, mental (including emotional) processes.

Rene Magritte played a joke on us all by writing 'ceci n'est pas une pipe' under a highly 'realistic' painting of a pipe. He reminded us that a flat representation is just a play with reflecting surfaces, with light-pigment interactions, and is not itself the reality that it so successfully represents to us. This raises interesting questions about the boundaries between reality and representation, in art and in science, and indeed in everyday perception.

One such question concerns whether we are capable of making sense of reality without representation. We use 'models' in science, and models are only representations. Perhaps every perception that exists inside a brain is a construction made from sensory data - a valid (we hope) reconstruction of objects and events in our surroundings, which we would not be able to construct without significant previous experience of the world. The momentary model may only be possible as a consequence of more permanent models, or frameworks of understanding.

Science uses visual and mathematical models, of course. Mathematics has a special power to take the human mind to places it hasn't been before - perhaps because mathematics is dependent on its own rules

and not so much on experience of physical reality. However, here we are concerned with visuality. Science has generated visual representations that have developed 'iconic' status, and have proved hugely valuable in assisting us in our attempts to improve our abilities to predict the behaviour of the world. These include the 'ray' - a simple, idealised, line that represents a direction of travel of light. It is so powerful that it is easy to suppose that the world is actually 'like that', when it certainly is not. Light in any space that contains source, or sources, and surface, or surfaces, takes many pathways - in fact all possible pathways, an infinite number - at all times. Light does not simply travel from A to B but fills a space. So although such representations can be useful we can be too impressed by them, making it more difficult to embrace new models. Such models can be obstacles, as well as aids, to new ways of thinking. Switching from an old way of thinking to a new one is notoriously difficult. Actually creating a new way of thinking is more difficult still, and is something that happens rarely.

Nevertheless, visual representations on flat surfaces remain of key importance to us. What might have begun with patterns made in mud by sticks and stones, has developed by way of the cave wall, to the computer screen. Perhaps even an alien would be impressed.

Dangerous Earth

Department of Adult Education, University of Leicester
and the
Leicester Literary and Philosophical Society (Section C - Geology)
Saturday School, held on March 3 2001

Living as we do on a dynamic planet, we are perfectly aware of natural catastrophes such as earthquakes, volcanoes, tsunamis and landslides. Although most of us have, thankfully, not experienced these phenomena first-hand, we are familiar with the devastation and suffering they can cause. There is, however, another type of event that sits in a league of its own. These are the 'mega-events' that have the potential to cause widespread, even planet-wide, devastation. These include meteorite impacts, very large volcanic eruptions, flood basalts, and sector collapse of oceanic islands that create huge tsunamis. In this Saturday School, accounts were given about such events in the geological past and their role in global extinctions. There were discussions on the likelihood of reoccurrence in the near future; their possible effects on the planet - including ourselves and whether can we do anything to prepare for them?

Our Bombarded Earth

Allan Mills

**Departments of Astronomy and Geology,
University of Leicester**

Meteorites have been known from the earliest times, but only comparatively recently has it been realised that the impact of extra-terrestrial bodies moving at enormous velocities can produce large craters with potentially devastating results. Modern knowledge of meteorites was reviewed, and then attention given to the recognition of ancient impact scars ('astroblemes') on our planet. The idea that such an event could have resulted in the extinction of the dinosaurs was discussed.

Sudden Destruction - Earthquakes as Human Disasters

Roger Musson

**Global Seismology and Geomagnetism, British
Geological Survey,Edinburgh.**

Amongst the various natural disasters that the human race needs to protect itself, earthquakes are perhaps the most sudden. A major earthquake can strike without the slightest warning and kill tens of thousands of people within a couple of minutes. However, the extent to which any earthquake is or is

not a disaster in human terms depends on a number of factors, of which the size (magnitude) of the earthquake is only one. The location of the earthquake with respect to human communities is just as important, and the time of day and the degree to which the community has protected itself also factor largely. Knowing how earthquakes kill is important when it comes to defence against earthquakes, and while it is not possible to prevent earthquakes from happening, it is certainly possible to reduce the casualties.

Big and Very Big Landslides

Tony Waltham

**Department of Civil & Structural Engineering,
The Nottingham Trent University**

Landslides come in all shapes and sizes and some fall into the category of "major geohazards". They are all part of the natural process of erosion, but landslides do form an increasingly large share of slope processes in high mountain regions. Slow slope denudation is replaced by major landslide events especially where the right geological structure exists, but man can sometimes cause his own downfall. Examples are taken from the Alps, Rockies and Himalayas.

Unravelling cause and effect: volcanism, climate, extinctions, methane hydrates, and much, much more

Rosalind White

Department of Geology, University of Leicester, Leicester LE1 7RH

Two hundred and fifty million years ago, at the end of the Permian period, disaster struck. In what has been termed “the greatest natural disaster in Earth history” and “the mother of mass extinctions”, marine and land animal populations were decimated, with 95% of marine species and c.65% of amphibian and reptile families being wiped out. Recovery from these events took millions of years, and the course of evolutionary history had been changed irrevocably.

Studies of Permo-Triassic rocks have yielded a wealth of information about events occurring at the time of the extinction, and they have led to a multitude of proposals for the “cause” of the biological calamity. Suggested culprits include massive volcanic activity, impact of an extra-terrestrial body, changes in sea level and changes in seawater and atmospheric chemistry. Much of the evidence is qualitative rather than quantitative, and it is notoriously difficult to fit all the pieces of the puzzle together in a way that allows us to evaluate the knock-on effects of each event. The true reasons for the environmental disaster, therefore, still remain elusive.

Volatile Release in Flood Basalt Eruptions and Their

Implications for Mass Extinctions

Stephen Self

Volcano Dynamics Group, Department of Earth Sciences, The Open University

Flood basalt volcanism is distinguished from other basaltic volcanism by the repeated effusion of huge batches of magma, 10^3 km^3 , over a short stretch of geologic time. Vast flood basalt lava flow fields were formed by activity on long ($>100 \text{ km}$) fissures. Our recent work on Columbia River basalt flows suggests eruptions lasting somewhere between 5 and 15 years. Estimated mean eruption rates would have been 10^3 - $10^4 \text{ m}^3/\text{s}$ DRE (Dense Rock Equivalent), or

3×10^7 - 10^8 kg/s . To put this into perspective, about 10 years of activity at the Laki (Iceland) AD 1783 peak eruption rate ($1.2 \times 10^7 \text{ kg/s}$) would produce a lava flow field of flood basalt dimensions. Mass eruption rates would vary depending on the duration of effusion and the length of active fissure at any one time; $3.5 \times 10^3 \text{ kg/s/m}$ (m = meter length of fissure) for a 2-km-long active fissure, down to $\sim 100 \text{ kg/s/m}$ for a 75-km-long active fissure. The occurrence of deposits of spatter, spatter-fed lava, and scoria mounds along eruptive fissures suggest that there was violent fire fountaining during flood basalt eruptions. Model estimates for the convective plumes rising above the fountains indicate heights up to 15 km.

Based on a Laki analog, and determination of volatile contents of flood basalt lavas, we estimate that 70% of the volatiles released rose above the vents with the fountains. Most of the gas would have been entrained into eruption columns and would have reached mid to upper tropospheric heights, or even into the lower stratosphere. Our measurements indicate that a total of 10,000 Mt of SO_2 could have been released during one eruption, or 1000 Mt per year for a 10-year-long event, a huge amount compared to historic volcanic gas releases such as Mt. Pinatubo 1991 (20 Mt). If there is any mechanism by which flood basalt volcanism could cause mass extinctions, it must be by the repeated emission of immense masses of sulfur gases into the atmosphere during a flood basalt event, and the cumulative impact of repeated doses of gas and aerosols on the earth's climate, biota and ecosystems. Exactly how this would occur is not yet known, but some vital clues were discussed.

Super-Eruptions: The World's Biggest Bangs

Bill McGuire

Benfield Greig Hazard Research Centre, Department of Geological Sciences, University College London.

The magnitude of a volcanic eruption is indicated on the **Volcanic Explosivity Index** (VEI), which is essentially a measure of the energy - and in general, therefore, the violence - of an eruption. As with all natural phenomena there are many smaller events than larger ones, and top-of-the-scale super-eruptions that score 8 on the Index are very infrequent. The

problem is, however, that when they occur, **super-eruptions** are capable of causing drastic changes to the climate of hemispherical or even global extent. The last super-eruption occurred at Toba in Sumatra (Indonesia) around 74,000 years ago and may have ejected up to 6000 km³ of magma and pulverised rock and sufficient sulphur gases to form 5000 megatons of stratospheric sulphuric acid aerosols. The resulting **Volcanic Winter** lasted for several years and may have had a dramatic impact on the planet's ecosystems and on the ancestors of modern humankind. The effects of the next super-eruption on our global technological civilisation may be equally devastating.

Collapsing Volcanoes and Giant Tsunamis in the Atlantic Ocean

Simon Day

**Benfield Greig Hazard Research Centre,
Department of Geological Sciences, University
College, London**

Giant lateral collapses on oceanic volcanoes are among the largest and most destructive of natural events, potentially involving the rapid removal of 20% of the volcanic edifice, reaching volumes as large as 5000 km³ and spawning giant tsunamis. Such collapses were first identified in the Hawaiian islands but have also been shown to occur in many other oceanic island groups including the Canaries and Cape Verdes in the Atlantic. Limited evidence from candidate giant tsunami deposits, most notably in the Bahamas, and from initial landslide models of these events indicates that these collapses are capable of producing tsunami waves many hundreds of metres high at source and up to several tens of metres high at transoceanic distances, far larger than in any historical tsunami event and capable of devastating entire continental margins. The models also indicate that these collapses are much more efficient tsunami sources than asteroid impacts of comparable energy (and frequency), because they produce longer-period, less dispersive waves.

Globally, the long term average frequency of these oceanic island collapses is at least 1 per 20,000 years, but the near-term probability of collapse occurrence may be significantly higher. At least two island volcanoes, on La Palma in the Canaries and on

Fogo in the Cape Verdes, show evidence for the recent onset of pre-collapse instability and may even collapse in their next eruptions. Giant tsunami generation by oceanic island volcano collapse therefore appears to be the most immediate (but lowest-magnitude) of the three great geological / astrophysical hazards that threaten human society, the others being supervolcano eruptions and large-magnitude impacts.

The Leicester Literary and Philosophical Society

- a short history

The Leicester Literary and Leicester Philosophical Society, locally known as the Lit. and Phil., was founded in 1835 by Dr G Shaw and Mr. A Paget. Its nominal President was Sir Henry Halford of Wistow, Royal Physician to George III, George IV and William IV, but its Acting President was Dr Shaw, who had been involved in the early days of the Manchester Scientific Society. The style "Literary and Philosophical" seemed to embrace all the intellectual as distinguished from the practical and religious sides of life. The Society was not intended to specialise in any particular branch of knowledge but the subjects introduced should be of intellectual interest, should not be of a religious or political nature and be as much as possible undisturbed by political or sectarian strife.

Regular meetings were held, as now, on a fortnightly basis. One of the earliest topics considered was that of a Museum for "the proper display of fossils, minerals, etc. belonging to the Society which would form the nucleus of a Museum". The collection was presented to the Town in 1849. It was moved from place to place until finally it was housed in the empty Proprietary School in New Walk, designed by Joseph Hansom, of cab fame. The Museum was associated with the arguments on the mechanisms of evolution proposed by Charles Darwin, Alfred Russel Wallace and Henry Bates in 1860.

All early lectures were given by members of the Society and their popularity is indicated in the Minutes by a note which states that the Lecture Room was "crowded to excess". It was during this period that the Lit. and Phil. was granted, free of charge, the use of the Lecture Hall and also the free use of the Council Room "at all such times as they require".

In 1870 professional lecturers began to be engaged and in that year Professor Thomas Huxley and three other Fellows of the Royal Society visited. Members were from time to time entertained at Dramatic and Musical Evenings and at Soirees attended by large numbers of ladies. Ladies were not admitted to full

membership until 1885 and it was not until 1913 that a lady, Mrs William Evans, was elected President, to be followed in 1923 by Miss Margaret Gimson.

In the 1860's the Society was deeply involved in a campaign for a Public Free Library and in 1872 it agitated for a Physics Laboratory. In 1882 it made a donation to the Wyggeston Boys' School Laboratory Fund and also financed the Cambridge University Extension Lectures.

As early as 1850 specialist sections of the Society were formed in the fields of Geology, Zoology, Botany, Fine Arts and Archaeology. Excursions were organised to various parts of the County which sometimes attracted as many as 100 members. Two Sections remain as part of the Society's activities, Geology and Natural History. The rest have either disappeared or have become independent societies.

In 1884 Dr George Shaw, one of our founder members was again elected President, 50 years after his first Presidency. His Presidential Address is printed in full in the Society's Centenary Book. Among the lectures of this period were addresses by the mountaineers Edward Whymper and Martin Conway, Sir Oliver Lodge and James Ramsey MacDonald, M.P.

In 1885 the President, Rev. Went, Headmaster of the Wyggeston Boys' School, suggested in his Presidential Address that the courses of lectures to the Lit. and Phil. could prepare the way for the establishment in Leicester of a University College. However it was not until 1912 that this suggestion was revived by Dr Astley V. Clarke, who from time to time raised the idea until the Declaration of War on Germany in 1914 caused it to be shelved. Dr Astley Clarke continued his advocacy for a University until 1920 when the College was at last founded to become, with Lutyens' splendid arch, Leicester's Memorial to the war dead. The first Principal was Dr R. F. Rattray, a member of the Society, and the first students, eight in number, were all women. The University College has now outgrown its parent to

become a full and thriving University but the links between the two establishments remain very close.

The Lit. and Phil. was soon back in its stride after the War and the names of W. Flinders Petrie, Patuffa Kennedy Fraser, Cyril Burt and W.B. Yeats appear on the list of lectures for 1921 and 1922. The Society survived another World War and after 165 years it still meets every fortnight during the winter and brings to Leicester speakers of national and international reputation. A selection of names from the last 25 years will underline the contribution which Leicester Literary and Philosophical Society has made to the intellectual and cultural life of the City.

Sir David Attenborough
Lord Attenborough (Richard Attenborough)
Sir Alfred Ayer
Lord Montagu of Beaulieu
Dr David Bellamy
Atarah Ben-Tovin
Professor Malcolm Bradbury
Marjorie Blamey
Dr Robert Burchfield
Heather Couper
Lord Deedes (William Deedes)
Cohn Dexter
Margaret Drabble
Dr Levi Fox
Jane Goodall
Ray Gosling
Professor Richard Hoggart
W.G. Hoskins
Professor Arthur Humphreys
Baroness James (P.D. James)
Penelope Lively
Patrick Moore
Professor Andrew Motion
Anna Pavord
Margaret Rule
Helen Sharman
Professor Jack Simmons
C.P. Snow
Lars Tharp
Marina Warner
Professor Stanley Wells
Colin Wilson
Sir John Wolfenden

LEICESTER LITERARY AND PHILOSOPHICAL SOCIETY.

CONSTITUTION AND RULES (Revised 1994)

1. OBJECTS

The objects of the Society shall be

- (i) The advancement of education in Literature, Science and Art.
- (ii) The provision of lectures and discussions; the publication of reports, papers and proceedings; the support of the City Museum or the Museum of the Society under the terms of its presentation to the City Council; and by any other means that may from time to time appear to the Council to be desirable.

2. MANAGEMENT.

The management of the Society shall be vested in a Council consisting of a President, four Vice-Presidents, Life Vice-Presidents appointed under Rule 7, a Treasurer, a Secretary, a Minute Secretary, and an Editor of the Transactions, all of whom shall be appointed annually; and not less than twelve and not more than thirty-six members, who shall be appointed for two years, half of whom shall retire from office annually but shall be eligible for re-appointment (if the number is uneven the smaller number shall retire), and of one member nominated and elected annually by each Section of the Society, if desired by the Section, such election to be made before 31st October in each year and to be certified in writing by the Chairman of the Section at the date of the election. Five members of the Council are required to form a quorum.

3. ANNUAL MEETING.

A General Meeting of the Society shall be held in every year, at such time and place as the Council shall appoint, for the presentation of reports, and the transaction of the general business of the Society. At this meeting the Vice-Presidents, the Treasurer, the Secretaries, the Editor, two Auditors, and members of the Council shall be chosen in the manner hereinafter mentioned. All questions proposed at such meeting, except such as involve an alteration of the Rules, shall be decided by the votes of the majority of the members present, the President having a vote, and in case of equality a casting vote.

4. ORDINARY MEETINGS

The Council shall appoint the times and places at which the Society's ordinary meetings shall be held, and shall determine the business to be transacted at such meeting, in conformity with Rule 1. The advocacy of sectarian religious or party political views, either by lectures or by speakers, shall be excluded.

5. SPECIAL GENERAL MEETINGS

Special general meetings shall be called at the discretion of the Council, or on the requisition of eight members addressed

to the Minute Secretary, who shall give previous notice of such meeting to every member.

6. QUORUM AT GENERAL MEETINGS

At any General Meeting each member present in person shall have one vote. Ten members present in person shall be a quorum and if within fifteen minutes of the time appointed for the meeting a quorum is not present the meeting shall be dissolved.

7. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The President shall be elected by the Council, and the election shall take place at least one month before the Annual Meeting. The retiring President shall retain office until the President's address has been delivered. At the last two lectures of each session notice shall be given of the date, time and place of the Annual Meeting, notice of the Annual Meeting having been inserted in the lecture programme. Each member present and voting at the Annual Meeting shall receive a list of nominees, and shall, in the case of voting, put a mark against the names of those for whom he or she votes. The Chairman shall appoint scrutineers to cast up the votes. The scrutineers shall present a list of the persons voted for in order of majority of votes, and shall hand over the voting papers to the Chairman, by whom they shall be immediately destroyed. The election shall fall upon those who have a majority of votes, and in the case of an equality the election shall be decided by lot. Lists containing more names marked than the number required shall be rejected. Vacancies in any of the offices, from whatever cause arising, shall be filled up by the Council. When there is a vacancy on the Council there must be a nomination at one meeting and election at the next meeting.

8. LIFE VICE-PRESIDENTS

Any member of the Council who has rendered conspicuous service to the Society may, on the recommendation of the Council to the Annual Meeting, be elected a Life Vice-President of the Society provided he or she remains a member of the Society and such a Life Vice-President shall be a permanent member of the Council.

9. SECTIONS

The Council of the Society may from time to time appoint Sections for the pursuit of particular branches of Science, Literature and Art, and make bye-laws regulating the constitution, organisation and management of such Sections. The Council may also from time to time extinguish any Section or amalgamate any two or more Sections. The Council may, if it shall think fit, make provision for the appointment of persons, not members of the Society, as members of the Sections, provided that all acts and proceedings of such Sections shall be fully and promptly reported back to the Council.

10. ADMISSION OF MEMBERS

Each application for membership shall be made in writing to the Secretary and submitted for the approval of the Council at the meeting thereof next following the receipt of the application or as soon after as possible.

11. MEMBERS

Each member shall pay an annual subscription as determined from time to time by the Council which shall entitle him or her to (i) a Member's Ticket, not transferable; (ii) one copy of the Transactions.

12. FAMILY MEMBERS

Each Family Member shall pay an annual subscription as determined from time to time by the Council which shall entitle him or her to the privileges to which each member is entitled as mentioned in Rule 11, and in addition to the privilege of bringing one visitor to each lecture of the session.

13. PAYMENT OF SUBSCRIPTIONS

The Annual Subscription shall be payable before the first lecture. Admission shall be by ticket only, which shall be issued on payment of subscription. Members whose subscriptions are unpaid by 31st March, after reminder, shall be deemed to have resigned.

14. HONORARY MEMBERS

Honorary Members shall be nominated and elected by the Council and shall have the same privileges as members.

15. ADMISSION OF NON-MEMBERS TO MEETINGS

Visitors may be admitted to the meetings of the Society on production of a 'visitor's ticket' signed by the President or one of the Secretaries of the Society. Persons not producing a 'visitor's ticket' or such an order may be admitted to lectures on payment of such fee as the Council shall from time to time determine. The Council shall have power to make from time to time such other special regulations for the admission of visitors as may appear necessary.

16. RESIGNATIONS

Members intending to resign shall notify their intention to the Secretary before 31st May.

17. APPLICATION OF FUNDS

After payment of the expenses of the Society, any surplus funds may be disposed of in the manner which the Council may consider most conducive to the advancement of the objects of the Society.

If the Council decides that it is necessary or advisable to dissolve the Society it shall call a meeting of all members of the Society, of which not less than 21 days notice (stating the terms of the resolution to be proposed) shall be given. If the proposal is confirmed by a two-thirds majority of those present and voting the Council shall have power to realise any assets held by or on behalf of the Society. Any assets remaining after the satisfaction of any proper debts and

liabilities shall be given or transferred to such other charitable institution or institutions having objects similar to the objects of the Society as the members of the Society may determine or failing that shall be applied for some other charitable purpose. A copy of the statement of accounts, or accounts and statement, for the final accounting period of the Society must be sent to the Charity Commissioners.

18. RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE

- (i) The funds of the Society, including all donations contributions and bequests, shall be paid into an account operated by the Council in the name of the Society at such Bank as the Council shall from time to time decide. All cheques drawn on the account must be signed by at least two members of the Council.
- (ii) The funds belonging to the Society shall be applied only in furthering the objects.

ACCOUNTS.

The Council shall comply with their obligations under the Charities Act 1992 (or any statutory re-enactment or modification of that Act) with regard to:

- (i) The keeping of accounting records for the Society.
- (ii) The preparation of annual statements of account for the Society.
- (iii) The auditing or independent examination of the statements of account of the Society; and
- (iv) The transmission of the statements of account of the Society to the Charity Commissioners.

19. ALTERATION OF RULES

- (i) Subject to the following provisions of this clause the Constitution may be altered by a resolution passed by not less than two thirds of the members present and voting at a general meeting. The notice of the general meeting must include notice of the resolution, setting out the terms of the alteration proposed.
- (ii) No amendment may be made to the name of the Society, the objects clause, the dissolution clause or this clause without the prior consent in writing of the Charity Commissioners.
- (iii) No amendment may be made which would have the effect of making the Society cease to be a charity in law.
- (iv) The Council should promptly send to the Charity Commissioners a copy of any amendment made under this clause.

20. COUNCIL TO MAKE BYE-LAWS

The Council shall have power to make Bye-Laws and Regulations not inconsistent with the foregoing rules

21. DEFINITION

In these Rules and Bye-Laws the word 'Member' and 'Members' shall, except where the context otherwise requires, include the words 'Family Member' and 'Family Members' respectively.

President's Annual Report

Presented at the Annual General Meeting on 23rd April 2001

We are coming to the end of another stimulating season of Lit and Phil lectures and an interesting and challenging year for Council of the Society.

The programme covered a wide range of subjects from literature to football and from the ministry of the church in the new Millennium to the gas fluorine. Thus the tradition of this Society of embracing sciences and the liberal arts continues. It is pleasing that speakers of national and international renown recognise the merits and ideals of the Society and feel honoured to be invited to address it. We are indebted to them all.

Our new public address system has, I think, generally been an improvement on the old one. Staff at the Museum adjust it but still occasionally it lets us down. The individual speaking styles of lecturers seem to have some bearing on the problem.

Thanks are due to the sponsors of lectures for their continuing support. The Royal Society of Chemistry, The British Association for the Advancement of Science, De Montfort University, The University of Leicester Bookshop and the Leicester Mercury have all enabled us to continue to bring speakers of eminence to Leicester. Additional support from the Leicester Mercury has allowed us to continue to hold our annual schools lecture which this season was attended by 600 pupils from city and county schools. This provided a wonderful opportunity for local young people to attend a lecture demonstration on the use of light in the treatment of illness. The schools initiative by the Lit and Phil is an indication of the Society's relevance today and its commitment to lifelong learning.

During my term as President I have had the support of a very active Council and I believe the Society is fortunate to have so many experienced and talented people keenly involved in its committee work. All have given generously of their time and have contributed enthusiastically to the running of the Society's affairs. I thank them warmly for their advice and expertise. It is invidious to single out individuals but the office holders should be acknowledged for their special input.

Our treasurer Mr David Beeson has handled our finances with great skill and has put them on a more advantageous footing. The Independent Examiners of the accounts Mr Smithson and Mr Barker also have my gratitude.

The membership secretary, Mrs Patricia Silver, does a huge amount of work each year and her contribution is vital. She is also on hand to greet members and visitors on arrival. Membership stands at a healthy 273.

The Programme Secretary Dr Geoffrey Lewis has, as speaker finder, maintained the high standards members are entitled to expect in this distinguished Society.

Professor Khan has taken on the editorship of Transactions from Dr Ford and is doing this vast job with great professionalism as Dr Ford did for 18 years. We look forward to his first issue of the Transactions later in the year.

During the year we were saddened by the death of our valued and highly esteemed Secretary, Miss Joan Staples who served the Society so well and faithfully for 12 years. We owe much to her cheerful efficiency and she is missed. Fortunately Mr Davinder Sandhu has been willing to undertake the secretarial duties and I thank him for this. It has been a pleasure to work with him.

This year we recorded with regret the death of Professor John Swales, a member of Council for many years.

Mr O.K. Smyth, a distinguished past President, has decided to retire from Council and I place on record the Society's gratitude to him for his active and lively participation over the years. I am pleased to say he will still be at hand and will assist where he can from the backbenches.

Mrs Joan Beeson continues to take our catering standards to new heights and the informal post lecture discussion is, in my view, an important aspect of our evenings.

Staff at New Walk Museum are unfailingly helpful and courteous and always make us feel welcome. They form a highly professional and dedicated team and I thank them one and all.

Several other members of the Society have offered advice and support through the year and their contributions are appreciated.

Members will be aware of the difficult financial position the Museums Service has had to face recently. It is hoped that this is in the process of being resolved. New Walk Museum's close association with this Society is recognised and valued and we look forward to continuing to work in partnership with the Museums Service to provide lifelong learning opportunities for people in Leicester. Grant Pitches, a member of the Society's Council and a Trustee of New Walk Museum, is fully engaged in the ongoing development of the liaison between the Museum and the Lit and Phil.

During the year Council has considered ways in which the Bennett Fund could be utilised more effectively. It is judged that the objectives of its

founder cannot readily be met in modern circumstances. Ways are being sought to use this small fund to promote education. Professor Patrick Boylan, a member of Council is negotiating on our behalf with the Charity Commissioners as to how this can best be achieved.

I am delighted to report that The Society is negotiating with the Trustees of the Harry Hardy Peach Memorial Fund with a view to the Lit and Phil taking over the responsibility for organising the distinguished Peach Memorial Lecture, currently arranged by the University of Leicester. Discussions involving the Charity Commissioners are at an advanced stage. Responsibility for the lecture would provide the Lit and Phil with another opportunity to contribute to the intellectual life of the city. Harry Hardy Peach was one of Leicester's most eminent twentieth century citizens. He was a man of great vision, involved in many aspects of life - from industrial design to conservation and education. It is gratifying that The Trustees of the Fund see the Lit and Phil as a suitable organisation to take over their role.

I take this opportunity to thank the Society for electing me as its President. It has been an honour and a privilege to serve. When we meet again on October 1st, I shall have pleasure in installing Canon Michael Wilson as my successor.

Programme for the 2000-2001 Season

October 2, 2000

'IF STONES COULD SPEAK'

President's Address by Mrs H.A.E. Lewis
Open meeting followed by a social gathering
In the presence of the The Lord Mayor.

October 16, 2000

THE WRITER AS READER

Penelope Lively, Writer
(Sponsored by University of Leicester Bookshop)

November 6, 2000

DID ORWELL SERVE THE SECRET STATE? ORWELL AND THE INFORMATION RESEARCH

DEPT. OF THE FOREIGN OFFICE

Professor Peter Davison, O.B.E.,
Research Professor and Editor of *Orwell's Complete Words*.
(Sponsored by DeMontfort University)

November 20, 2000

THE EUROPEANNESS OF SHAKESPEARE

Dr Robert Smallwood
Director of Courses, The Shakespeare Centre,
Stratford-upon-Avon.

December 4, 2000

LEICESTER AND EVOLUTION: THE STORY OF ALFRED RUSSEL WALLACE.

Dr Sandra Knapp
Botany Dept, National History Museum, London.
(Joint lecture with the Geology Section).

December 13, 2000

LECTURE FOR SCHOOLS: A LITTLE LIGHT RELIEF

Professor David Philips, O.B.E.,
Dept of Inorganic Chemistry, Imperial College
Ratray Lecture Theatre. Admission by ticket only.
(Sponsored by The Leicester Mercury)

January 8, 2001

DEVELOPING GRADUATE EDUCATION IN THE U.K.

Professor Robert G. Burgess
Vice Chancellor, University of Leicester.

January 22, 2001

MINISTRY IN A NEW MILLENNIUM

The Right Reverend Tim Stevens
The Bishop of Leicester.

Feb 6, 2001

FLUORINE

Professor John Holloway, O.B.E.,
Professor of chemistry, University of Leicester.
(Sponsored by the Royal Society of Chemistry).

February 19, 2001

DO THEY MEAN US?: REPORTING ON SPORT

John Williams, Sir Norman Chester Centre for
Football Research,
University of Leicester.
(Sponsored by Leicester Mercury).

March 5, 2001

TREES AND WOODS IN ART AND REALITY

Dr Oliver Rackham, Writer and Broadcaster
Botany Dept., University of Cambridge.
(Joint lecture with the Natural History Section).

March 19, 2001

THE ALIEN'S GUIDE TO EARTHLING SCIENCE

David Brodie, Educational Author.
(Sponsored by the British Association for the
Advancement of Science).

April 23, 2001

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

To be followed by a recital given by Julian Pike
(tenor) and John Humphreys (Piano)
Schubert: Winterreise D911

Annual Report of the Geology Section

Officers 2000/2001

Honorary Life President: Dr Bob King
Honorary Life Vice-President: Dr Trevor Ford O.B.E
Chairman: John Martin
Vice-Chairman: Professor John Hudson
Secretary: Joanne Norris
Treasurer: Doug Lazenbury
Field Secretary: Dennis Gamble
Publicity Officer: Mark Evans
'Charnia' editor: Graham Stocks

Committee

Paul Monk
Mick Steele
Dr Steve Temperley
John Webster

Co-opted

Sue Flude
Roy Clements
Andrew Swift

The Section C year from March 2000 was another successful one and maintained the progressive trend of the last few years. Membership stood at around 130, including joint members, a figure which compared well with high points in the past. The popularity of the programmes was reflected by a steady flow of membership enquiries, while on the other hand we brought the membership details up to date and 'weeded out' a few members who hadn't paid for years! Treasurer Doug Lazenbury continued to manage the finances with his customary care, as well as keeping the drinks and biscuits coming on winter meeting evenings. Communications with the membership were maintained not only through our thrice-yearly newsletter 'Charnia', masterminded by editor Graham Stocks, but also via regular field trip circulars, which took on the form of 'mini newsletters'.

The summer programme went off very well, and the localities proved popular. Attendances continued to grow for these excursions, and the weekend trip, re-introduced two seasons ago, is now an established highlight of the programme. We were also very lucky with the weather. Field Secretary Dennis Gamble did his usual conscientious job to keep things rolling smoothly.

The quality of the winter programme was maintained, and we continued to attract excellent speakers. Much of this was due to our having use of the excellent facilities in the Geology Department at Leicester University, and we are indeed fortunate to have such a first class base for our activities. We remain very grateful both to the department and the university for this privilege. We are also grateful to several speakers for stepping in at late notice when booked speakers withdrew for various reasons, and to others who consented to late changes of date. In fact, the final programme as it ran, bore little resemblance to the original one we put together! However, the quality never wavered as a result of these changes. Two highlights were an excellent Parent Body talk on December 4th by Sandy Knapp from the Natural History Museum, London, and a very popular and successful Saturday School on March 3rd convened by Andy Saunders from the Leicester Geology Department, where people had to be turned away. Attendances during the winter season averaged about 38.

The committee met at regular intervals of around two months through the year and kept things ticking over efficiently, and thanks are due to Chairman John Martin and Secretary Joanne Norris for their hard work in this regard.

Winter Programme 2000 - 2001

Wednesday October 11th

Dr Richard W. England (Department of Geology, University of Leicester) - **DEEP SEISMIC PROFILING AND THE DEEP STRUCTURE OF THE UK**

Wednesday October 25th

Professor Richard J. Aldridge (Department of Geology, University of Leicester) - **CONODONTS AND THE DAWN OF THE VERTEBRATES**

Wednesday November 8th

Phil. Manning (Yorkshire Museum) - **WORKING WITH DINOSAURS - THE INSIDE STORY**

Wednesday November 22nd

Dr Kip Jeffrey (Department of Geology, University of Leicester) - **MINERALISATION IN THE SOUTH PENNINE OREFIELD**

Monday December 4th

Joint Meeting with the Parent Body (held at New Walk Museum). Dr Sandy Knapp (Natural History Museum, London) - **ALFRED RUSSEL WALLACE**

Wednesday December 6th

Dr Samantha R. Barr (Department of Geology, University of Leicester) - **FROM A WEST PACIFIC SUBDUCTION FACTORY TO EAST ANTARCTIC GLACIAL HISTORY. THE PERSPECTIVE OF AN ODP LOGGING SCIENTIST**

Wednesday December 20th

Christmas meeting, held at the New Walk Museum

Wednesday January 17th

Dr Michael A. Taylor (National Museums of Scotland, Edinburgh) - **MARY ANNING, THOMAS HAWKINS AND HUGH MILLER, AND THE PROBLEMS OF BEING A 19TH CENTURY FOSSIL COLLECTOR IN THE PROVINCES**

Wednesday January 31st

Dr John Faithfull (Hunterian Museum, Glasgow) - **A LASSIE'S BEST FRIEND - SCOTTISH AND OTHER BRITISH DIAMONDS**

Wednesday February 14th

Members evening, held at the New Walk Museum

Wednesday February 28th

Ken J. Dorning (Pallab Research, Sheffield) - **ACRITARCHS - STARS OF THE MARINE REALM**

Saturday March 3rd (whole day)

Saturday School, Vaughan College, Leicester. 9.30 am - 5.00 pm. **DANGEROUS EARTH. WARNING: PLANET EARTH CAN DAMAGE YOUR HEALTH.** Convenor, Professor Andy D. Saunders (Department of Geology, University of Leicester)

Wednesday March 14th

Dr David Waltham (Royal Holloway College, London) - **MODELS OF TECTONICS AND SEDIMENTATION** (live computer demonstrations)

Wednesday March 28th

AGM and Chairman's address - John G. Martin (New Walk Museum, Leicester) - **GREAT SEA DRAGONS**

Sunday June 18th

Monsal Dale/Millers Dale, Derbyshire. Geological walk studying facies variations and boundaries in the Carboniferous Limestone.

Leader: Dr David Wright (Department of Geology, University of Leicester)

Friday June 30th - Sunday July 2nd

Weekend excursion to the **Lavernock/Sully** area, near Penarth, South Wales. Based in Penarth. Mostly Upper Triassic - Lower Jurassic sequences.

Leader: Andrew Swift (Department of Geology, University of Leicester)

Sunday July 30th

Castle Cement quarries, **Ketton**. Outstanding Middle Jurassic sequence from the Lincolnshire Limestone to Kellaways Beds.

Leader: Professor John Hudson (Department of Geology, University of Leicester)

Sunday August 20th

Stewartby area, Bedfordshire. Pits in the Lower and Upper Oxford Clay (Middle-Upper Jurassic).

Leader: Chris Andrew (Bedford Museum)

Sunday September 10th

Bardon Hill Quarry, Coalville. Pre-Cambrian volcanics, intrusives, Triassic wadi fills. This was a joint trip with the Warwickshire Conservation Group.

Leader: Dr John Carney (British Geological Survey)

Saturday September 30th

The **Natural History Museum**, London. Behind the scenes at Britain's foremost natural history museum, hosted by the Keeper of Palaeontology at the Museum, Professor Steve Donovan.

Summer Programme

Saturday May 20th

Geology of the **Scunthorpe** area. Tour of Scunthorpe museum a.m. Afternoon at a British Steel site exposing the Lower Jurassic Frodingham Ironstone.

Leader: Steve Thompson (Scunthorpe Museum)

Annual Report of the Natural History Section

Officers and Committee

President	Miss J. Dawson
Chairman	Mr I. Pedley
Vice Chairman	Mrs M. Frankum
Hon Treasurer	Miss B. Ewen
Hon Sec	Mrs G. Ball
Hon Minutes Sec	Mrs D. Thompson
Hon Programme Sec	Miss J. Dawson
Hon Editor	Mrs D. Thompson

Committee

Mr R. Illiffe
Mr M. Mawson
Dr A. Bevirgton
Mr D. Cooper
Mrs A. Gregory
Mrs P. Heighway
Mr A. Brooks

The committee has met twice and among other matters has discussed the summer and winter programmes.

During the year Maggie Frankum was co-opted and elected Vice Chairman.

There was some talk during the autumn that we might be charged quite heavily for the use of the Council Room of the museum. Since the Parent Body members were also affected, we left it to them to deal with the matter. A Museum Support Group inaugural meeting was held in August which Jean Cooper and Gill Ball attended. Its aim was to put pressure on the City Council about funding for the museum service. We hope that the more cheerful news we have received will prove to be true!

We must thank Alison Gregory and Pat Heighway for nobly serving coffee at each meeting. Doreen Thompson continues to work very hard taking lengthy meeting notes and editing the Newsletter. We thank her for this. Jan Dawson has provided two good programmes of talks and activities. We are greatly indebted to her.

Winter meetings were held at fortnightly intervals, the average attendance from January to March was 40 to hear the following speakers.

January 5th

GARDEN BIRDS

Phil Ruidkin

January 19th

ANCIENT TREES AND THEIR RIGHTFUL PLACE IN OUR HERITAGE

Ted Green

February 2nd

LONG-LEGG'D SPINNERS

Nick Gordon

February 16th

COUNTRY B.A.P.'S - CREATING HEATHLAND AND NEW HOMES FOR SAND MARTINS

Andrew Rorison & Francoise Scire

March 1st

THE ECOLOGY OF AFRICAN DUNG BEETLES

Tony Cook

March 15th

CAN OTTERS MAKE A COMEBACK?

Richard Shuter

March 29th

QUIZ AND SOCIAL EVENING

The Summer Programme of Outdoor Meetings was as follows:

April 29th

Holwell Mouth

Mick Stanley

May 14th

Day Excursion to **Derbyshire** was cancelled due to lack of support

May 20th

Burley Wood

Terry Mitcham

June 11th

Day Excursion to Woodwalton Fen, Cambs.

Alan Bowley

June 24th

Kendall's Meadow and Ashby Canal

Steve Grover

July 8th

Merry's Meadows - Grasses

Steve Woodward

July 22nd

Ketton Grange

Graham Worrall

August 5th

Whitehill, Markfield - Butterfly Gardening

Eva Penn-Smith

August 19th

Narborough Bog

Pete Asher

September 2nd

Beacon Hill

Andrew Rorison

September 24th

Loddington Estate - Small Mammal Trapping

Harry Ball

October 15th

Launde Big Wood - Fungus Foray

Richard Iliffe

Winter meetings began on October 18th with a Member's Slide and Exhibition Evening.

November 1st

Feeding Garden Birds & Growing up as a Blue Tit

Steve Mc Guinness

November 15th

Introducing Microfossils - a practical session"

Dr Adrian Rundle

November 29th

28th Sowter Memorial Lecture Wildlife of the Welsh Islands

Dr. Tony Fletcher

December 13th

The Art of Taxidermy

Don Sharp

The Average attendance for these meetings was 32