



Officers and Council Members of the British Society for the History of Science, 1947–97

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Officers and council members of the British Society for the History of Science, 1947–97

JANET BROWNE*

As described elsewhere in this issue of *BJHS*, preliminary steps towards founding a society for the history of science in Britain were taken in 1946. A meeting was held at the Science Museum, London, on 22 November 1946, chaired by Herbert Dingle, at which Gavin de Beer formally proposed the foundation of a history of science society, seconded by Michael Roberts. A provisional committee was appointed to draw up rules and a constitution. It included:

Dr H. P. Bayon	Mr H. W. Robinson
Professor G. R. de Beer	Dr H. Shaw
Mr C. N. Bromehead	Dr Charles Singer
Mr F. C. H. Butler (Secretary)	Mrs Dorothea Singer
Mr J. G. Crowther	Dr F. Sherwood Taylor
Professor H. Dingle	Dr H. Hamshaw Thomas
Dr S. Lilley	Dr E. Ashworth Underwood
Mr Michael Roberts	

This provisional committee met three times over the next few months.

The British Society for the History of Science came into formal being on Monday, 5 May 1947, in the meeting room of the Royal Society, Burlington House, with Dr Sherwood Taylor in the chair. Elections for a president (Charles Singer), vice-presidents, officers and council members took place (see Table 1) and the new constitution was approved. The business of the meeting included a proposal by J. G. Crowther ‘that the Society should have a Journal’, seconded by H. P. Bayon, although nothing further was agreed. Seventy-one founder members joined at a subscription of one guinea (see the list, p. 79).

The new Society was active during its first year. From the very first council meeting, held on 14 May 1947 in the Science Museum, the question of publications became an issue, and a possible journal, newsletter and ‘authoritative translations of classical scientific works’ were in turn explored.¹ A Philosophy of Science Group was set up, run as a relatively independent wing from February 1948 to November 1958 when a separate society was established. This group was initiated by Herbert Dingle at University College London, where most of the early meetings took place. Many eminent philosophers of science became members. The BSHS itself ran to 174 members by 1 June 1948. That month, the Society’s slim, twenty-four page *Bulletin* began publication under the acting editorship of Samuel Lilley, passing into the hands of N. H. de V. Heathcote in April 1950. The *Bulletin* included meeting reports, abstracts of papers, presidential addresses, book reviews and

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1 Minutes of the Society, Science Museum Library, BSHS Archive, 1/1.

Table 1. *Foundation officers and council, British Society for the History of Science, 1947–48. Drawn from the Bulletin of the British Society for the History of Science (1949), 1, 3–4*

<i>President:</i> Dr Charles Singer	
<i>Vice-presidents:</i>	
Professor H. Dingle	Professor J. R. Partington
Dr E. J. Holmyard	Mrs Dorothea Singer
Sir Arthur MacNalty	Dr F. Sherwood Taylor
<i>Hon. secretary:</i> Mr F. C. H. Butler	
<i>Hon. treasurer:</i> Mr H. W. Robinson	
<i>Council;</i>	
Dr H. P. Bayon	Dr D. McKie
Professor G. R. de Beer	Mr H. T. Pledge
Mr C. N. Bromehead	Dr H. Shaw
Mr J. G. Crowther	Dr H. Hamshaw Thomas
Dr Dorothy Feyer	Sir Henry Thomas
Dr S. Lilley	Dr E. Ashworth Underwood

miscellaneous notices. It ran somewhat erratically from 1949 to 1961 (vols. 1 and 2, 258 pp. and 116 pp. respectively), towards the end being published as an annex to *Annals of Science*. It was superseded in 1962 by the *British Journal for the History of Science* (vol. 1 onwards) under the editorship of H. D. Anthony. The *Bulletin* also produced occasional supplements on the activities of the Philosophy of Science Group. During the first year the Society held three public meetings in the Science Museum for the reading of scholarly papers and discussion: the papers had to be approved by the Publications sub-committee before being read. Tickets to these meetings were issued to London students but it was thought by council members that students would mostly be too busy to attend.

At the Annual General Meeting on 4 May 1948 Charles Singer initiated the practice of delivering a presidential address. His address, on 'The Role of the History of Science', is reprinted in this issue of the *BJHS*. Subsequent milestones include the award of Honorary Membership to prominent figures (a practice long since ceased), beginning with George Sarton who received the honour in person on 9 May 1948; the official incorporation of the Society as a company limited by guarantee under the Societies Act on 6 May 1956, and as a Registered Charity on 1 January 1961; the introduction in 1980 of a biennial Singer Prize for an outstanding student essay; and the foundation of an Education Section in 1987. In 1969 W. H. Brock produced the first *List of Theses and Dissertations*; in 1980 Peter Collins began the *Newsletter*; in 1992 Geoffrey Cantor published the first *BSHS Guide to History of Science Courses in Britain*. The Monograph series has gone from strength to strength since its inauguration in 1978. The Society is still represented in the international organizations that were involved in its foundation.

OFFICERS AND COUNCIL MEMBERS OF THE BRITISH SOCIETY FOR THE HISTORY OF SCIENCE, 1947–97

Officers are listed chronologically according to first date of office, and council members according to electoral year. The Society's year used to run from May to May.

Presidents

C. Singer, 1947–49	M. P. Crosland, 1974–76
J. R. Partington, 1949–51	D. W. Waters, 1976–78
F. Sherwood Taylor, 1951–53	W. H. Brock, 1978–80
H. Hamshaw Thomas, 1953–55	R. Fox, 1980–82
H. Dingle, 1955–57	J. B. Morrell, 1982–84
E. Ashworth Underwood, 1957–62	G. L'E. Turner, 1984–86
T. Martin, 1962–64	C. A. Russell, 1986–88
A. C. Crombie, 1964–66	R. G. W. Anderson, 1988–90
A. R. Hall, 1966–68	H. S. Torrens, 1990–92
G. J. Whitrow, 1968–70	G. N. Cantor, 1992–94
W. P. D. Wightman, 1970–72	D. M. Knight, 1994–96
J. A. Chaldecott, 1972–74	J. H. Brooke, 1996–

Vice-presidents

H. Dingle, 1947–50, 1953–55, 1957–60, 1961–64	H. Heywood, 1956–59
E. J. Holmyard, 1947–50	G. J. Whitrow, 1955–58, 1959–62
A. MacNalty, 1947–49	E. G. R. Taylor, 1956–59
J. R. Partington, 1947–49, 1951–55, 1958–59	T. C. S. Morrison-Scott, 1961–62
Dorothea Singer, 1947–50	Margaret Rowbottom, 1959–62
F. Sherwood Taylor, 1947–50, 1955–56	D. Chilton, 1962–63, 1971–74
C. Singer, 1949–56	F. Greenaway, 1962–63, 1964–65
H. Hamshaw Thomas, 1949–51, 1955–58, 1959–61	D. H. Follett, 1963–66
H. Butterfield, 1950–52	F. H. C. Butler, 1965–68
D. McKie, 1950–53, 1958–61	A. R. Hall, 1965–66, 1968–69, 1976–79
C. E. Raven, 1950–52	W. P. D. Wightman, 1966–69, 1972–73
E. Ashworth Underwood, 1950–53, 1962–64	W. A. Smeaton, 1968–71
A. C. Crombie, 1952–55, 1962–64, 1966–68	J. A. Chaldecott, 1969–72, 1974–75
L. Rosenfeld, 1952–55	W. T. Stearn, 1969–72
R. S. Whipple, 1953–54	M. P. Crosland, 1971–74
A. Armitage, 1955–58, 1961–64	J. D. North, 1971–74
T. Martin, 1955–57, 1958–61, 1964–67	D. W. Waters, 1972–75, 1978–81
	M. P. Earles, 1974–76
	P. M. Rattansi, 1974–77
	Mary B. Hesse, 1975–77
	H. G. L. Bevan, 1977–80
	R. Fox, 1977–78, 1982–83
	J. B. Morrell, 1978–81, 1984–85

G. L'E. Turner, 1979–84, 1986–87
 W. H. Brock, 1980–81
 C. A. Russell, 1985–86, 1988–89
 R. G. W. Anderson, 1987–88, 1990–91

H. S. Torrens, 1989–90, 1992–93
 G. N. Cantor, 1991–92, 1994–95
 D. M. Knight, 1993–94, 1996–97
 J. H. Brooke, 1995–96

Secretaries

F. H. C. Butler, 1947–63
 J. A. Chaldecott, 1963–69
 M. P. Earles, 1969–74
 H. G. L. Bevan, 1974–77
 W. F. Bynum, 1977–81

G. N. Cantor, 1981–87
 J. V. Golinski, 1987–89
 C. W. Smith, 1989–95
 J. Hughes, 1995–

Treasurers

H. W. Robinson, 1947–49
 F. A. Freeth, 1949–52
 H. R. Calvert, 1952–63
 D. Chilton, 1963–69
 G. L'E. Turner, 1969–79

J. H. Brooke, 1979–85
 P. M. D. Collins, 1985–89
 R. C. Olby, 1989–93
 Mari E. W. Williams, 1993–

Editors

S. Lilley, 1948–49
 N. H. de V. Heathcote, 1948–61
 H. D. Anthony, 1961–65
 M. P. Crosland, 1965–71
 R. Fox, 1971–77

N. W. Fisher, 1976–82
 D. M. Knight, 1981–88
 J. H. Brooke, 1988–93
 Janet Browne, 1993–

Assistant editor

Mary B. Hesse, 1957–58

Publications secretaries

F. H. C. Butler, 1963–65

J. D. North, 1965–71

Programme secretaries

M. P. Earles, 1965–67
 H. G. L. Bevan, 1967–74
 A. M. Duncan, 1974–81
 B. J. Norton, 1981–85

J. V. Pickstone, 1986–91
 S. Pumfrey, 1991–96
 J. E. Agar, 1996–

Newsletter editors

P. M. D. Collins, 1981–85
 Mari E. W. Williams, 1985–89

F. A. J. L. James, 1989–

Monograph series editors

R. Smith, 1981–85

J. G. Smith, 1985–90

P. J. Weindling, 1990–96

J. F. M. Clark, 1996–

External affairs officers

Patricia Fara, 1993–95

D. E. H. Edgerton, 1996–

Membership secretary

Sally M. Horrocks, 1996–

Council, 1947–48

H. P. Bayon

G. R. de Beer

C. N. Bromehead

J. G. Crowther

Dorothy Feyer

S. Lilley

D. McKie

H. T. Pledge

H. Shaw

H. Hamshaw Thomas

H. Thomas

E. Ashworth Underwood

Council, 1948–49

H. P. Bayon

C. N. Bromehead

A. C. Crombie

J. G. Crowther

V. A. Eyles

Dorothy Feyer

F. A. Freeth

S. Lilley

L. Rosenfeld

H. Shaw

H. Hamshaw Thomas

E. Ashworth Underwood

Council, 1949–50

H. P. Bayon

H. Butterfield

A. C. Crombie

V. A. Eyles

Dorothy Feyer

S. Lilley

T. Martin

S. F. Mason

D. McKie

L. Rosenfeld

H. Shaw

E. Ashworth Underwood

Council, 1950–51

H. P. Bayon

A. C. Crombie

H. Dingle

V. A. Eyles

Dorothy Feyer

N. H. de V. Heathcote

T. Martin

S. F. Mason

J. Needham

F. J. North

L. Rosenfeld

R. S. Whipple

Council, 1951–52

A. Armitage
R. S. Clay
A. C. Crombie
C. H. Desch
H. Dingle
N. H. de V. Heathcote

T. Martin
J. Needham
F. J. North
L. Rosenfeld
H. Hamshaw Thomas
R. S. Whipple

Council, 1952–53

A. Armitage
R. S. Clay
H. Dingle
F. A. Freeth
A. R. Hall
N. H. de V. Heathcote

H. Heywood
T. Martin
F. J. North
C. Singer
H. Hamshaw Thomas
R. S. Whipple

Council, 1953–54

A. Armitage
J. A. Chaldecott
R. S. Clay
A. R. Hall
N. H. de V. Heathcote
H. Heywood

E. J. Holmyard
T. Martin
Eva G. R. Taylor
F. Sherwood Taylor
E. Ashworth Underwood
G. J. Whitrow

Council, 1954–55

A. Armitage
J. A. Chaldecott
R. S. Clay
A. R. Hall
N. H. de V. Heathcote
H. Heywood

E. J. Holmyard
T. Martin
Eva G. R. Taylor
F. Sherwood Taylor
E. Ashworth Underwood

Council, 1955–56

J. A. Chaldecott
A. C. Crombie
Joan M. Eyles
Dorothy Feyer
A. R. Hall
H. Heywood

W. Mays
J. R. Partington
D. J. Price
L. Rosenfeld
Eva G. R. Taylor

Council, 1956–57

A. H. G. Alston
J. A. Chaldecott
A. C. Crombie

Joan M. Eyles
Dorothy Feyer
J. R. Partington

D. J. Price
L. Rosenfeld
Margaret Rowbottom

J. F. Scott
C. Singer
J. O. Wisdom

Council, 1957–58

J. A. Chaldecott
D. Chilton
A. C. Crombie
Dorothy Feyer
Mary B. Hesse
T. Martin

J. R. Partington
L. Rosenfeld
Margaret Rowbottom
J. F. Scott
L. L. Whyte
J. S. Wilkie

Council, 1958–59

A. Armitage
J. A. Chaldecott
D. Chilton
Dorothy Feyer
F. Greenaway
Mary B. Hesse

Margaret Rowbottom
J. F. Scott
H. Hamshaw Thomas
G. J. Whitrow
L. L. Whyte
J. S. Wilkie

Council, 1959–60

A. Armitage
G. Burniston Brown
D. Chilton
Dorothy Feyer
J. S. L. Gilmour
F. Greenaway

Mary B. Hesse
T. C. S. Morrison-Scott
J. F. Scott
L. L. Whyte
J. S. Wilkie

Council, 1960–61

H. D. Anthony
A. Armitage
G. Burniston Brown
J. A. Chaldecott
D. Chilton
H. Dingle

J. S. L. Gilmour
F. Greenaway
T. C. S. Morrison-Scott
W. A. Smeaton
W. P. D. Wightman
J. S. Wilkie

Council, 1961–62

G. Burniston Brown
J. A. Chaldecott
D. Chilton
A. C. Crombie
D. H. Follett
J. S. L. Gilmour

S. C. Goddard
F. Greenaway
N. H. de V. Heathcote
M. A. Hoskin
T. Martin
W. P. D. Wightman

Council, 1962–63

G. Burniston Brown
J. A. Chaldecott
D. H. Follett
S. C. Goddard
N. H. de V. Heathcote
Mary B. Hesse

M. A. Hoskin
J. R. Ravetz
Margaret Rowbottom
W. T. Stearn
G. J. Whitrow
W. P. D. Wightman

Council, 1963–64

H. R. Calvert
Dorothy Feyer
S. C. Goddard
N. H. de V. Heathcote
Mary B. Hesse
M. A. Hoskin

D. McKie
J. R. Ravetz
Margaret Rowbottom
W. A. Smeaton
W. T. Stearn
G. J. Whitrow

Council, 1964–65

H. R. Calvert
A. Clow
Dorothy Feyer
A. R. Hall
N. H. de V. Heathcote
M. A. Hoskin

J. N. F. Morris
Margaret Rowbottom
W. A. Smeaton
W. T. Stearn
E. Ashworth Underwood
J. S. Wilkie

Council, 1965–66

H. R. Calvert
D. S. L. Cardwell
E. Clarke
A. Clow
Dorothy Feyer
F. Greenaway

J. N. F. Morris
Margaret Rowbottom
W. A. Smeaton
W. T. Stearn
E. Ashworth Underwood

Council, 1966–67

D. S. L. Cardwell
E. Clarke
A. Clow
W. S. C. Copeman
A. M. Duncan
Dorothy Feyer

F. Greenaway
J. W. Herivel
M. A. Hoskin
D. M. Knight
J. N. F. Morris
W. A. Smeaton

Council, 1967–68

D. S. L. Cardwell
E. Clarke
W. S. C. Copeman

A. M. Duncan
E. G. Forbes
F. Greenaway

J. W. Herivel
M. A. Hoskin
D. M. Knight

Council, 1968–69

W. H. Brock
A. M. Duncan
E. G. Forbes
J. W. Herivel
M. A. Hoskin
D. M. Knight
L. L. Laudan

Council, 1969–70

W. H. Brock
D. Chilton
A. M. Duncan
E. G. Forbes
J. W. Herivel
D. M. Knight

Council, 1970–71

W. H. Brock
D. Chilton
E. G. Forbes
R. Fox
Marie B. Hall
F. N. L. Poynter

Council, 1971–72

W. H. Brock
R. A. Buchanan
J. K. Crellin
Marie B. Hall
A. G. Molland
P. M. Rattansi

Council, 1972–73

E. J. Aiton
R. A. Buchanan
J. K. Crellin
Marie B. Hall
Mary B. Hesse
A. G. Keller

L. L. Laudan
C. A. Russell
G. L'E. Turner

F. N. L. Poynter
C. A. Russell
W. T. Stearn
G. L'E. Turner
D. W. Waters

F. N. L. Poynter
J. R. Ravetz
C. A. Russell
D. W. Waters
W. P. D. Wightman
R. M. Young

J. R. Ravetz
C. A. Russell
A. I. Sabra
D. W. Waters
G. J. Whitrow
R. M. Young

J. R. Ravetz
J. L. Russell
A. I. Sabra
D. W. Waters
G. J. Whitrow
R. M. Young

A. G. Molland
R. C. Olby
P. M. Rattansi
M. J. S. Rudwick
J. L. Russell
G. J. Whitrow

Council, 1973–74

E. J. Aiton
W. H. Brock
R. A. Buchanan
J. K. Crellin
A. R. Hall
Mary B. Hesse

A. G. Keller
R. C. Olby
A. D. Orange
P. M. Rattansi
M. J. S. Rudwick
J. L. Russell

Council, 1974–75

E. J. Aiton
W. H. Brock
J. K. Crellin
W. V. Farrar
N. W. Fisher
E. G. Forbes

A. R. Hall
Mary B. Hesse
A. G. Keller
S. F. Mason
A. D. Orange
J. L. Russell

Council, 1975–76

W. F. Bynum
W. V. Farrar
E. G. Forbes
A. R. Hall
S. F. Mason
A. D. Orange

J. R. R. Christie
N. W. Fisher
F. Greenaway
A. G. Keller
J. B. Morrell
R. S. Porter

Council, 1976–77

W. F. Bynum
A. Chapman
J. R. R. Christie
W. V. Farrar
E. G. Forbes
F. Greenaway

S. F. Mason
R. M. MacLeod
A. J. Meadows
J. B. Morrell
R. S. Porter
Gerrylyn K. Roberts

Council, 1977–78

B. Bracegirdle
A. Chapman
J. R. R. Christie
F. Greenaway
A. J. Meadows
J. B. Morrell

R. H. Naylor
J. V. Pickstone
R. S. Porter
Gerrylyn K. Roberts
W. F. Ryan
S. A. Shapin

Council, 1978–79

B. Bracegirdle
D. J. Bryden
G. N. Cantor

A. Chapman
A. J. Meadows
R. H. Naylor

J. V. Pickstone
Gerrylyn K. Roberts
W. F. Ryan

Council, 1979–80

D. E. Allen
B. Bracegirdle
D. J. Bryden
G. N. Cantor
B. A. Haines
B. J. Norton

Council, 1980–81

D. E. Allen
D. J. Bryden
G. N. Cantor
P. M. D. Collins
J. R. Durant
B. A. Haines

Council, 1981–82

D. E. Allen
R. G. W. Anderson
I. Grattan-Guinness
B. A. Haines
A. R. Hall

Council, 1982–83

R. G. W. Anderson
D. C. Gooding
I. Grattan-Guinness
D. Layton
J. V. Pickstone

Council, 1983–84

R. G. W. Anderson
D. Bloor
Sophie Forgan
D. C. Gooding
I. Grattan-Guinness

Council, 1984–85

D. Bloor
Sophie Forgan

S. A. Shapin
C. W. Smith
R. Smith

J. V. Pickstone
C. A. Russell
W. F. Ryan
S. A. Shapin
C. W. Smith
R. Smith

Ludmilla J. Jordanova
B. J. Norton
C. A. Russell
C. W. Smith
R. Smith
P. B. Wood

Ludmilla J. Jordanova
J. V. Pickstone
C. A. Russell
P. B. Wood

M. Stanley
N. A. Taylor
H. Wallis
P. B. Wood

J. V. Pickstone
M. Stanley
N. A. Taylor
Mari E. W. Williams

D. C. Gooding
M. Hunter

S. Schaffer
M. Shortland
M. Stanley

N. A. Taylor
Mari E. W. Williams

Council, 1985–86

J. A. Bennett
D. Bloor
R. Bud
Sophie Forgan
M. Hunter

R. C. Olby
S. Schaffer
M. Shortland
S. W. Sturdy

Council, 1986–87

J. A. Bennett
R. Bud
A. Gabbey
J. C. Henry
M. Hunter

R. C. Olby
S. Schaffer
M. Shortland
S. W. Sturdy

Council, 1987–88

J. A. Bennett
R. Bud
Stella Butler
A. Gabbey
J. C. Henry

R. C. Olby
J. A. Secord
S. W. Sturdy
A. C. Warwick

Council, 1988–89

Stella Butler
D. E. H. Edgerton
A. Gabbey
J. C. Henry
G. L. Herries-Davies

R. C. Olby
J. A. Secord
H. S. Torrens
A. C. Warwick

Council, 1989–90

Janet Browne
Stella Butler
Elspeth Crawford
D. E. H. Edgerton
G. L. Herries-Davies

Gill Hudson
C. J. Lawrence
J. A. Secord
A. C. Warwick

Council, 1990–91

P. J. Bowler
Janet Browne
Elspeth Crawford
D. E. H. Edgerton
G. L. Herries-Davies

Gill Hudson
D. G. King-Hele
C. J. Lawrence
Dorinda Outram

Council, 1991–92

P. J. Bowler
Janet Browne
Elspeth Crawford
J. Harwood
Gill Hudson

D. G. King-Hele
C. J. Lawrence
Dorinda Outram
Gerrylyn K. Roberts

Council, 1992–93

P. J. Bowler
W. F. Bynum
Elspeth Crawford
Patricia Fara
J. Harwood

D. G. King-Hele
Dorinda Outram
Gerrylyn K. Roberts
J. R. Topham

Council, 1993–94

W. F. Bynum
Elspeth Crawford
P. R. Ellis
Patricia Fara
J. Harwood

Sally M. Horrocks
Gerrylyn K. Roberts
Anne Secord
J. R. Topham

Council, 1994–95

J. E. Agar
W. F. Bynum
P. R. Ellis
Patricia Fara
Sally M. Horrocks

M. J. Kemp
A. Q. Morton
Anne Secord
J. R. Topham

Council, 1995–96

J. E. Agar
P. R. Ellis
G. J. N. Gooday
Penelope Gouk
Sally M. Horrocks

M. J. Kemp
A. Q. Morton
J. S. Rowlinson
Anne Secord

Council, 1996–97

J. E. Agar
P. R. Ellis
G. J. N. Gooday
Penelope Gouk

M. J. Kemp
A. Q. Morton
J. S. Rowlinson

Honorary members

George Sarton, 1948
D'Arcy Wentworth Thompson, 1948
Charles Sherrington, 1948
Charles Singer, 1956

Eva G. R. Taylor, 1961
H. Hamshaw Thomas, 1961
Alexandre Koyré, 1963
J. R. Partington, 1963

Singer Prize winners

M. Ridley, 1980
S. Schaffer and Mari Williams, 1982
Not awarded, 1984
M. Shortland, 1986

G. Gooday and M. Ben-Chaim, 1988
J. Topham and M. Harrison, 1990
J. Agar, 1992
D. Wright and P. Lucier, 1994