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THE BRITISH SOCIETY FOR THE HISTORY OF SCIENCE

Form of Application for Membership

1. Name (in full) :
2. Address :
3. Any academic degrees or qualifications :
4. Any other particulars in support of application :

Signed

Date

..... being desirous of becoming
a member of The British Society for the History of Science, we, the undersigned,
consider him/her a suitable person for membership.

Signed (1)

(2)

J.H.C. Butler: Hon. Secretary
Ravenswood, Keston, Kent.

THE BRITISH COUNCIL

INCORPORATED BY ROYAL CHARTER

Patron: H.M. THE KING

3 HANOVER STREET
LONDON, W.1

Telephone: MAYfair 8484

Telegrams: "Britcoun, London"

SWI/22/2

20th June, 1946

Dear Dr. Singer,

International Academy for the History of Sciences

Proposed Conference in Britain, autumn 1946

May I please refer to some earlier discussions between yourself and Mr. Crowther, who has now given up office as Director of the Science Department of the Council.

I understand that Mr. Crowther, on the basis of your suggestions, wrote on 21st February to Professor Reymond at Lausanne about the possibilities of assistance from the British Council, should the International Academy for the History of Sciences meet in Britain in the autumn of this year.

We are not quite sure whether this reunion is to take place but in principle, the departments of the Council interested in fostering international conferences in this country, would be glad to assist.

I wonder therefore whether I might trouble you to let us know if this conference is forthcoming, whether the Council is likely to be asked to assist financially. Perhaps I should explain that the degree of assistance depends to some extent upon the funds available and upon the number and nationalities of the delegates attending.

Dr. Charles Singer,
Kilmarth,
PAR, Cornwall.

I look forward

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- 2 -

I look forward to hearing from you further and will pass your reply to the Visitors Department of the Council and the Regional Officers of the countries whose delegates would be attending.

Yours sincerely,

Bodine Lloyd

Dr. B. Lloyd
Secretary to the Science Department

PART I

I think it will be helpful if I recall the steps that led to the establishment of our British Society for the History of Science.

Last autumn Professor Dingle convened a meeting of those in this country known to be interested in the History of Science. The Science Museum was good enough to give hospitality to this meeting and to the succeeding meetings which have met to consider the project. At the first meeting convened by Professor Dingle, a small Committee was appointed ~~by~~ and requested to draw up a draft constitution. The Committee met twice under the Chairmanship of Dr. Sherwood Taylor and, in January 1947, a larger meeting was again held at which the constitution, with certain amendments, was accepted. It was decided to meet again on the first Monday in May and in the meantime the small Preparatory Committee was asked to meet yet again to consider any further preparations and to prepare nominations.

This was done and, as a result, we are meeting here. I think our Constitution proposes that ultimately all nominations must reach the Secretary a month before the meeting in May, but I propose that as our movements have been a good deal hampered by weather and the crisis, we announce that we are prepared to receive further nominations at this meeting to-day. ~~I will not ask Mr. Butler to read you a list of nominations formulated by the Preparatory Committee.~~ Another modification has arisen to the proposals. We have the opportunity of enlisting as Secretary - Mr. Crombie. He works in London which is an enormous advantage. On the other hand Mr. Robinson would very much like a Joint Treasurer. We are therefore proposing Mr. Robinson and Mr. Butler as Joint Treasurers.

I will therefore now ask Dr. Sherwood Taylor to read
(Or I will now read)

the completed list of nominations formulated by the Preparatory Committee.

[E.J. HOLMYARD]

PART II

The International Academy of the History of Science (founded in 1927) held its first Council meeting since before the war in December 1946. After consultation with UNESCO it was decided to form an International Society for the History and Philosophy of Science as the organ of the International Academy of the History of Science. This decision will be submitted to the meeting of the Executive members of the International Academy for the History of Science at a meeting to be held in Lausanne this Summer concurrently with an open International Congress of the History of Science.

It will be proposed that the International Society for the History of Science will have the same Officers and Executive members as the International Academy for the History of Science and, in addition, will have two Executive members nominated by ~~each~~ ^{each} national Society affiliated to the International Society for the History and Philosophy of Science.

The International Society for the History and Philosophy of Science will apply for affiliation to the International Council of Scientific Unions (ICSU) for a subvention which will be distributed according to need by ICSU from the funds allocated to it for that purpose by UNESCO. In short, since the members of the International Academy for the History of Science are elected by the Executive members solely on their academic claims it has been thought well to form this administrative organ which will insure, in addition, Executive representatives chosen by the National Societies, and help from UNESCO Through ICSU.

There has long been a Belgian Committee for the History of Science affiliated to the International Academy. The Secretary is Monsieur Jean Pelseneer, well known to many of those here. This Belgian Committee holds meetings and lectures and issues, with the announcements of lectures and Agendas of meetings, bibliographical notice of current publications by its members. Possibly those present would like to see the current circular from the Belgian Committee. It is dated 26th April, 1947.

It is suggested that our British Society for the History of Science shall apply for affiliation^{ion} to the International Society for the History and Philosophy of Science which will be in a position to receive such applications during the Lausanne meeting.

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[E.T. HOLTYAR]

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England.

20th November, 1946.

My dear Colleague,

Very many thanks for your letter of November 12 and for your very kind congratulations on my birthday. Dr. Underwood sent me the address which you signed and I was much affected by it. I am indeed most grateful as also for the honour of the membership of the Dutch Genootschap voor Geschiedenis der Geneeskunde, Wiskunde en Natuurwetenschappen. I have, of course, written to thank Dr. Burger.

I am very sorry that I cannot come to the meeting at Paris. At my age I do not appreciate winter travel very much and also I feel that I must give my time to research work. Mrs. Singer hopes to come though, I confess, rather against my will for the same reasons that I am not coming myself. I need hardly say that it is not want of will that keeps me away.

A point or two concerning the International Society for the History of Science:

It seems to me that the sooner the new members are elected the better. I hope, therefore, that there will be a meeting of the Committee of the Membre Effectifs on the same day as the Council meet at Paris. It will be a matter of no consequence even though very few attend for it is merely formal business that they have to get through. I need hardly say that I myself look forward to meeting Madame Vollgraff and yourself at Lausanne in the summer.

Many thanks for your enquiry concerning my son. We have good hopes that he will get back from India within the next few months - at any rate by June next. Perhaps he will

P.T.O.

even come with us to Lausanne.

Your letter conjured up many pleasant memories of the happy time that we had at Prague.

With all kind wishes to Madame Vollgraff and yourself in which Mrs. Singer most cordially joins - and again many thanks for the honour that you have done me.

Yours very sincerely,

CHARLES SINGER.

Dr. J.A. Vollgraff,
Leiden,
Roodborstraat 17,
HOLLAND.

23rd September, 1946.

Dear Professor Stratton,

Dr. Arnold Reymond, my successor as President of the International Academy for the History of Science, has asked me to write to you as regards its affiliation with the International Council of Scientific Unions. I enclose a letter that he has received from Dr. Joseph Needham who mooted the plan when staying with us this summer.

The International Academy for the History of Science has almost no funds, but this difficulty - if it be one - may, as you see from Needham's letter, possibly be met by UNESCO. Our subject is only just reaching academic recognition. I have always felt, however, that it serves a definite function as a common ground between humanists and men of science.

In case it be useful to meet on these matters, I add that I shall be in London from Wednesday, 16th October till Friday, 18th October and again on Monday, 21st October. You may be in town on some of these dates.

My wife joins me in warm greetings,

Yours sincerely,

CHARLES SINGER.

Professor F.J.M. Stratton D.S.O., O.B.E., etc.,
Caius College
Cambridge.

CONSEIL INTERNATIONAL DES UNIONS SCIENTIFIQUES
(INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF SCIENTIFIC UNIONS)

DR JOHN A. FLEMING, *President*
PROF. B. NĚMEC, *Vice-President*
PROF. EMILE BOREL, *Vice-President*
PROF. F. J. M. STRATTON, *General Secretary*

Gonville & Caius College
CAMBRIDGE
ENGLAND

10.10.26

Dear Linge,

I have got so completely blocked
here with lectures & meetings on Oct. 16 & 17
that it is quite impossible for me to get up
to town to meet you. We shall have to
postpone our talk till your next visit
to town when I shall hope to be a little
less crowded out with meetings.

yours sincerely

F. Stratton

CONSEIL INTERNATIONAL DES UNIONS SCIENTIFIQUES
(INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF SCIENTIFIC UNIONS)

DR JOHN A. FLEMING, *President*
PROF. B. NĚMEC, *Vice-President*
PROF. EMILE BOREL, *Vice-President*
PROF. F. J. M. STRATTON, *General Secretary*

Gonville & Caius College
CAMBRIDGE
ENGLAND

26/9/46

Dear Singh,

Oct. 21 I shall be in Paris.

Oct. 18 I have a College meeting here.

It will have to be Oct. 16 or 17 that we
meet - presumably at the Athenaeum.

As soon as I know my lecture hours
which will not be until Oct. 9 I can
make an appointment. If you know
what hours on the 16th or 17th you are
to be engaged it will help in the arrangements.

I have heard from Raymond.

Kind regards to you & yourself
Yours sincerely

F. Stratton

23rd October, 1946.

Dear Professor Dingle,

Do forgive me trickling letters at you like this, but Charlie and I are not sure whether you have on your list for invite to the meeting :-

Dr. Agnes Arbor,
52, Hungington Road,
Cambridge.

I expect you have met some of her remarkable work on Herbals and the History of Botany.

Yours very sincerely,

Mrs Charles Singer.

22nd October, 1946.

Dear Professor Stratton,

As you will see from the enclosed we had a very fruitful time based on your kind visit and all your suggestions are on the way.

Professor Dingle is going to call a meeting as soon as possible, and I think in November, with a view to forming a British National Group.

It was so very pleasant seeing you, and my husband asks me to thank you again for your help.

Yours very sincerely,

Mrs Charles Singer.

22nd October, 1946.

My dear Professor Dingle,

I have one more name to suggest - Dr. Saxl, Director of the Warburg Institute, Imperial Institute Buildings, Imperial Institute Road, London S.W.7.

The Warburg Institute, which was transported over here from Hamburg is now incorporated in the University of London. Its original foundation was to study the survival of classical thought in medieval Europe which, of course, has touched both the History of Science and the History of Art. Dr. Saxl is a most remarkable scholar whom I am sure you would like.

With best greetings to Mrs Dingle and yourself.

Yours very sincerely,

Prof. Farrington of the Chemical Dept.
Un. of Swansea -
Address: 9 Eaton Crescent -
Swansea.

Mrs Charles Singer.

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LONDON

GOWER STREET, W.C.1.

EUSTON 4400

24th October 1946

Dear

It has been proposed that the International Academy for the History of Science should become an adhering Union of the International Council of Scientific Unions (ICSU). For this to be possible the countries whose citizens belong to the Academy must be able to vote as countries in the decisions of the Academy, and this implies that each such country must have its own National Committee. Such a change of Constitution can, of course, only be made by *decision* ~~re-union~~ of the International Academy, which is due to meet at Lausanne next year. There is little doubt that the Academy will approve of the proposal, for not only does it make the Academy eligible for financial assistance, but also it does not, as formerly, prohibit the unrestricted election of individual members of the Academy having the same privileges as members representing organised bodies. It has been ascertained from the General Secretary of ICSU that application, after the change of Constitution, for adherence by the International Academy for the History of Science will be welcomed.

It has also been ascertained from UNESCO that, if there is a reasonable prospect that the International Academy will apply for adherence to ICSU, UNESCO might meanwhile make a grant to enable the Meeting and International Congress at Lausanne to take place and also to facilitate a preliminary meeting of the Executive of the Academy in December or January. This would appear to be a necessity since it would be difficult, if not impossible, in present circumstances to get a reasonable gathering at Lausanne without such help. It is therefore clearly desirable that the British members of the Academy and others who are interested should meet as soon as possible to consider the matter, and, if affiliation with ICSU is approved, to elect a National Committee and Officers.

I should therefore be obliged if you would kindly let me know as early as possible whether you would attend such a meeting to be held at the Science Museum, South Kensington, sometime during the fortnight, November 11th to 23rd, and if so what dates during that period would be impossible for you. The date will then be chosen to suit as many as possible. If you are not able to come to the meeting it would be of great assistance if you would let me have your views on the proposal.

Yours faithfully,

Professor H. Dingle.

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LONDON

COWER STREET, W.C.1.

EUSTON 4400

1946 Oct. 28.

Dear Mr. Suggs, we got
the enclosed off on Friday, &
replies have started to come in.
I am sending a list of the
people we sent to. This is
long list and many of them,
we hope I trust, will not come,
but I think that in forming
a National Committee the chief
thing to avoid is giving anyone
a chance of complaining that
it was done behind his back.

The one
important person whose address
we cannot find is Butler.

Can you suggest any way by
which he can be tracked? We
must get his coat to be
sent to, if possible.

Some of the names are
unknown to me, but I have
had a sufficient description from
Pekie a Combie to convince
me that they ought to be
written to.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely
Herbert Dyer

30th October, 1946.

Dear Professor Dingle,

What a marvellous move you get on. I entirely agree with your sentiments.

I expect you have seen Dr. Shaw as I see you suggest the Science Museum as a place of meeting. Charlie suggests that you might possibly think it a good idea to have a preliminary word with Dr. Shaw as to whether he thinks it a good plan to make F.C.H. Butler Secretary. Charlie says that a letter to F.C.H. Butler would be forwarded by :-

Dr. H.B. Bayon,
Little Shelford,
Near Cambridge.

I imagine that, of course, not all who may be invited to attend the National Committee for the History of Science will thereby automatically become Members of the International Academy for the History of Science; but that the National Committee will be affiliated to the International Academy.

I am returning your list which I expect you will need. I am looking forward to hearing when the time and date of the meeting are fixed. As I mentioned the only impossible dates for me are : Tuesday, 12th November, Saturday, 16th November, Monday, 18th November and Tuesday, 19th November. That seems a lot of impossibilities. If you very specially wish to have the meeting on Tuesday, 12th November, I would try to get our local meeting on that day changed.

Charlie joins me in kindest regards to Mrs Dingle and yourself -

Yours very sincerely,

Mrs Charles Singer.

Professor H.H. Dingle,

BRITISH SOCIETY

Kilmarth,
Par,
Cornwall.

24th December, 1946.

My dear Professor Dingle,

First very many thanks to you and Mrs Dingle for your delightful greeting.

Next as regards the Paris meeting. I duly delivered the message from our British Society to the meeting of the Académie Internationale d'histoire des Sciences. I was asked in reply to express the Academy's warm thanks and best wishes for the future of the British Society. The arrangements of the Académie are somewhat in the melting pot. I think that most probably the international organizational body will be the Société Internationale d'histoire des Sciences which the International Academy is now in process of forming. I mentioned that as soon as the statutes are finally established the British Society would like twenty copies.

I am writing this letter on thin paper with carbon copies as perhaps you will wish to forward some copies to Dr. Sherwood Taylor, Mr. Butler and other colleagues.

I had only two whole days in Paris but I enjoyed myself immensely. It was wonderful to meet old friends again.

With our very cordial greeting -

Yours most sincerely,

Mrs Charles Singer.

Professor H. Dingle,
70 Downs Road,
Furley,
Surrey.

British Soc for Hist Sci (file)

le 24 Nov. 1946

Cher Monsieur Reymond

Je vous envoie ce petit mot pour vous dire que Madame Noufflard a pu trouver une chambre pour moi tout pres a 61 Rue de Varenne Paris VII. J'y arriverai jeudi le 12 decembre et j'espere y rester jusqu'au dimanche suivant.

Vous entendrez de Monsieur Dingle que tout a marche bien a la seance qu'il a convoque. Un comite a ete nomme pour former une Societe anglaise et ce petit comite se reunira le 11 Decembre, de sorte que j'espere avoir une lettre officielle a vous apporter a Paris.

Quel grand plaisir d'y voir Madame Reymond et vous-meme.

Qu'elle est votre opinion selon la lettre de Monsieur Sarton dont il m'a envoye une copie que je trouve en rentrant chez nous ce matin ?

Agreez cher Monsieur les salutations bien cordiales de nous deux a Madame Reymond et a vous-meme

Mrs Charles Singer

England.

31st January, 1947.

Dear Professor Reymond,

There is to be an inaugural meeting of the British Society for the History of Science early next month. I have received the draft of the constitution of the International Academy and I thought of giving at our meeting a very rough account of the draft explaining, of course, that it is not definitive until it has been passed at our next meeting at Lausanne in September.

Would you very kindly let me have a line to tell me if this is all right and will not be regarded as a breach of confidence. I think it will be helpful to the British Society in forming its own constitution.

I am so glad that you have decided on the title International Society for the History and Philosophy of Science.

P.T.O.

We are longing to know the date of the September Congress. It is delightful to feel that we shall be seeing you, Madame Reymond and your daughter and our many colleagues in the course of the Summer.

With our most cordial greetings to you all -

Yours very sincerely,

Mrs Charles Singer.

4th February, 1947.

My dear Professor Dingle,

I had a lovely time in Paris. One of the people I met there was Dr. L. Rosenfeld who is not a member of the International Academy but came to our meeting as an "observer" for UNESCO and ICSU. He has sent me a number of re-prints. In fact he sent me two copies of each. I am not sure whether that was a delicate hint that he hoped that Charlie would read them or whether they were meant for Sir Richard Gregory to whom I had promised I would write of his interests in the sociological implications in the history of science. Dear Sir Richard writes me that he is now, having reached his eighty-third birthday, retiring from much of his activity.

I expect you already know Rosenfeld's work. His last two or three papers seemed to me extremely interesting and I am sending you the whole set in case, by chance, you are not familiar with them. I wonder if you also think they are

P.T.O.

very good work ? Rosenfeld is a Belgian and is now
Professor at Utrecht (hence the inaugural lecture).

I hope Mrs Dinger and you have not been suffering from
burst pipes etc. We came off very lightly.

Charlie joins me in warmest greetings -

Yours very sincerely,

Mrs Charles Singer.

Professor H. Dingle,
70 Downs Road,
Purley,
Surrey.

18th February, 1947.

My dear Stratton,

Very many thanks for sending me the Reports of Proceedings for 1946 of I.C.S.U. which I am sure reaches me through your kind offices. The British Society for the History of Science is now well under way.

The International Academy for the History of Science has been meeting in Paris under the wing of U.N.E.S.C.O. and bringing its arrangements into order for affiliation with I.C.S.U. Monsieur Lescaliers kindly took part as an "observer" for Dorothea, who was present, was very struck with him both as a personality and by his writings.

The Council of the International Academy has drafted a scheme for the foundation of an International Union for the History and Philosophy of Science (of which the International Academy will be the "learned organ" if I have understood rightly). The scheme is to be presented to the Executive Committee at the Congress to be held in Lausanne next September when the formalities should be completed, after which application will be made for affiliation with I.C.S.U.

I hope you are not having too bad a time in this weather. We are very lucky with our higher temperature and plenty of wood to burn.

Dorothea joins in warmest greetings,

Yours very sincerely,

CHARLES SINGER.

Professor F.J.M. Stratton, D.S.O., O.B.E., etc.,
Caius College,
Cambridge.

15th March, 1947.

Dear Professor Dingle,

I am sending you back Dr. Martin Johnson's book with best thanks for giving me a lovely time in reading it. I think the point where I am furthest from him (apart from my ignorance) is in his advocacy of symbolism. That seems to me to have been in the past an opening for all sorts of dangers.

I would very much like to know what line you think we should take as regards pressing for the Annals of Science to become an organ of the new British Society. It does seem rather absurd to start a new journal, but I do not know the reaction of personalities in the matter ?

I wonder if we could lunch together on Thursday 20th and go on to the meeting ? Shall we say the Plane Tree at 12.45 ? I

P.T.O.

could ask Dr. Mokie to join us, or would it be better perhaps for me just to get your views ?

By the way don't you think that now we ought to have an Agenda for our meetings ?

With best greeting -

Yours very sincerely,

Mrs Charles Singer.

Professor H. Dingle,
70 Downs Court Road,
Purley,
Surrey.

17th April, 1947.

Dear Mr. Butler,

Do you think it would be a good idea to send to the Secretary of the International Academy for the History of Science a list of all the names of those English people who might care to attend the Congress on the History of Science from September 7th - 14th under the auspices of the International Academy for the History of Science ?

Professor J.A. Vollgraff
Roodbortstraat 17,
Leyden, Holland,

is acting Secretary of the International Academy.
I am sure many would wish to attend.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Charles Singer.

Ravensmead
Keston
Kent.
Farnborough 612

20th. April 1947.

My dear Singer,

I am writing to ask you, on behalf of the Provisional Committee of the British Society for the History of Science, to permit us to nominate you for the Office of President of the Society. It is proposed that the first Annual General Meeting shall be held in the Royal Society's Meeting Room on Monday 5th. May at 5 p.m. at which the Officers and Council shall be elected for the ensuing year. I need hardly say how much we should welcome you as our first President; we all feel that the Society would be greatly honoured by your acceptance of this office. It gives me particular pleasure, as acting hon. Secretary, that it should fall to my lot to send you the official invitation. Our Society is, I am sure, the youngest of the Learned Societies and if our Presidency has no long and hallowed tradition, we would like you to know that the invitation to our highest office is made to you with complete unanimity and sincerity,

and, if I may add, with affection, in recognition ~~for~~ of
your great work among the Studies for which we stand.
I think I can assure you that the duties of President
of the Society will not be very heavy - we will not
allow them to be - but we would like you to give
us a Presidential Address on 5th. May on a subject
of your own choice; you will probably wish to say
something about the study of the History of Science
in general and the part that our Society could play
in developing and encouraging it.

Will you kindly send me a line by return telling
me whether you will accept nomination so that
I can get the Agenda paper prepared and circulated.
I am writing to you separately on one or two other
matters.

With kindest regards,

Yours very sincerely,

J.H.C. Butler.

22nd April, 1947

My dear Butler,

Many thanks for your letter of April 20 with all its kind messages and the delightful honour that it conveys of an invitation to act as President of the British Society for the History of Science. I am very pleased and proud to accept though I feel that I can hardly hope to fulfil all the functions of the office. I will gladly speak to the Society on May 5.

I had intended to come to London on April 29 but, on receiving your letter, I decided to put off my visit till May 2 so that I might have time to collect my thoughts. Mrs Singer and I will be staying at No. 704, Mount Royal, Marble Arch, W11., for May and June.

Since the post from here often takes two days and since you have arrangements to make I thought it best to send you a wire explaining that I would give the Presidential address on May 5. I am much touched by your expression of the feelings of the Provisional Committee. It is a good augury for the future of our Society that it should take place in the historic building of the Royal Society.

With renewed thanks and expressions of gratitude and regard in which Mrs Singer would like to be joined -

Believe me to be -

Very sincerely yours,

CHARLES SINGER.

F.H.C. Butler Esq.,
Ravensmead,
Keston,
Kent.

Ravensmead
Keston
Kent,
Farnborough 612

27th. April 1947.

My dear Singer,

Many thanks for your letter of the 22nd. April, and for sending me a wire and also ringing me up. I have also had a letter from Sherwood Taylor. He was not at the last meeting of the provisional Cttee. but I think we can make the position clear. The meeting on 5th. May is an Annual General Meeting and the main business is to elect the Officers and Council and to draw up a programme of activities for the coming year. I note that the words I was instructed to put on the Agenda were 'Address by the President' and not 'Presidential Address' as I signified in my letter to you. I think that there is a difference and that, as you say, it is a little early for a 'Presidential Address' but that an Address by the President will enable you to be much less formal and to speak quite freely on what you feel the aims of the Society ought to be. Your 'Presidential Address' to the Society we shall look forward to with

great anticipation and interest at a later date. Owing to the crisis and the difficulty of getting printing done we have not yet issued membership forms but I hope to have them ready for the meeting. The provisional committee has never felt quite free to go ahead with a definite scheme of work and we shall feel much more able to do things when the officers and council have been formally elected. I am enclosing for your information copies of the Agenda and the letter I have sent to enquirers. I have sent out approx. 150 copies of the Agenda to people who are interested and wish to join the Society: it is impossible to say what the attendance will be on the 5th. You will note that it is to be at 5 p.m.: how silly of me to omit the time, but I think I mentioned it on the 'phone. I enclose copies of correspondence that I had with Sir Henry Dale about the formation of a History of Science Society and this is of some interest as Dingle had a letter from Griffith-Davies complaining that the R.S. had not been informed of the proposal to form a Society! As Mrs. Singer knows I read out the letters at the inaugural meeting. You will probably be interested in the idea of the National Science Centre and I hope later our Society will have its headquarters there. I have been appointed Director and Secretary of the Council for the Promotion of Field Studies and we hope to have our H.Q. in South Kensington. If I am appointed to the Hon. Secretaryship of the B. S. H. S. the two positions would go nicely in unison.

With best wishes to Mrs. Singer & yourself,

Yours v. Sincerely J.H.C. Butler.

704 Mount Royal Hotel,
Marble Arch,
London W.1.

8th May, 1947.

My dear Butler,

I have been expecting to receive from you a draft Agenda but there is now not time to discuss an Agenda - so please, in sending out notices of the Council meeting - enclose the attached Agenda.

Yours sincerely,

CHARLES SINGER.

F.H.C. Butler Esq.,
Ravensmead,
Keston, Kent.

704 Mount Royal Hotel,
Marble Arch,
London W.1.

8th May, 1947.

My dear Butler,

For heaven's sake don't forget to send out notices at once about that Council meeting to everyone - including myself . It will make everybody very cross - including myself - if you don't.

I attach an Agenda.

The latest thing is that ICSU (whatever that may mean) will give \$ 1200 = £300 to the Academy. Somehow, though I am not clear how, some of this may filter our way.

Have you a few guineas in hand for postage etc.?

With all good wishes,
Very sincerely yours,

CHARLES SINGER

A MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF THE BRITISH SOCIETY FOR THE
HISTORY OF SCIENCE WILL BE HELD ON WEDNESDAY? 14th May,
at 2.30 p.m. at the Science Museum by kind permission.

Your attendance is urgently requested.

A G E N D A

1. Letter to the Secretary of the International Academy
for the History of Science.
2. To consider publication in the light of the announcement
that an International Journal of the History of Science
will be published by the International Academy for the
History of Science with a substantial subvention from
UNESCO.

It is suggested from the Chair that as a first step
the British Society shall circulate a News-Letter
monthly.

3. Meetings and lectures.
4. Such other business as may arise.

le 15 mai, 1947.

England.

Cher Monsieur,

J'ai l'honneur de vous amoncer la fondation de la British Society for the History of Science. A la premiere reunion de la Societe il a ete decide de vous demander, Monsieur, d'avoir la bonte de faire annoncer a la prochaine reunion de la nouvelle Societe Internationale de l'histoire de la Science que la British Society for the History of Science desire bien s'attacher a la Societer Internationale.

Agreez Monsieur l'empression de note parfaite consideration et salutations fraternelles.

CHARLES SINGER
President
Pour le Conseil
British Society for the History of
Science

Monsieur le Professeur Pierre Brunet,
Societe Internationale de l'histoire de la Science,
Hotel Nevers,
12, Rue Colbert,
Paris II.
France.

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LONDON

GOWER STREET, W.C.1.

EUSTON 4400

18. V. 47

Dear Professor Singer,

I think your suggestion about the I.C.I. a very good one - and you have, I expect, noticed that Freeth has joined the Society. His nominator (by Robinson and myself) was in one of those letters that Butler was apparently putting away until some miserable form had been completed! Do you know Freeth? You must, I am sure. But in case you don't, he is the chemist in the I.C.I. He has been a Director for a long time and was (maybe he still is) Director of Research. He has always been very keen on the history of science - I met him last week and he asked me about the Society - and promptly asked me to nominate him for membership and for details of where to send his subscription - I collected it from him on the spot. He is a F.R.S. - the more of them we ~~take~~ in, the better.

You will be meeting Andrew today - it must be a great day for Mrs. Singer and yourself to see

him safe home again. Remember me when

our best wishes to you all,

Yours.

Douglas McKee

From F. H. C. Butler, M.A., Ravensmead, Keston, Kent.
Farnborough 612.

22nd. May 1947.

My dear Singer,

Many thanks for your note. I have taken a copy of the enclosed letter from Julian Huxley to Brunet as I expect you would like to have it by you. I think we should have a copy in our records together with the reply that Mrs. Singer kindly drafted at the Council meeting. Would you be good enough to let me have a copy of this letter? Membership is rising steadily and I am

making arrangements to have an explanatory leaflet
of the Society printed for general purposes.

All best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

J.H.C. Butler.

St. John's College,
Cambridge,
England.
May 26, 1947.

Dear

I am glad to be able to report that the following have now agreed to serve on the Commission for the History of the Social Relations of Science: Professor Rosenfeld of Utrecht, Professor Burgers of Delft, Professor Farrington of Swansea, Professor Gordon Childe of London, Mr. J.G. Crowther of London, Mr. H.T. Pledge of the Science Museum, London, Professor R.K. Merton of New York, Dr. S.J. Stern of New York, Professor Marcel Prenant of Paris, Professor J.D. Bernal of London, & Dr. S. Lilley of Cambridge. Professor Prenant is looking for further French representation, and I am still awaiting replies from certain others, especially from the U.S.S.R.

I write now to ask you to help in the next stage of the work by preparing a report which I can circulate to other members of the commission. It is not for me to lay down the lines which your report should follow, but I suggest that it would be most valuable if it covered the following points:

- (i) A survey of outstanding problems in the part of the subject with which you are particularly acquainted. The more concretely the problems can be stated, the better.
- (ii) A survey of the material available for work on these problems.
- (iii) Suggestions as to ways in which monetary grants from UNESCO could help the research - e.g., in the form of Fellowships to workers who would otherwise not be able to undertake research, travelling grants for those who wish to study distant material, etc. It would be very helpful if this section of your report could specify actual cases - e.g., particular students whose work would benefit from grants.

The object to be served by these reports is to prepare the way for a decision by the commission on a concrete programme of specific proposals which could be put up to the Academy, and thence to UNESCO. I feel that the commission is likely to be successful in preparing such a programme, only if the members put their views on paper in time to have them circulated before the commission meets.

From correspondence with various members of the commission resident outside Britain, it appears that the most generally convenient time for the preliminary meeting would be the week beginning July 7, and the most convenient place, London. I am therefore suggesting that the meeting should be held on Wednesday, July 9. If another meeting day of the same week should prove more convenient to you, please let me know as early as possible, and I will see if a better arrangement can be made. It seems likely that one day will be sufficient to complete the business of the preliminary meeting.

I regret to say that it now appears very unlikely that either UNESCO or the International Academy will be able to pay travelling or living expenses for the members of the commission. I realize that this may make it impossible for some of the more distant members to attend the July meeting. I hope that absent members will give the commission the full benefit of their views in written reports.

If you will be able to attend the July meeting, please let me have answers to the following questions:

- (a) What sort of accommodation would you like me to arrange for you? London Hotels charge from 12s.6d. upwards, per night for bed and breakfast. If you prefer it, I might be able to arrange for you to be the private guest of one of my friends.
- (b) What nights will you wish to stay in London (assuming the meeting to be dated as above)?

- 2 -

(c) Whether I can help you in any way to visit other centres while you are in England. I cannot, of course, guarantee to be of help in all cases, but I should do my best. And I should be particularly glad to welcome any members who might care to visit Cambridge.

You will, perhaps, have noticed that the present composition of the commission is deficient in two respects: it has no specialists either in the Middle Ages or in chemistry. If you have any suggestions for rectifying this fault, I should be glad to hear of them.

I hope to hear from you soon.

Yours sincerely,

S. Lilley,
Acting Secretary.

St. John's College,
Cambridge.
30th June, 1947.

Dear

Further to my letter of May 26th, the meeting of the Commission for the History of the Social Relations of Science will take place on Thursday, July 10th (not Wednesday, July 9th, as previously proposed) at the Society for Visiting Scientists, 5 Old Burlington Street, London W.1. There will be two sessions, the first beginning at 10.30 a.m. and the second at 2.30 p.m. I hope that as many members as possible will attend.

I enclose reports for the consideration of the meeting by Professors Burgers, Childs and Rosenfeld, Mr. Crewther and myself.

I have in frankness to say that the response to my appeal for reports has been disappointing. I would emphasize that there is little hope of getting that financial assistance for the study of the subject that we all wish for, unless the Commission can make positive specific suggestions for research. And that can only be done if members give the Commission the benefit of their ideas. I would therefore urge those members who have not yet submitted reports to do so at the earliest possible moment; if they arrive in time I shall have them presented at the meeting and subsequently circulated to absent members. Naturally it is from those who cannot be present that reports are most urgently desired; and I am sure that the Commission would also welcome the comments of absent members on the reports enclosed herewith.

The provisional agenda would include:

- (1) Election of Chairman.
- (2) Clarification of the objects of the Commission.
- (3) Consideration of the extension of the personnel of the Commission (see below).
- (4) Consideration of reports submitted, and preparation of specific proposals.
- (5) Any other business.

Items (2) and (3) arise out of correspondence which I have had with the Secretary of the International Academy of the History of Science. He writes (June 20th) that he will be glad personally to propose the official formation of the Commission at the Lausanne Congress. But to do this he will have to be provided with a statement of the objects of the Commission and a list of members proposed to it. The present list, he suggests (and I think we shall all agree), will form a basis but will need enlarging, particularly to give it a more fully international character. I should very much welcome suggestions for possible members of the Commission, especially for members from countries not hitherto represented.

Yours sincerely,

S. Lilley,
Acting Secretary.

Report to the Commission for the History of the Social Relations of Science. By J.G. Crowther.

Two lines of research are required, in parallel and in combination. These are ascertainment of the facts of social relations of science, and the explanation of their significance by suitable theories. Some scholars will concentrate on fact, others on theory, and yet others on the combination of both; according to their tastes and aptitudes. It is not possible to concentrate on the collection of fact only; the number of facts is so large that some selection must be exercised, and this can be done only under the guidance of theory.

Among the tasks which require immediate attention are the preparation of theses on such subjects as:

- (1) The effect of available apparatus and means on early electrical researches in England. How the nature of fundamental experiments was influenced by the character of available apparatus.
- (2) The history of the air-pump. Its relation to industrial need, and its effect on the development of science.
- (3) The effect of British interests in world trade and navigation, and colonial products, on the development of biology; with special reference to the works of Darwin and Huxley.
- (4) The development of experimental science in Holland, and its relation to the special features, material and social and economic, of the country.

There is very wide scope for research on these lines.

Another general line of the utmost importance is the ascertainment and record of the state and development of science in recent years. In every country, research students should be requested to prepare theses on the economics of science, its organisation, number of personnel, etc. At present, nearly all countries are trying to govern themselves without any exact knowledge of these basic facts. Theses on such topics as the following are desirable.

- (1) The exact way in which scientific research is conducted in the universities; the mode of operation of committees, finance etc. Much of this at present proceeds according to tradition and little scientific record and analysis of it has yet been made.
- (2) The expenditure of the State on scientific research. Have government departments organised research; the differences between them and universities.
- (3) Research in industry. Exact information on its nature, scale, finance and operation; and differences from academic governmental research.
- (4) The comparison of scientific activities in various countries to illustrate different ways of solving similar problems in the development of science.

Such are typical suggestions for theses in two fields only of the social relations of science. It is hoped that UNESCO will provide, or stimulate the provision of, research fellowships in the social relations of science, so that an adequate research literature can be created, and become the source from which scholarly answers can be given to the queries raised by the role of science in society in the present and in the future

28-6-47

Report to the Commission for the History of the Social Relations of Science. By Prof. V. Gordon Childe.

For the history of the social relations of science, applications of science must plainly play an important part. Now till the 16th century most of the evidence for these must be the actual objects themselves, i.e. archaeological. Written sources tell us nothing about the origin of the rotary quern, though this device was invented and diffused in fully historical times after 600 B.C. There is archaeological evidence that watermills were distinctly commoner in the Roman Empire than the references in Strabo suggests; it is no use asking why the Romans did not make fuller use of the invention till we know how far they did use it. A lot of data about rotary querns are probably lying covered with dust in the cellars of museums, particularly in Greece and Italy; traces of Roman watermills have recently been recognised along the line of Hadrian's Wall; there are probably a lot of others that could be discovered by intelligent surface surveys even without excavation. The same remarks apply with greater force to numerous inventions during the European Middle

Ages that at the moment have to be inferred.

A quite different line of approach would be to study the "examples" in arithmetic books. These often throw revealing sidelights on social and legal conditions (divisions of inheritances, scales of slaves, output of labour are often used). Material is available from the 18th century B.C. (Egypt and Babylonia) onwards through Arabic and mediaeval text books despite some gaps. A comparison of the types used in different periods and societies should be instructive.

June, 1947.

Extract of a letter from Prof. L. Rosenfeld.

I don't think I could add anything to the report I have already written, but I may perhaps suggest the following points for consideration at the meeting:

- (1) The question of training students in History of Science. Very seldom have scholars engaged in research on History of Science any opportunity of creating a school. On the other hand, there is hardly any prospect for students in History of Science to find an adequate position in a University or elsewhere to devote themselves entirely to their studies.
- (2) The need for co-operation between Historians of Science and for planning of future research.

28th June, 1947.

Extract from a letter of Prof. J.M. Burgers.

Without question I value very much the approach from the point of view of historical materialism to the problem of the development of science. But I consider the relation between the productive forces or the economic structure of society and the growth of science as a statistical one, giving a broad certain broad outlines only and not operating in every individual in the same way. Along with this there must be other effects, some biologically determined, and some appearing in the form of personal initiative. Search for power may be mainly determined by the social structure; but search for truth, for its own sake, and the urge towards a rational understanding of nature's relations must spring from other sources. Social factors so often tend to reduce science to its applications, or may tend to curb thought into particular forms of dogmatism.

As a subject for investigation I propose therefore that an attempt should be made to distinguish between the operation of the factors mentioned, in order to bring more light on the operation of personal initiative and on the factors from which depends the urge for purity in scientific thought and work.

It is the task of mankind not to submit to statistically operating factors, but to overcome them and to break through the restrictions they impose. The possibility for this, and thus our hopes for the future, to a large extent depend upon initiative and upon the urge for purity.

I think that the history of the development of science in the last hundred years will present important material for investigation - the more so as we ourselves are experiencing the influence of the various tendencies which are at work. Insight gained from a study of our own period can help us to look back on what was before.

Mathematics, in particular its more abstract domains; stellar astronomy; the modern development of quantum theory - can be quoted as interesting examples. In how far can one say that there are at work here:

- a) biological tendencies inherent in man as a species;
- b) effects of the present social structure - with regard to the possibilities it affords, to the problems it sets, and to the anxieties it brings;
- c) personal (or group) initiative, tendencies towards the acceptance of doctrines, or tendencies to break new ground?

To mention Eddington's posthumous book "Fundamental Theory": how much of this is only mysticism, and from where did this spring? Will it have an influence upon other minds? What forces must come into operation to sift what has value from what is useless? And what to think in this respect of other modern attempts to deduce the truth of nature from playing with mathematical symbols? We know that they can help us to gain valuable insight, but what is it that will guarantee the purity of the ultimate development of science?

I hope that it may be possible to bring something of these questions into concrete proposals for research - I would think that they touch upon burning points in our mental development.

June 23, 1947.

Report to the Commission for the History of the Social Relations of Science

by S. Lilley.

As my experience in the history of science is limited, I think the members of the Commission will be better able to appreciate any biases this may introduce into my suggestions, if I preface my report with a brief description of the work I am now engaged on. I am studying the evolution of British science in a very detailed way in the period approximately 1789-1815. I am not concerned merely with the great achievements in science at that time, but rather with the general atmosphere of the scientific movement, with the work of the "little men" and its interrelations with that of the great, with the state of general opinion, with the progressive improvement of the organisation of science (which was then in a period of rapid change), with the influence on all these both of the internal development of science and of such external factors as current industrial developments, current attitudes to politics, religion, etc. (e.g. effects of French Revolution and France-British war on British reception of advances made in France; relations of religious opinions to geological developments). I am thus doing such things as reading the *bad* as well as the good work in the scientific periodicals of the times, investigating the attitudes adopted in encyclopaedias, textbooks, etc., noting the way in which science is treated in general literary periodicals, studying the work done by the smaller scientific societies, etc., etc.

The study is only in part directly concerned with social relations. It also involves following the internal logical development of science in detail. In fact, it is my belief that the social relations can only be studied properly if they are taken in conjunction with the latter.

The period was chosen almost entirely because of the amount of material to be studied is just about manageable. New periodicals, small, very amateurish societies of which many were formed in this period, the beginnings of popular education in science - all these enable one to study the general atmosphere of science in a way that is impossible for earlier times (when one can really only study science as seen by the more important learned societies). On the other hand, a few years later the amount of material becomes so vast that there is no hope of studying it in this general way until far better methods of teamwork have been developed.

All the suggestions that I make below arise from my experience in this work - which must be my excuse for this long personal preface. I prefer, for the moment, not to make ~~proposals~~ proposals outside the field with which I am well acquainted.

Suggested problems for research

(1) There is scope for more studies of the type I have outlined, referring to different countries and periods. The best period will be different for each country, and must be chosen in terms of the amount and types of source material available. E.g., the study for France should be possible a few years earlier than in Britain and might easily cover the whole background of the anti-phlogistic revolution.

(2) There is need for a detailed study of the differences between the general nature of British science on the one hand and that of French and German science on the other in the 18th and early 19th centuries -- e.g., the predominantly empirical nature of the former and its strong individualism, as contrasted with the German tendency to speculative generalisations and the French blend of theory and experiment, and again the strong individualism of British science as contrasted with the comparatively tight-knit organisation in France -- all this being related to the dominance of laissez-faire capitalism in England.

(3) I should like to see a more detailed and politically better informed study than any I have met, on the relations between science and the French Revolution (both the effects of science in ~~giving~~ helping to prepare the ideology of the revolution, and the effects of the revolution, organisationally and ideologically, on science). Our French members may be able to tell us of some good study which I do not know. If not, they may be able to suggest how it could be carried out. (I pay my respects to M. Frenant's "The French Revolution and the Sciences" in Cahiers du Communisme (1939); but we need a much more detailed study).

(4) In carrying out my work, I have often felt the need of a good history of technical and industrial chemistry (and its relations with 'pure' chemistry). If the subject as a whole is too large, there are still several branches or periods that would be well worthy of separate study.

(5) One branch of (4) for which I have particularly felt the need is a study of the relations between chemistry and the textile ~~industries~~ industries, particularly in the period 1750-1820 approximately.

(6) Swinging to an entirely different type of problem, I should welcome a study of the interactions of geology and religious thought.

Sources

For most of these suggestions there is so much printed source material (which is available in many centres and traceable through bibliographies), that at ~~xxx~~ the present stage it is not necessary to consider the search for rare ~~xxxxx~~ manuscript material. I have therefore nothing important to say under this heading.

Possible uses for financial ~~xxxx~~ grants

As there is very little provision in most countries for the study of the history of the social relations of science, I hope that UNESCO may be induced to provide through the I.U.M.S. a number of Fellowships in the subject. Clearly any proposals the commission puts forward should be as specific as possible, and I regret that my own ideas can be no more concrete than those that follow.

At Cambridge there is no "school" of the history of science. A few people are interested in the subject as a sideline, but so far as I know there are only two people devoting their full time to the subject, viz., a young research student whose training is wholly as a historian, and myself (who am only able to carry on by getting special permission to use in an unorthodox manner a short-term Fellowship, which will end in 1948). In the absence of a "school", it is difficult to make specific suggestions as to students who might be helped by grants. There is, however, some possibility of getting research students trained as historians to work at some problems on short-term grants. They could make a considerable contribution, especially in collaboration with scientists, on problems like (2) & (3) above. There is a department of the history of science at University College, London, and it may be that they could recommend research workers worthy of financial aid. I hope to be able to give more information on this later.

June 26, 1947.

A meeting of the Publications Subcommittee will be held on Thursday 29th May, 1947 at ~~2~~ 3.00 p.m. in Mr. Pledge's room at the Science Library, Imperial Institute Road, South Kensington.

The agenda will include:

- (1) Election of Chairman and Secretary.
- (2) Arrangements for the Society's ordinary meetings.
- (3) Consideration of the publication of a Newsletter, and of its contents.
- (4) Consideration of the possibility and desirability of the publication of a new Journal of the History of Science, or of entering into some arrangement with an existing journal.
- (5) Publication of translations or reprints of rare classical works of science.
- (6) Any other business.

Items (1)-(3) ought to be dealt with at this meeting. Items (4) and (5) can be deferred if necessary.

I have taken the liberty of inviting Dr. McKie and Mr. Robinson to this meeting, in the hopes that the Committee will agree to co-opt them at least for this first discussion.

I add below some points which I think will require discussion in relation to the items requiring immediate decision.

S. Lilley,
St. John's College, Cambridge.
15-5-47

(2) At the Council meeting of 14-5-47 it was decided that there should be 4 ordinary meetings in the coming year - 3 to be devoted to the reading of papers selected by the Publications Committee from those submitted in advance by members, and one to a discussion on a moderately controversial theme.

Which of the four meetings is to be devoted to a discussion? What shall be the subject? Who the main speakers? Suggestions in advance would be welcome.

Circulation to members of a letter explaining the decision of the Council on the other three meetings, and inviting submission of papers. Will it be necessary to make reserve arrangements, lest insufficient papers are forthcoming?

- (3) Possible contents of a Newsletter would include:
 - (a) Details of forthcoming meetings of the Society, and possibly of meetings of other bodies of interest to our members.
 - (b) Bibliography of recent publications by members of the Society.
 - (c) Notes on work which members have in hand

[(b) and (c) would require that a questionnaire be previously circulated to members]

- (d) Certain bibliographical aids might become a feature of the Newsletter - a tentative suggestion is a list of theses which have been deposited in the Library of University College.
- (e) News on History of Science matters, e.g. of the I.U.H.S.
More ambitiously, the Newsletter might include:
- (f) Space in which members could submit queries (e.g. as to where a particular work may be found) in the hopes of obtaining information from other members.
- (g) Brief review of recent publications.

These are merely my own tentative ideas. Further suggestions in advance would be welcome.

It will be necessary: (i) to appoint an editor; (ii) to make arrangements for duplicating or printing; (iii) and for postal distribution (Will the Society be using an addressograph system?); (iv) to decide on size and frequency of publication.

S.L.

British Society for the History of Science

It has been pointed out to me that my notice dated 30-5-47 calls a meeting of the Publications Subcommittee for "Tuesday, June 12th". On more mature consideration I have come to the conclusion that this date will not occur till 1956 — by which time, it is to be hoped, the business in hand will be completed. The notice should have read Thursday, June 12th, at 2.30 p.m. in the Geological Museum. Dr. McKie writes to me as follows:

"Following our conversation last Thursday, I saw Professor Singer on Friday.

"I do not see that any useful purpose will be served by my attending your Committee, until there are definite proposals in writing to the Editors of the Annals of Science to consider. I gather that your Committee has, up to now, formulated no such proposals. Even if Robinson and I attend, the matter is no further advanced. I made this clear in my conversation with Professor Singer, and would be glad to know what you feel about it. I imagine, from what you said to me on Thursday, that you share my view. The Editors are naturally bound by formal documentary agreement both to one another and to the Publishers, and the Publishers to the Editors. A further matter for serious consideration is the financial responsibility for the Journal. Let me know what you think."

I hope to find time, amid the tedium of arranging a new home, to give Dr. McKie a full account of our last meeting. It is possible that he might then consider the proposals sufficiently definite to make his attendance worthwhile. But in any case, I propose that the meeting be held as arranged in order that we may make our proposals more definite.

S. Lilley,
St. John's College, Cambridge.
4-6-47.

I thank you for your thoughtful collection of my letters, etc.

*And
Accepted*

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LONDON

GOWER STREET, W.C.1.

EUSTON 4400

2nd June 1947.

Dear Professor Singer,

I have written to Lilley to make clear the points about definite proposals in writing/ from the Committee now discussing the question of publication in our new Society.

The other matter I mentioned to you is this. The Board of Studies in the History and Philosophy of Science, at the invitation of the University, have been considering the question of a course of lectures in the History of Science for 1st year students in the Faculty of Arts. The Board agree, in principle, to the advisability of giving such a course. The Committee have asked me to invite you to give, in the second half of next October, one or two lectures on "Science in the Ancient World". It is proposed to give the lectures for the whole course at 4 or 5 o'clock on Thursday afternoons at University College, if convenient.

I do not yet know whether the University have considered the question of the payment of fees and travelling expenses for the lecturers, but I am asking about this. I hope you will be able to accept this invitation; all the members of the Committee felt that you are, without question, the most suitable opening lecturer.

With all good wishes,
Yours sincerely,

Douglas Acheson

Professor Chas. Singer,
D.Lit. ,M.D., D.Sc.,
704, Mount Royal Hotel, Bryanston Street. Marble Arch,
W.1.

14th July, 1947.

Dear Mr. Grant,

Your Ref: JG/EW

Thank you for your letter of July 11.

For reasons of a mainly political nature in connection with UNESCO it became necessary to make an English Society for the History of Science. The point is that there is an International Academy for the subject and UNESCO can only help it on the basis of its being formed out of separate national societies. From the point of view of the subject itself I was rather against it because there is already an excellent Society in America which runs Iais, but in order to satisfy the demands of UNESCO we have made this Society and I am its President.

The most useful thing that the Society can do is to render accessible in English such important scientific works as are unavailable because they are in dead or unusual languages : e.g. Latin, Dutch etc. There are a few works which badly need the same treatment because of their rarity - such for instance as the English translation by Thomas Salisbury of Galileo's Dialogues Concerning Two Systems of the World. Many others will doubtless occur to you.

A special Committee has been formed to consider these. Its secretary is :-

Dr. S. Lilley,
42 Lyndewode Road,
Cambridge.

I am a member of it but Lilley is the leading spirit. I would suggest that you write to him on the subject saying that I have given you his name for the purpose.

I think perhaps that it is not realised sufficiently that such projects must necessarily be expensive. They involve the employment of two workers - a Latin or Dutch or other linguistic scholar and a man of science. The actual cost of such work, apart from any question of printing must

P.T.O.

necessarily run into sums of the order of thousands because it means full time employment of two scholars over a considerable period of time. The obvious way to raise such a sum is through commercial firms, and there are several enlightened firms who would, I think, be willing to undertake such a responsibility, regarding it as a legitimate use of their funds for advertisements. The only advertising element is such a book that is necessary would be a statement that it is actually paid for by such and such a firm. There are several excellent works of such origin.

The real need is not the suggestion of a title of a book to be translated - though that too is welcome - but a perfectly concrete plan that Messrs A B and C D are prepared to produce an annotated edition of the work X Y in English within a specified number of months. With such a statement in my hands there are several bodies that I might approach, but the real need is a perfectly concrete statement of what is proposed.

Perhaps you would think the matter over and discuss it with Lilley and Kenneth Franklin. Perhaps too your firm might be interested in the project.

Yours sincerely,

CHARLES SINGER.

John Grant Esq.,
Blackwell Scientific Publications Ltd.,
48 Broad Street,
Oxford.

14th July, 1947.

Dear Mr. Grant,

Your Ref: JG/EW

Thank you for your letter of July 11.

For reasons of a mainly political nature in connection with UNESCO it became necessary to make an English Society for the History of Science. The point is that there is an International Academy for the subject and UNESCO can only help it on the basis of its being formed out of separate national societies. From the point of view of the subject itself I was rather against it because there is already an excellent Society in America which runs Isis, but in order to satisfy the demands of UNESCO we have made this Society and I am its President.

The most useful thing that the Society can do is to render accessible in English such important scientific works as are unavailable because they are in dead or unusual languages : e.g. Latin, Dutch etc. There are a few works which badly need the same treatment because of their rarity - such for instance as the English translation by Thomas Salisbury of Galileo's Dialogues Concerning Two Systems of the World. Many others will doubtless occur to you.

A special Committee has been formed to consider these. Its secretary is :-

Dr. S. Lilley,
42 Lyndewode Road,
Cambridge.

I am a member of it but Lilley is the leading spirit. I would suggest that you write to him on the subject saying that I have given you his name for the purpose.

I think perhaps that it is not realised sufficiently that such projects must necessarily be expensive. They involve the employment of two workers - a Latin or Dutch or other linguistic scholar and a man of science. The actual cost of such work, apart from any question of printing must

P.T.O.

necessarily run into sums of the order of thousands because it means full time employment of two scholars over a considerable period of time. The obvious way to raise such a sum is through commercial firms, and there are several enlightened firms who would, I think, be willing to undertake such a responsibility, regarding it as a legitimate use of their funds for advertisements. The only advertising element is such a book that is necessary would be a statement that it is actually paid for by such and such a firm. There are several excellent works of such origin.

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Perhaps you would think the matter over and discuss it with Lilley and Kenneth Franklin. Perhaps too your firm might be interested in the project.

Yours sincerely,

CHARLES SINGER.

John Grant Esq.,
Blackwell Scientific Publications Ltd.,
48 Broad Street,
Oxford.

17th July, 1947.

My dear Lilley,

I think you will find it worth while to get into touch with Minio who writes the enclosed letter which is very difficult to read. I don't know him personally, but he is, I believe, either an Italian or Greek refugee who was suggested to me by the Society for the Protection of Science and Learning. I understand that he is a Greek scholar and he was to help me in a translation of a work of Galen but, in fact, he did not quite fill the bill. He has some sort of post in Oxford and is, I believe, something of a mathematician. Anyhow you ought to know him.

I have had a very conciliatory letter from Partington. I think he is best left alone for the moment because he is

P.T.O.

personally rather unhappy. He writes that he will try and spend a few days here in the autumn, and I gather that we shall retain his interest in and membership of our Society. Best do nothing about him at all for the present.

With kind regards,
Yours sincerely,

CHARLES SINGER

Dr. S. Lilley,
42 Lyndwode Road,
Cambridge.

42, Lyndewode Road,
Cambridge.

16th July, 1947.

Dear Singer,,

Thank you very much for your letter of July 14th. A letter from Grant arrived by the next post, and I am replying to him immediately. Thank you for the compliment of calling me the leading spirit on our Committee, but frankly I would have thought that you were the leading spirit and I merely the vile body which puts the ideas of the spirit into action.

I have had a good look at Stevin and it seems to me to be quite a reasonable proposition for translation and publication. I have not yet got so far as to find a translator, but I have several lines in view. On the whole I should prefer a translator in Cambridge because he would be easy to work with; but another suggestion is to use some of the people who work for Phillips, the radio firm. They have considerable Dutch connections and so employ people used to translation from the Flemish. Phillips are also worth thinking about as a possible firm to put up some money because of their Dutch connections.

I have been trying for some time to find an opportunity to tell you of another History of Science project in which I am engaged. At the end of last year the International Academy and UNESCO decided to set up a Commission for the History of the Social Relations of Science. The Commission cannot be formed officially until the Lusanne Congress, but Professor Rosenfeld (now at Manchester) and I were asked to get it going in a preparatory sort of way. Its objects are to encourage the study of the Social Relations of Science in the widest possible sense — that is, the inter-actions between science and any type of social influence. The Commission is not to express an opinion on the subject but merely promote its study.

I feel that you may be interested in this, and certainly as President of the British Society you should know about it. So I enclose some of the documents that have been in circulation. Since these documents were prepared the unofficial Commission has had a meeting. As soon as I have had time to put in order the results of that meeting I will send you copies of them, if you so desire. I should very much welcome any opinions and suggestions which you have to make on this subject.

I am still seeking ways and means of attending the Lusanne Congress (my position as acting Secretary to the above Commission makes that even more important). No doubt you and Mrs. Singer will be consulted as to who will be sent from Britain. If it happens that you cannot think of anybody better who is willing to go, then I should be most happy if you were to suggest my name.

/But

But in any case I shall find some means of getting there. Sorry to inflict this very long letter on you but I felt that I must get these things off my chest.

With kind regards to Mrs. Singer and yourself.

Yours sincerely,

Sam Lilley

Dr. Charles Singer,
Kilmarth,
Par,
Cornwall.

18th July, 1947.

My dear Lilley,

Many thanks for your letter of July 16. I gather that you had access to the original edition of Stevin. If so you will agree that the illustrations are quite delightful.

Tell me something about Phillips the radio firm, who I might possibly be able to get into touch with them. My secretary - Mrs Mourig-Davies - tells me that she thinks that the firm not only have Dutch connections but is a Dutch firm. Forbes of Amsterdam, of course, should know of the project as should Vollgraff. I myself possess the French translation of Stevin but was forced to part with the original edition. I am sorry now that I did so. The way for you to work on it would surely be to get two photostats of the whole book - one for you and one for your Dutch scholar. Is there anyone in Cambridge who has taken up Dutch? G.N. Clark - Regius Professor of History, who is now Provost of Oriel, might be sympathetic, but in my experience he is rather a timid and not very generous man. He does, however, read Dutch and is interested in it. An eminent man of science who reads Dutch is Clifford Dobell F.R.S., of the Medical Research Council, but he is a biologist. Andrade also reads Dutch but he is so difficult to work with that I think we had better leave him alone until our scheme has got a little further. I think he would come in later on and he is always amusing, though with the manners of a naughty child.

Many thanks for the material about the Social Relations of Science. I have every sympathy but I think I had better keep out of it. You will agree that it is no good - especially at my age - diffusing one's powers on every cause with which one has sympathy. Life as I see it - and especially the life

P.T.O.

of a scholar - is essentially a process of successive and voluntary limitation. It is just no good diffusing oneself in universal benevolence. I have seen many a good man go down the drain along these lines.

For reasons indicated in the above paragraph as well as for others - including Mrs Singer's health - I am very reluctant to go to Lausanne. If I cannot fulfil my duties and allowances on somebody else I will do so, and am looking round for some sort of line of procedure.

This is a rambling letter and I have dictated it just as it comes into my head for I am buried in proofs and illustrations.

With best wishes in which Mrs Singer joins -

Yours very sincerely,

CHARLES SINGER.

Dr. S. Lilley,
42, Lyndewode Road,
Cambridge.

19th July, 1947.

Dear Professor Rosenfeld,

Many thanks for your letter of July 17. It was a great pleasure to hear that you had been appointed to the chair of Theoretical Physics at Manchester. I am sure that you will be very happy there and do excellent work.

I have every sympathy with the movement for the Social Relations of Science and would gladly lend my name - for what that is worth - to any such project. I beg you, however, not to ask me to do any work in the matter. It is not for want of willingness but simply because I have so many literary commitments that I cannot get through them. I shall probably not be going to Lausanne and I am turning over in my mind what ought to be done in the matter. I quite agree no opportunity of keeping in touch with UNESCO should be lost.

With all good wishes in which Mrs Singer cordially joins -

Very sincerely yours,

CHARLES SINGER

Professor L. Rosenfeld,
The Physical Laboratories,
The University,
Manchester 13.

TELEPHONE: ARODICK 2081



THE PHYSICAL LABORATORIES,
THE UNIVERSITY,
MANCHESTER, 13.

17th July, 1947.

Professor Charles Singer,
Kilmarth,
PAR, Cornwall.

Dear Professor Singer,

It will probably interest you to know that the work of the preliminary commission for the History of the Social Relations of Science has been progressing in a quite encouraging way. There was a meeting last week in London; I hope that our Secretary, Dr. Lilley, will send you a detailed report of it, but I may just tell you that the main business has been to set up a concrete project of research, for the carrying out of which suitable scholars would be immediately available. We hope that if the project is sanctioned by the Lausanne Congress, it will receive financial support from UNESCO. At the moment, we have in view three young research workers; if you happen to know of anybody else whom you could recommend in this connexion, we shall be glad for your suggestions.

It is, of course, important that this preliminary work of the commission be presented in all detail to the Congress at Lausanne and that, for this purpose, at least our Secretary, Dr. Lilley, (who, as you know, is Publications Secretary of the History of Science Society), should be able to attend. What would be the right procedure to follow? Could for example, two or three members of the Commission residing in Britain (among them Dr. Lilley) be included in the official British delegation to the Lausanne Congress? I should be very thankful for any suggestion and help you could give us in this respect.

You may have heard that I have been appointed to the Chair of Theoretical Physics in the University of Manchester. I have recently taken up my new duties. I am glad that this brings me nearer to many scientists and

.....

scholars with whom I have always entertained pleasant
and inspiring relations.

Please remember me to Mrs. Singer,

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

L. Rosenfeld

15th August, 1947

My dear Butler,

I am really worried about the secretarial work of our Society. As regards the Congress at Lausanne. I am wondering whether our members have been publicised concerning it. You will agree that should have received full details concerning it weeks ago, but if they have none have reached McKie or myself. This is particularly serious because people have now dispersed for their summer holidays, and also money that may be spent abroad has been reduced. I feel we must do something about this question of circulating information.

I know the temptations of this exceptional real summer weather, but the Secretary of the British Society really must function as such !

Yours very sincerely,

CHARLES SINGER

42 Lyndewode Road,
Cambridge.

22 August 1947

My dear Singer,

Thank you very much for your letter of August 14th. I did know that Flemish and Dutch are really the same language. My difficulty about finding a translator was simply that I set out first of all to find one, if possible, in Cambridge. It now looks as if I am not going to succeed in that, and I have therefore written as you suggest to the Dutch Embassy; and I am also making approaches to a friend of mine in Phillips.

As soon as I find a possible translator I shall, as you suggest, get some short passages translated for your Anthology of Science.

I have also written to Sarton asking for a copy of his bibliography.

With kind regards and best wishes.

Yours sincerely,

Sam Lilley

Dr. Charles Singer,
Kilmarth,
Par,
Cornwall.

6th Dec. 1947

Dear Dr Lilley

It is just too provoking to be once more missing your paper. As you know, my husband is always a prisoner in these warmer regions during the winter. But I had all plans made to dash up by a 6.30 a.m. train, returning through the next night. Now, by abominable luck I have been laid up, that plan is not allowed, and as we shall have guests here, it is not possible to substitute a more leisurely arrangement. Both my husband and I are most disappointed to miss he ring you. If you do have your paper written, it would be delightful to read it. I expect it will soon be in print ?

Yours most sincerely

BRIT SOC HIST SCI

6th Dec. 1947

Dear Mr Butler

My husband has I know written to you how disappointed we are not to be able to get up on Dec. 9th. I had intended to be there, in a rather rushed visit of a day as we have guests here the next day, and as I have been laid up that will not now be possible.

Many thanks for sending my husband the Royal Society form to apply for travelling expenses. UNESCO has already paid for the actual journey to Lausanne for both of us, as we are both members of the Council of the International Academy of the History of Science (and therefore also of the ~~Council of the~~ Internat. Union of the History of Science). But they did not pay hotel expenses. As hotel expenses are usually included in these grants for travel to meetings abroad, we thought we might apply for these. Would you be kind enough to send me another form, and we can then fill one for my husband and one for me, and send them both together.

What an attractive programme you have for the 9th. We are so provoked to be both missing it.

With kind regards

Yours sincerely

Mrs Charles Singer

F.C.H. Butler Esq.
10 Exhibition Road
London, S.W. 7.

THE BRITISH SOCIETY FOR THE HISTORY OF SCIENCE

An Ordinary Meeting of the Society will be held on TUESDAY 9th DECEMBER, 1947, at 5 P.M. in the Lecture Theatre of the SCIENCE MUSEUM, Exhibition Road, South Kensington, London, S. W. 7.

The following papers will be read:-

1. Dr. J.F. SCOTT: "Descartes and the Invention of Co-ordinate Geometry."
2. Dr. S. LILLEY: "Apology of Caloric."
3. Dr. H.P. BAYON: "The Development and Progress of Biological Knowledge by Identification and Experiment."

10, Exhibition Road,
South Kensington,
London, S. W. 7.

F.H.C. BUTLER,
Honorary Secretary.
25th November, 1947.

THE BRITISH SOCIETY FOR THE HISTORY OF SCIENCE

A Meeting of the Council of the Society was held on Tuesday 28th October, 1947, at 4.0 p.m. at the Science Museum, South Kensington, London, S.W.7. by kind permission of the Director.

The following Members were present: Dr. Charles Singer (President); Professor Herbert Dingle, Sir Arthur S. MacNalty, Dr. H. Hamshaw Thomas and Mrs. Charles Singer (Vice-Presidents); Dr. H.P. Bayon, Mr. C.N. Bromehead, Mrs. Dorothy Feyer, Dr. S. Lilley, Dr. D. McKie, Dr. E. Ashworth Underwood, the Honorary Secretary and the Honorary Treasurer.

Apologies for absence were received from Dr. Sherwood Taylor and Sir Henry Thomas.

The President took the Chair.

Minutes

1. The Minutes of the Meeting held on 17th September, 1947, were confirmed and signed.

Honorary Treasurer's Statement

2. The Honorary Treasurer announced the financial position to date (28.10.47):-

95 Membership		Expenditure	
Subscriptions @ £1.1.0.	£99.15.0	as before	£22. 0.5.
		Balance	£77.14.7.
	<u>£99.15.0.</u>		<u>£99.15.0.</u>

Application to the Royal Society for the formation of a British National Committee for the History of Science

3. The Honorary Secretary reported that he had had an interview with the Assistant Secretary of the Royal Society on this matter and outlined the procedure necessary to form such a National Committee. After an animated discussion, the following Resolution was proposed by Dr. McKie and seconded by Dr. Underwood:

"That we approach the Royal Society with a view to the formation of a National Committee for the History of Science".

The Chairman put the motion to the Meeting: there were 10 votes in favour and 2 against and it was therefore carried.

International Congress of the History of Science
at Lausanne

4. Dr. Lilley reported on the 5th International Congress of the History of Science held at Lausanne from 30th September to 6th October, 1947. In view of the difficulties of the present time the Congress could be regarded as a success. The International Union of the History of Science was created. Its first set of officers include two of our members: Dr. Singer as President and Dr. Lilley as assessor. Three Commissions were set up to co-ordinate activities in the teaching of the History of Science, the cataloguing of manuscripts, and the history of the social relations of Science, respectively. The budget, which involves a turnover of 14,000 dollars in 1948, was approved. Dr. Lilley was of the opinion that a too high proportion of this sum (8,600 dollars) was earmarked for the Archives, the Union's Journal.

James Hutton Commemoration
Edinburgh, 3rd November, 1947.

5. The Chairman announced that the President and Council of the Royal Society of Edinburgh had invited him as President of the British Society for the History of Science, or his Representative, to a Commemoration of the 150th Anniversary of the death of Dr. James Hutton, "The Father of Modern Geology", to be held on Monday 3rd November, 1947. It was decided to ask Professor A.D. Ritchie, of Edinburgh University, to represent the Society.

Date of Next Meeting

6. This was fixed for Tuesday 9th December at 3.0 p.m. preceding the next Ordinary Meeting at 5.0 p.m.

British Society for the History of Science.

The next meeting of the Publications Subcommittee will be held on Tuesday, December 9th, 1947, at 2.00 p.m. (immediately before the Council Meeting) in the Council Room of the Science Museum, Exhibition Road, South Kensington, S.W.7.

The agenda will include:

- (1) Minutes
- (2) Matters arising
- (3) Publisher's estimate for printing Bulletin
- (4) Translation of Classics
- (5) Arrangements for ordinary meeting of March 9th (joint discussion with Historical Association and Science Masters' Association on place of history of science in education.)
- (6) Any other business

S. Lilley,
St. John's College.

19th November, 1947.

Unconfirmed minutes of meeting of September 17th.

Present: The President, Mr. Bromehead, Mr. Butler,
Dr. Lilley, Mr. Robinson.

- (1) Minutes of last meeting taken as read, and approved.
- (2) All matters arising covered by subsequent items.
- (3) Proposed arrangement with Annals of Science - no progress.
- (4) Bulletin. The secretary reported a conversation with Messrs. Taylor and Francis, who are now informed of our requirements and will submit an estimate.
- (5) Translation of Stevin's Statics. Secretary reported difficulty in finding a translator until next academic year. In Dr. Sherwood Taylor's absence, the translation of Huygen's Horologium could not be discussed.

1st January, 1940

My dear Butler,

Herewith form for hotel expenses. I am not claiming
for travelling expenses.

With kind regards -

Yours sincerely,

CHARLES SINGER

The TREASURER OF THE ROYAL SOCIETY has pleasure in enclosing a cheque for £ 20: -: - in respect of the undermentioned:

Grant towards expenses to Lausanne to attend the Fifth International Congress of the History of Science.

Please note that endorsement of the cheque is regarded as an official receipt, and that it is requested that the cheque be presented for payment within 14 days.

THE ROYAL SOCIETY
BURLINGTON HOUSE
LONDON W.1.

3 March 1948.

Dr Charles Singer,
Kilmarth,
Par, Cornwall.

THE BRITISH SOCIETY FOR THE HISTORY OF SCIENCE

10 EXHIBITION ROAD, SOUTH KENSINGTON, LONDON, S.W. 7

TELEPHONE: KENSINGTON 8806

PRESIDENT:

DR CHARLES SINGER

HON. SECRETARY:

F. H. C. BUTLER

HON. TREASURER:

H. W. ROBINSON

FHCB/NMP

16th February, 1948.

My dear Singer,

I enclose a form with a covering letter from the Assistant Secretary of the Royal Society. Would you be kind enough to complete the form and return to me and I will have the matter settled.

Yours sincerely,

F.H.C. Butler

Dr. C. Singer,
Kilmarth, Par,
Cornwall.

/COPY

The Royal Society

Burlington House,

London, W.1.

227/PB/CBA

13th February, 1948.

Dear Butler,

I have pleasure in informing you that Council at its meeting yesterday approved grants of £20 each for Dr. S. Lilley and Dr. C. Singer, towards their travelling expenses to Lausanne to attend the Fifth International Congress of the History of Science.

I enclose two forms of application for payment and I should be glad if you would arrange for Dr. Lilley and Dr. Singer to complete these and return them to this office, when payment of the grants will be made.

Yours sincerely,

(signed) D.C. MARTIN

Assistant Secretary.

F.H.C. Butler, Esq.,
Honorary Secretary,
The British Society for the History of
Science.

9th January, 1948

Dear Mr. Butler,

Thank you for your most kind letter and good wishes. Yes, thank you, I am a great deal better again and am being monumentally wise and cautious.

I am so very interested in Professor Tansley's leaflet that you sent me. I congratulate you and Mrs Butler (whom I hope to meet one day) most warmly on having got such splendid work going. I shall hand on the pamphlet to the headmistress of our local elementary school - who is a person of quite exceptional enlightenment and is constantly adding to the interests of the children. If you have yet a leaflet of the next short Summer School (a fortnight or even shorter) I would like to hand that on to her too. Are you in touch with the Association for Education in Citizenship? It seems to me that your promotion of Field Studies is a particularly fruitful form of education in citizenship!

What an interesting programme you are preparing for March 9th. I quite agree with you that Dr. Dorothy Turner Feyer should be one of the announced speakers, and also that the Association of Women Science Teachers should be invited officially. I expect Dorothy would be able to make suggestions. *Dr & D's interest and stimulus*

I very much hope to be at the meeting. I fear the President will not get up as he is firmly kept from London until April, but I am sure he will take part in the next meeting. He asks me to thank you for your letter and to say that he agrees with all you have written.

Yours very sincerely,

Mrs Charles Singer.

F.H.C. Butler Esq.,
Ravensmead, Keston, Kent.

THE BRITISH SOCIETY FOR THE HISTORY OF SCIENCE

10 EXHIBITION ROAD, SOUTH KENSINGTON, LONDON, S.W. 7

TELEPHONE: KENSINGTON 8806

PRESIDENT:

DR CHARLES SINGER

HON. SECRETARY:

F. H. C. BUTLER

HON. TREASURER:

H. W. ROBINSON

6th January 1948.

Dear Mrs. Singer,

Many thanks for your letter and good wishes for 1948: may I reciprocate them most heartily and hope that you may enjoy the best of health and satisfaction in the New Year. I am so sorry to hear that you have not been well and I do hope that you will not forget that with the passing of the years human bodies need rest, especially those with unusually active & creative minds! On reflection I find that I have known you both for 25 years so I am sure you will not mind this gentle admonition. The next meeting

of the Society is on Tuesday 9th March
at 5 p.m. in the Science Museum
when there will be a joint discussion
with the Science Masters' Association
and the Historical Association on 'The
Place of the History of Science in Education'.
We are asking Dr. Sherwood Taylor to
open the discussion for the Society. I
think Dorothy {Turner} ^{Feyer} should take part
too, don't you? I suppose the Assocn. of
Women Science Teachers should also be
invited as the S.M.A. is a masculine body
only. I hope you will be able to come
up for the meeting & that the President will
take the Chair. There will be a Council
Meeting at 3 p.m. on the same day.

I am enclosing the Presidential Address
of the C. P. F. S. as I think Prof. Tansley
would like you to have it.

With best wishes.

Yours v. sincerely,
J.H.C. Butler.

THE BRITISH SOCIETY FOR THE HISTORY OF SCIENCE

10 EXHIBITION ROAD, SOUTH KENSINGTON, LONDON, S.W. 7
TELEPHONE: KENSINGTON 8806

PRESIDENT:
DR CHARLES SINGER

HON. SECRETARY:
F. H. C. BUTLER

HON. TREASURER:
H. W. ROBINSON

6th January 1948.

My dear Singer,

Many thanks for your good wishes for the New Year; may I reciprocate them. I have sent the form for counter-signature and will forward it at once to the Royal Society: I have rung up the Assist. Secretary as it is a little late but I had told him it would be coming along.

The next meeting of the Council has been fixed for Tuesday 9th. March at 3 p.m. unless there is any urgent matter or matters which necessitate a meeting before this: it will be

followed by the discussion with the
Science Masters' Association +
Historical Association on 'The Place
of the History of Science in Education'.
at 5 P.M.
It is suggested that Sherwood Taylor
should open the discussion on behalf
of the Society followed by speakers
nominated by the S.M.A. and the
Historical Association. Will you take
→ the Chair at this meeting? I should
like to know as soon as possible in
order to get the notices printed and
circulated as soon as possible. I
hope we shall recruit some members
at this meeting. We have now reached
150 but should more than double this
if we had a Journal.

Yours.

J.H.C. Butler.

12th February, 1948

My dear Lilley,

Oh dear ! Thanks for your letter of Feb. 10. I must think up, of course, some "message" to send the publication. "Message" suggests that I am either an angel or a corpse and I am not quite either of these things ! I wish that I could write as easily as you. When do you want me to send down the beastly thing to mortals ?

Yours from the Emyrean -

CHARLES SINGER.

Dr. S. Lilley,
42, Lyndewode Road,
Cambridge.

THE BRITISH SOCIETY FOR THE HISTORY OF SCIENCE

10 EXHIBITION ROAD, SOUTH KENSINGTON, LONDON, S.W.7

TELEPHONE: KENSINGTON 8806

PRESIDENT:

DR CHARLES SINGER

HON. SECRETARY:

F. H. C. BUTLER

HON. TREASURER:

H. W. ROBINSON

42, Lyndewode Road,
Cambridge.

10/2/48

Dear Singer,

I am in the throes of preparing the first number of the Society's Bulletin. I think it would look good if this could open with a presidential message - a sort of encouraging survey of the Society's prospects and opportunities. If you agree with me could you let me have such a message for publication, anything up to 500 words.

Best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

Jan Lilley

Dr. C. Singer,

~~President,~~

~~British Society for the History of
Science,~~

~~10, Exhibition Road,~~

~~South Kensington,~~

~~London, S.W.7.~~

*Kilnarth,
Par,
Cornwall.*

↖

Sorry. Typist error!



From the Curator F. SHERWOOD TAYLOR

MUSEUM OF THE HISTORY OF SCIENCE
OLD ASHMOLEAN BUILDING, BROAD STREET OXFORD

6th January, 1948.

Dr. Charles Singer,
Kilmarth,
PAR,
Cornwall.

My dear Singer,

Thank you very much for your letters. There is not only a German translation but also a French translation of the Horologium Oscillatorium, but neither of them can be called easily accessible to the English students.

With regard to approaching the firms we are discussing, I should be willing to write but I think there should be some resolution by the Committee to make it appear that I am asking for assistance on behalf of the Society and not on my own behalf. It is not as if I held any office in the Society beyond that of being a member of its Council.

Yours sincerely,

Frank Sherwood Taylor

Bush 2
42, Lyndewode Road,
Cambridge.

6th January, 1948.

My dear Singer,

Thank you very much for your letter of January 2nd. Would you please also thank Mrs. Singer for her letter of December 29th and for her kind invitation for all three of us to visit you. I am very sorry that it would not be possible for us to come at present, much as we should like to do so, but I hope that another opportunity will occur in the future,

Your remarks about my paper on "The Nature of Heat", were very kind. I do know the syllabus of lectures by Davy to which you referred and regard it as quite useful evidence. I am still continuing this research and finding so many interesting things in it that I think I shall publish a small monograph on the subject.

The situation about the Publications Committee and the work that it was supposed to do is, as you say, very confused. I'll try to make matters clear as far as I can. First of all as regards the translation of classics, in the case of Stevin I had found two people who were willing to translate at the cost of £100. Both of them seemed to be linguistically quite adequate for the purpose but neither of them has sufficient knowledge of science or of the history of science to be left to do the job entirely along. There would therefore, have to be also an editor who would require some further fee. I think you will agree with me that when the project was originally ⁹moted we rather thought of doing it in this way, and we did not have any hopes of finding a translator who would be expert in all three of language, history, and science. However, at its latest meeting, the Publications Committee took the opposite view and said that we must search farther to find such a translator.

At the same time, the Committee took a final decision to publish a Bulletin for the Society, and wanted to appoint me editor. I had to say that it would only be possible for me to undertake this job if I could be relieved of other responsibilities. In effect, that meant relieving me of the job of looking for a translator and of the secretaryship of the Publications Committee, and as the Committee did not seem willing to look for somebody else to undertake these jobs, it decided on the very negative course of dissolving itself and throwing all its responsibilities back to the Council. Then the Council contented itself with accepting these

responsibilities in principle but doing nothing whatsoever about them.

Sherwood Taylor was not at these meetings but a few days later I had a letter from him saying that he had looked into the Huygens book. He thought there would be no difficulty about translating it, but could suggest no translator, except that he would himself be willing to do the work, "provided that the arrangements made with the publishers allowed of a reasonable recompence for the time I should spend on it." *I think we should accept his offer.*

A little earlier I had had a conversation with Mr. John Grant of Blackwells, Oxford publishers. His firm would be willing to undertake the publication of such books as these; the conditions which he visualised were that we find a subsidy to cover costs of translation and editing and that Blackwells would then take charge of the publication costs. I did hope to be able to report to him after the Committee Meeting that the Society was going ahead on such arrangements, but of course I had in fact to report that no action had been taken. Grant has also expressed a wish to meet you, along with McKie and me, at some convenient early time. If you agree to this perhaps you would let me know sometime when you will be in London and I will try to make the arrangement.

From all this you will see that matters are in an extremely unsatisfactory state. I myself am so extremely busy that I cannot visualise myself pushing effectively to get the Council to take up its responsibilities in these matters again. I should of course back up any proposals that would lead to actions instead of decisions in principle, but I feel that I have to rely on you to lead the next major attack. Does your medical regulation about not travelling in the winter mean that you cannot attend the next Council Meeting on March 9th? I hope you can (and if you can, perhaps we could arrange to meet in London beforehand.) On the other hand if you cannot attend, I think it would be a very good thing for you to write a strong letter on the subject to be presented to the Council Meeting. If you think it would help at all for us to have a talk on the subject I should do my best to travel down to Cornwall to meet you, though I am rather loath to spend either the time or the money involved at the moment.

I am sorry that this letter will probably leave you even more depressed about the future of this line of work than you were before you received it. Perhaps you will let me have your opinions and

between us we may be able to see some better way forward.

With all best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

Sam Lilley

Dr. Charles Singer,
Kilmarth,
Par,
Cornwall.

1st January, 1948

Dear Mr. Butler,

I am enclosing a line to ask if you will very kindly send word as to the date and hour chosen for the next meeting of the Council of the Brit. Soc. for the History of Science as we must try very hard to keep that date clear.

I am enclosing also our greetings of the Season which have been a little retarded and restricted owing to my being laid up, but which bring our best wishes for 1948.

Yours very sincerely,

Mrs Charles Singer.

F.H.C. Butler Esq.,
Ravensmead,
Keston, Kent.

To answer 1 file

THE BRITISH SOCIETY FOR THE HISTORY OF SCIENCE

10 EXHIBITION ROAD, SOUTH KENSINGTON, LONDON, S.W. 7

TELEPHONE: KENSINGTON 8806

HON. SECRETARY:
F. H. C. BUTLER

PRESIDENT:
DR CHARLES SINGER

HON. TREASURER:
H. W. ROBINSON

FHCB/MMP

12th March, 1948.

My dear Singer,

I am pleased to be able to report that at the Council meeting on Tuesday, you and Dr. Underwood were elected as representatives of the Society to serve on the National Committee of the History of Science. I understand that the National Committee does not meet more than about once a year and I am sure this could be arranged at a time when you are able to be in Town.

The Council also appointed officers of our Society, namely, yourself, Robinson, and myself, to meet a small ad hoc Committee which had been elected on Monday evening at University College, to consider the formation of a group in the Philosophy of Science to function within the British Society of the History of Science.

May I also add that the next meeting of the Council will be held at 2.30 p.m. on Tuesday 4th May, 1948, at the Science Museum and this will be followed by the Annual General Meeting at 5.0 p.m. at which the Presidential Address will be given.

We had a very pleasant tea followed by a successful meeting on Tuesday and, as you wished, I personally conveyed your apologies to Dr. Sarton for your absence. He is a very charming man and members of the Council were delighted to have an opportunity of meeting him personally in this informal way; I think Sarton enjoyed it also. Mrs. Singer will give you full report of the proceedings and I think she approved of the general arrangements.

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

FHCB

Dr. Charles Singer,
Kilmarth, Par,
CORNWALL.

13th March, 1948

Dear Mr. Butler,

I am delighted to say that I shall be pleased to accept the Royal Society invitation to our members to the lecture next Thursday. Would you very kindly send me a postcard as to times, for when you were making the announcement I thought there would be no chance of my being in London.

What a delightful meeting we had. I so enjoyed it, including the delicious tea.

Yours very sincerely;

Mrs Charles Singer.

F.H.C. Butler Esq.,
10, Exhibition Road,
South Kensington,
London S.W.7.

25th February, 1948

Dear Mr. Butler,

I have just realised that we have been very negligent. We should certainly have told you that Sarton will be in England for the meeting on March 9th. Probably you would like to send him a little letter with a special invitation, and probably our Chairman on the 9th could call upon him as one of the first speakers after those already announced.

Dr. and Mrs Sarton arrive here to-day and we expect them to be with us for a week. They will then be moving to :

28 Hertford Street,

Park Lane,

London W.1.

[Telephone : Mayfair 8591]

Yours very sincerely,

Mrs Chares Singer.

17th February, 1948

My dear Butler,

Many thanks for your letter of 16th February with copy of letter from Martin and the Royal Society form of application for payment. I have completed this and enclose it herewith.

With kind regards,
Yours sincerely,

F.H.C. Butler Esq.,
British Society for the History of
Science.

CHARLES SINGER.

/COPY

The Royal Society
Burlington House,
London, W.1.

8 November, 1947.

Dear Sir,

With further reference to your letter of 28 October to the Foreign Secretary, I am directed to inform you that the Council of the Royal Society at its meeting this week decided to adhere to the International Union of the History of Science.

The Council also agreed to set up a National Committee for that subject and the constitution of the Committee is at present under consideration.

Yours faithfully,

(SIGNED) D. C. MARTIN

Assistant Secretary.

F.H.C. Butler, Esq.,
Honorary Secretary,
British Society for the History
of Science,
10, Exhibition Road, S.W.7.

THE BRITISH SOCIETY FOR THE HISTORY OF SCIENCE.

A meeting of the Council of the Society will be held on Tuesday, 9th December, 1947, at 3 p.m. in the Council Room of the Science Museum, Exhibition Road, South Kensington, S.W.7. by kind permission of the Director. Your attendance is requested.

The Ordinary Meeting of the Society will follow at 5 p.m., but it is hoped that the Council Meeting will finish early enough for members to have tea.

10, Exhibition Road,
South Kensington,
London, S.W.7.

F.H.C. BUTLER,
Honorary Secretary.

17th November, 1947.

THE BRITISH SOCIETY FOR THE HISTORY OF SCIENCE

10 EXHIBITION ROAD, SOUTH KENSINGTON, LONDON, S.W. 7

TELEPHONE: KENSINGTON 8806

PRESIDENT:

DR CHARLES SINGER

HON. SECRETARY:

F. H. C. BUTLER

HON. TREASURER:

H. W. ROBINSON

FHCB/NMP

17th November, 1947.

My dear Singer,

I enclose a copy of the letter I have received from the Assistant Secretary of The Royal Society saying that the R.S. have agreed to set up a National Committee for the History of Science.

If you wish to claim expenses for your visit to Lauzanne would you be kind enough to fill up the enclosed form and return it to me as soon as possible. I will ask Hamshaw Thomas to sign paragraph 8.

I enclose a notice of the next Council Meeting.

Yours sincerely,

F.H.C. Butler

Dr. Charles Singer,
Kilmarth, Par,
Cornwall.

THE BRITISH SOCIETY FOR THE HISTORY OF SCIENCE

10 EXHIBITION ROAD, SOUTH KENSINGTON, LONDON, S.W. 7

TELEPHONE: KENSINGTON 8806

PRESIDENT:

DR CHARLES SINGER

HON. SECRETARY:

F. H. C. BUTLER

HON. TREASURER:

H. W. ROBINSON

FHCB/NMP

16th December, 1947.

Dear Mrs. Singer,

Many thanks for your letter of the 6th. We were so sorry that you could not be present at the meetings on the 9th and I do hope that you are quite well again.

I brought the matter of travelling and subsistence expenses, incurred by delegates to the Lausanne Congress, before the Council and I am asked to say that the Society can only sponsor the applications of our appointed delegates i.e. those for your husband and Dr. Lilley. I am sure you will understand.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

F.H.C. Butler

Mrs. D. Singer,
Kilmarth, Par,
CORNWALL.

THE BRITISH SOCIETY FOR THE HISTORY OF SCIENCE

10 EXHIBITION ROAD, SOUTH KENSINGTON, LONDON, S.W. 7

TELEPHONE: KENSINGTON 8806

PRESIDENT:

DR CHARLES SINGER

HON. SECRETARY:

F. H. C. BUTLER

HON. TREASURER:

H. W. ROBINSON

FHCB/NMP

16th December, 1947.

My dear Singer,

I duly made your apologies for absence from the meetings on the 9th. The matter of the expenses of delegates to the Lausanne Congress was discussed and Hamshaw Thomas signed Lilley's form for the application to the Royal Society. Perhaps you will let me have your completed form as soon as possible: if you have received travelling expenses from UNESCO you might wish to apply for hotel expenses - it is possible that the Royal Society will not pay these but we may as well try.

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

F.H.C. Butler.

Dr. Charles Singer,
Kilmarth, Par,
CORNWALL.

Please excuse blob!

British Society

COPY

le 15 mars, 1948

Mon cher Collègue,

Enfin je reponds à votre aimable lettre du 14 février, puisque tout est ajusté et clair entre notre complexité de Sociétés !

Voilà ce qui s'est passé :

Dès que la Société Britannique (British Society for the History of Science) s'est établie, en Dec. 1946, elle a demandé à l'Académie internationale d'histoire des sciences l'affiliation comme Groupe Nationale Britannique. Tout en l'acceptant, l'Académie Internationale a indiqué (comme vous le savez bien) qu'elle était en train d'établir l'Union internationale d'histoire des sciences qui se chargerait des affaires administratives et surtout de l'organisation des l'organisations des groupes nationales.

Alors (et en grand part grâce à vos bons soins, l'Union, s'est établie définitivement en Octobre 1947, et a accepté l'affiliation de la British Society for the History of Science comme groupe nationale britannique.

Mais alors la Royal Society a fait savoir à la British Society for the History of Science que la Royal Society désirerait former une groupe nationale britannique de l'Union internationale d'histoire des sciences; et la Royal Society a proposé l'affiliation pour ce but de la British Society for the History of Science

Cette dernière Société a considéré ce propos et l'a accepté. Et la British Society for the History of Science vient (la semaine passée) de nommer deux membres - (à savoir Monsieur Underwood et moi-même) de ce comité organisée par la Royal Society qui se propose comme Groupe Nationale Britannique de l'Union Internationale d'histoire des sciences.

P.T.O.

8-21 374 11 41 Y100

Alors il me paraît que la réponse à la lettre de
Monsieur Andrade sera-que :

L'Union Internationale d'Histoire des Sciences a déjà l'année
passée acceptée la British Society for the History of Science
comme la Groupe Nationale Britannique de l'Union. Mais le
Président de la British Society for the History of Science, qui
est aussi Président de l'union Internationale d'Histoire des
Sciences, ayant signalé que la British Society et la Royal Society
désirent se joindre dans la tâche de former la Groupe
Nationale Britannique de l'Union Internationale, et que les deux
Sociétés proposent que, pour ce but la British Society sous
le Présidence de M. Andrade, le Conseil de l'Union Internationale
recevra et considérera ce propos à la Réunion qui aura lieu
à Paris au mois de Mai, et que vous aurez le plaisir de lui
écrire encore après la Réunion.

Trouvez vous que c'est bien comme ça ? Quel plaisir
de nous tous retrouver à Paris au mois de Mai. Espérons que
la scene Européenne sera alors plus tranquille;

Presentez, je vous prie, mes hommages très respectueux
à Madame Sergescu et agreez, je vous prie, cher collègue
l'expression de ma haute considération .

(Signed) CHARLES SINGER

Ci-enclose votre lettre de la Royal Society du 9 fev. 1948

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LONDON

DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICS

EUSon 4400

Professor E. N. da C. ANDRADE, F.R.S.

GOWER STREET, W.C.1

5th March, 1948.

My dear Singer,

Pray forgive me for not having replied earlier to your letter of February 23rd. When it arrived I was indisposed and this week I have been particularly busy owing to a visit of a French colleague and his wife, whom I have had to entertain.

As I understand the situation, the Royal Society has informed the Secretary of the International Union of the History of Science, of which you are President, that it wishes to adhere to the Union and has asked what the subscription is and to whom it should be paid. I should have thought that these questions were capable of a simple answer, but I cannot give it, because I do not know who is the Treasurer nor what is the subscription, although I gather from the ~~very slightly composed~~ letter of your Roumanian friend that it is 50 dollars, which can, I presume, be paid in sterling. The only other question is whether the International Union of the History of Science will accept the Royal Society as the adhering body for the U.K., which again is not for me to say.

I can see nothing particularly complicated about the matter, nor, if it is complicated, how I come in to it.

With warmest greetings,

I am,
Yours sincerely,

E. N. da C. Andrade

The Odd Job Man.

Dr. Charles Singer, F.R.C.P., F.S.A.,
Kilmarth,
Par, Cornwall.

*This letter is
sent by the*

RS. secretary

EN

*I enclose a few
trifling presents
during our stay
with the family
of summer*

23rd February, 1948.

Honoured Führer,

What the deuce am I to answer this man Sergescu ?

You will want to know who and what he is. Improbable though it may seem he is simultaneously :

- (a) Professor of Mathematics (active) in the University of Bucharest.
- (b) Resident in Paris where he is some sort of philosophico-mathematical pundit.
- (c) President (for the current 3 years period) of the International Academy of the History of Science to which you so kindly lectured in London when I was President in 1848 (or was it 1748 ?).
- (d) Secretary of the International Union for the History of Science. To this latter body the Royal Society has applied to adhere.

You will want to know who the devil is the fellow who signs this letter. He is simultaneously :

- (a) Servus servorum of his Führer.
- (b)m President of the International Union for the History of Science to which the Royal Society is said to wish to adhere. (I don't believe it.)
- (c) President (much against his will) of the British Society for the History of Science which believed

P.T.O.

itself to be the National Group in this country of both the International Academy and of the International Union for the History of Science and :

- (1) In December, 1946, applied to them for affiliation and was accepted as the National Group.
- (2) In October, 1947, having received in the meanwhile advances and suggestions from the Royal Society, proposed affiliation also to the Royal Society. But I don't believe it.

What an idiotically complicated business it is. To my mind these matters of organisation matter not a hang so long as you and longo intervallo I get on with our work.

Now please what have I got to reply to the disturber of my peace, Sergescu, in my character of President of the International Union for the History of Science ?

For heaven's sake in your character as Chairman of the Royal Society Committee for something or other, do please draft my reply. I wanted to leave his letter unanswered but my wife will not let me do so. Personally I have not the slightest idea what it is all about. And I couldn't care less.

Heil Andrade !

Yours ever -

CHARLES SINGER.

Professor E.N. da C. Andrade, F.R.S.,
28, Woronzow Road,
London N.W.8.

P.S. Please return Sergescu's letter to me.

14 Feb. 1948

Professor Sergescu, Hon. Sec. of
International Union for the History of Science,
writes to Professor Charles Singer, President of
International Union for the History of Science
as follows:

1. Encloses letter from Assistant Sec. of Royal Society.
dated 9 Feb. 1948
2. Asks what is the relation between this new
" English Group " and the British Society for
the Hist. of Science
3. Asks what reply he should send to the Royal Soc.
Assist. Sec. letter
4. Mentions that the Subscription of each
National Group for 1948 is dollars 50.

COPY

The Royal Society
Burlington House
London, W.1.

190/DCM/PB

9 Feb. 1948

Dear Sir

I write to acquaint you formally as Secretary of the International Union for the History of Science that the Royal Society has resolved to adhere to the International Union and, as the British national adhering organisation, is proceeding to appoint a National Committee for the History of Science under the chairmanship of Professor E.N. de C. Andrade, F.R.S.

I should be glad to know in due course if any subscription is due from the Society, and if so, the amount due and the person to whom it should be paid.

Yours faithfully

(signed) D.C. Martin

Assistant Secretary

The Secretary
International Union of the History of Science
12 Rue Colbert
Paris

Paris, le 14 Février 1948

7 Rue Daubenton

Cher et très honoré Président,

Nous venons de recevoir la lettre ci-jointe de Royal Society. D'après ce que je comprends, la Royal Society organise un groupe National pour l'histoire des Sciences adhérent à notre Union. Je ne sais pas que répondre. Je vous serai très reconnaissant si vous voulez bien m'expliquer quelle est la situation avec le Groupe Anglais, ses relations avec la History of Science Society. Peut-être voulez-vous bien écrire le projet de réponse à la Royal Society. La cotisation annuelle de chaque groupe national est 50 dollars pour 1948.

Je vous prie de bien vouloir me retourner pour nos archives la lettre de Royal Society et le projet de votre réponse, afin que je puisse l'envoyer officiellement comme réponse à Londres.

Je me permets, en même temps, de vous prier de bien vouloir me donner l'autorisation d'envoyer les convocations pour la réunion du Conseil de notre Union (21-22 Mai), pour lesquelles je vous ai envoyé le projet le 12 Janvier. Je ne peux pas envoyer les convocations sans votre permission.

Agreez, je vous prie, cher et très honoré Président, l'expression de ma haute considération. Hommages très respectueux pour Madame Singer.

P. Sergesov

COPY

The Royal Society
Burlington House
London, W.1.

190/DCM/PB

9 Feb. 1948

Dear Sir

I write to acquaint you formally as Secretary of the International Union for the History of Science that the Royal Society has resolved to adhere to the International Union and, as the British national adhering organisation, is proceeding to appoint a National Committee for the History of Science under the chairmanship of Professor E.N. da C. Andrade, F.R.S.

I should be glad to know in due course if any subscription is due from the Society, and if so, the amount due and the person to whom it should be paid.

Yours faithfully

(signed) D.C. Martin

Assistant Secretary

The Secretary
International Union of the History of Science
12 Rue Colbert
Paris

Dear Mr. Butler,

18th March, 1948

If we are asking non-members to the meeting on May 4th could you kindly send an invitation to our friend Dr. Douglas Robb, c/o N.Z. Government Office, 415 Strand, Marked To Await arrival.

What a pleasant meeting we had the other day and what a lovely tea you gave us.

Yours very sincerely,

Mrs Charles Singer.

F.H.C. Butler Esq.,
10 Exhibition Road,
South Kensington, S.W.7.

England.

20th March, 1948

My dear Dr. Robb,

This is most exciting that you are coming to England. We shall be in London from May 4th. I am not quite sure where we shall be staying so it will be best for you to address us c/o my husband at The Athenaeum, Pall Mall, London S.W.1. We are both immensely looking forward to seeing you.

Yours very sincerely,

P.S. A few days ago I gave a letter of introduction to you and Mrs Robb to our friend - Miss Thomson - who is coming to New Zealand.

From:- Douglas Robb, M.D., F.R.C.S.
41 Symonds St.,
AUCKLAND. C.1., N.Z.
20 February, 1948.

Dear Mrs. Singer,

Thank you for your letter of 9th February, acknowledging the food parcel which I am glad arrived in good order. We were both very glad to have your family news and to know that the boy will be close to you at Exeter for a period.

I look forward with anticipation to hearing at first hand your ideas on Medical Services in the month of May. I have been given a commission by the Government to study heart surgery in U.S.A. and am adding on a month in Britain on my own. It will be in May, and my address, "C/- N.Z. Government Office, 415 Strand."

I expect to arrive by air about the 2nd May, and leave about 28th back to America. I will be pretty busy, but if it is at all possible, I will see you. I do not suppose either of you will be in London during that period.

Unfortunately I will be on my own as the state of world finance makes travelling difficult - also there are three young ones at home to be looked after.

Please give my best regards to Chas., and accept same yourself.

I am,
Yours sincerely,

Douglas Robb

BY AIR MAIL

N.Z. AIR MAIL
LETTER CARD

If anything is enclosed this card will be sent
by ordinary mail.



Mrs. Dorothea Singer,
Kilmarth Par,
Cornwall,
ENGLAND.

When folded the letter card must conform in size and shape with the border
within which the address only may be written

AUCKLAND. C.I., N.Z.

41 Symonds St.,

G.D. Robb,

SENDER'S NAME

AND ADDRESS

THE BRITISH SOCIETY FOR THE HISTORY OF SCIENCE

10 EXHIBITION ROAD, SOUTH KENSINGTON, LONDON, S.W. 7

TELEPHONE: KENSINGTON 8806

PRESIDENT:

DR CHARLES SINGER

HON. SECRETARY:

F. H. C. BUTLER

HON. TREASURER:


H. W. ROBINSON

25th. March 1948

Dear Mrs. Singer,

You asked me to let you have the
address of the speaker from the
Historical Association at our Joint
Meeting on 9th. March! -

He is:


S. M. Toyne M.A.,

(Chairman: Historical Association)

21 Bedford Square,

London, W. C. 1.

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

F. H. C. Butler

8th July, 1948

Dear Professor Butterfield,

I was at Cambridge the day before yesterday discussing the History of Science and its teaching with the Master of Christ's and with Mrs Lindsay of Girton.

As you know there has been instituted a British Society for the History of Science of which I am President. The Master and Mrs Lindsay felt that more pains should have been taken to select Cambridge names for its Council. I agree. But it is just to remember that the Society was started hurriedly about two years ago for a special reason. The general academic situation was by no means as clear then as now, and I was myself against the move being doubtful if academic interest was forthcoming. UNESCO, however, wished to promote the subject and needed a body to which money could be voted.

There is a further extenuation of which, it seems to me, historians should be made aware. Certain of us have devoted ourselves to the History of Science for from 20 to 40 years. I have for 40 years belonged to several historical societies and I was a foundation life member of the Institute of Historical Research. Yet I have never, till now, seen the slightest interest in the subject among technical 'historians'. (Perhaps in this connexion Professor G.N. Clark, for reasons which would take too long to discuss on paper, is an apparent, not a real exception.) I have not even been able to get books on the subject reviewed in historical journals.

The situation has now happily changed. It would be

P.T.O.

foolish to recriminate. Personally I would and will gladly do all I can to secure an adequate representation of 'historians' in our deliberations and activities. It is surely time that historians of science and other historians who are interested in science should combine to the advantage of the subjects.

I therefore write to you asking if you would do me the honour of allowing me to put your name forward as a member of our Council? I am also going to propose the names of Mrs Lindsay and the Master of Christ's. (Of course the latter can hardly show great activity in the matter during his period as V-C.) I propose to ask also Professor Galbraith and the new Provost of Oriel.

I should much like to talk these matters over with you. Is there any chance of meeting? What are your movements in the near future? It would give Mrs Singer and myself the greatest pleasure if you and Mrs Butterfield would spend a few days with us during vacation. We could, I think, get to understand the situation better in this way. Mrs Singer asks me if Mrs Butterfield would suggest a date.

Believe me to be,

Yours sincerely,

CHARLES SINGER

Professor H. Butterfield,
89, Tenison Road,
Cambridge.

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LONDON

GOWER STREET, W.C.1.

EUSTON 4400

23rd September, 1948.

Dear Singer,

Many thanks for your letter. I am afraid such a job as that is quite beyond me. It needs someone who specialises in the history, rather than the philosophy, of science. I suppose the suggestion will now go to ICSU and to the Academy for consideration and they will no doubt have some names to suggest. In that connection I might mention that a month or so ago I had a visit from a Professor Alfonso Cornejo, who teaches history of science in Mexico, and he told me that there has just appeared a history of physics in Spanish, written by a Brazilian, I think, which is much better and more complete than anything previously existing. I think this should be looked into before any steps are taken to prepare the new work.

I wish I could come down for a weekend but I am afraid it is not possible. Having been away three times during this Vacation I have got rather badly behind and have just realised with dismay that the new term starts in a fortnight. I hope you are both well.

With kindest regards,
Yours sincerely,

Herbert Dingle.

Dr. Charles Singer,
Kilmarth, Par,
Cornwall.

Answered 25.9.48

British
Society
History
Science

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LONDON

COWER STREET, W.C.1.

EUSTON 4400

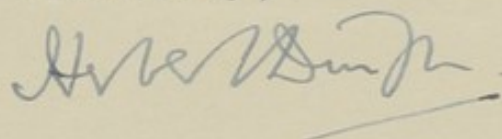
29th September, 1948.

Dear Singer,

The book you mention is A Short History of Physics by H. Buckley (London, 1927). It is, however, not at all a standard work but simply a readable but superficial story of the subject. A much more serious work is Cajori's History of Physics (New York, Macmillan, Revised Edition, 1929). There is, however, room for a really thorough history of physics but it would be a major work to which someone with the necessary knowledge would have to devote several years. I cannot think of any qualified person who has the time.

With kind regards to you both,

Yours sincerely,



Professor Charles Singer,
Kilmarth,
Par,
Cornwall.

TELEPHONE: PAR 56.
STATION. PAR G.W.R.
ONE & HALF MILES.

18th Sept. 1948

KILMARTH,
PAR.
CORNWALL.

My dear Dingle

I see from the Monthly Bulletin of the Int.¹
Council of Scientific Unions (p. 10) that the
International Union of Physics "wishes to suggest to
ICSU and to the Union of the History of Science that
the development of Physics since the death of Newton
is worthy of special attention. Most histories of
physics of physics are mainly concerned with earlier
works".

So I suppose we have to do something about it .
Would you feel like tackling it ? Perhaps you would
assemble a group (preferably of more than one nationality)
to produce a large-scale work ?

I shall be in London on Wednesday. Would you by chance
care to breakfast with me at the Athenaeum at 8.30 that
morning ? I remember that you are an early bird.

My wife joins in warmest greetings. We both wish
you could run down to us - even if only for a week-end.

Yours ever

Phil. of Sc. Group

My dear Dingle

Many thanks for your letter of 24th Feb. with enclosures which I return enclosed.

I am entirely of your opinion in regard to this question of the subject of Philosophy of Science not being entirely separate from the History of Science. I think that there is nothing to prevent the matter being raised again within the International Union, and I think that the existence of your Philosophy of Science Group with its special relationship to the British Society for the History of Science, the opinion that you have had from Stratton (though informal, this I imagine may be quoted) and the same opinion which I have gathered in similar informal fashion from UNESCO - these three factors would I think all be favourable to a reconsideration of the matter by the International Union.

If you think it desirable, I will be very glad to raise this matter at the next Council Meeting of the International Union. This will take place early in September. I am not quite sure of the constitutional proceeding, but I expect a further step will be necessary if the Council approve of enlarging our title to include Philosophy, as no doubt it will then be necessary to put the matter before the "effectifs" of the Union.

As soon as you give me the word, I will give notice of a proposal for the next Council Meeting of the International Union.

Dorothea joins me in warmest greeting

Yours very sincerely

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as
accepted
5-7 Sept
+ Bandy
Bill. J. J.
SERGESCU

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LONDON

EUSTON 4400

GOWER STREET W.C.1

24th February, 1949.

My dear Singer,

Many thanks for your letter about Winter. I know about him and have heard from him occasionally, but know nothing of course about his knowledge of Arabic. The work he did here, and of which I heard, was on a quite different subject. However, I will bear your letter in mind if the matter arises in any way.

There is another point on which I should be glad of your opinion. It concerns the international organisation of the study of the philosophy of science which appears to be in a state of complication only possible to something that does not yet exist. I have had the enclosed papers from Father Dockx, who is the Secretary of the Institut International des Sciences Théoriques. As you will see, he is proposing to form another international organisation, L'Union Internationale de Philosophie des Sciences, which is to collaborate with the Société Internationale de Logique et de Philosophie des Sciences, (this, I believe, is a body formed in Switzerland by Professor Gonseth and at the moment existing on hope). Together they are to seek the blessing of UNESCO and ICSU, and the matter is to come up at the next ICSU meeting in September 1949. This, I think, would be a novel sort of arrangement. Ordinarily, as you know, the bodies which ICSU recognises are international organisations, comprising national ones, and in this country the Royal Society is the recognised representative of the national organisation. One would have expected a similar sort of arrangement for the philosophy of science, with our Philosophy of Science Group and the British Society for the History of Science playing the same part as the British Society for the History of Science does in our National Committee for that subject. I have spoken to Stratton, who is against a separate organisation for the philosophy of science and thinks it ought to be included in the organisation for the history of science. I understand, however, that at Lausanne this was considered and turned down. How far is that irrevocable? I am afraid that if the International Academy for the History of Science persists in it and ICSU will not have a new union, the philosophy of science will be forced into the philosophers' camp instead of the scientists', and I think that would be a great misfortune. Stratton thinks that the British Society for the History of Science ought to approach our National Committee and suggest that that Committee expresses

(Continued overleaf)

its willingness to act (possibly with some augmentation of its membership) on behalf of the philosophy as well as the history of science.

So there it all is. After you have recovered I should be very glad if you would let me know what you think about it all - in Parliamentary language of course.

Kind regards to you both,
Yours sincerely,

Herbert Smith

PS / I should be glad to have the papers again.

Professor Charles Singer,
Kilmarth,
Par,
Cornwall.

THE BRITISH SOCIETY FOR THE HISTORY OF SCIENCE
PHILOSOPHY OF SCIENCE GROUP

HON. SECRETARY:
DR A. C. CROMBIE
University College
Gower Street
London, W.C. 1

HON. TREASURER:
H. W. ROBINSON
10 Exhibition Road
South Kensington
London, S.W. 7

9th March, 1949.

Dear Singer,

Many thanks for your letter. We discussed the whole matter at the Philosophy of Science Group Committee on Monday and decided, for the present, to do nothing, but to await developments. It seems that some prefer a separate International Union for the Philosophy of Science, and others a single Union for History and Philosophy. In the circumstances, since the matter is being raised at the next UNESCO Meeting anyway, it was decided to wait and see what was settled there. If they decide in favour of a single Union, then the matter can be raised again in our National Committee, as you suggest.

I was very glad to see Mrs. Singer yesterday. I hope she is now safely back again.

My kindest regards to you both,
Yours sincerely,

Arthur D. N.

Professor Charles Singer,
Kilmarth,
Par,
Cornwall.

THE BRITISH SOCIETY FOR THE HISTORY OF SCIENCE
AND THE PHILOSOPHY OF SCIENCE GROUP

BI-CENTENARY OF PIERRE SIMON LAPLACE

Born 23rd March, 1749

A Special Meeting of the Society will be held at 5 p.m.
on Thursday, 7th April, 1949, in the Lecture Theatre of
the Science Museum, Exhibition Road, South Kensington,
London, S.W.7, when a Lecture will be given on

THE LIFE AND WORK OF LAPLACE

by Sir Edmund Whittaker, M.A., Sc.D., LL.D., F.R.S.

Professor H. Dingle, Vice-President of the
Society, will take the chair.

F.H.C. BUTLER,
Honorary Secretary.

10, Exhibition Road,
South Kensington,
LONDON, S.W.7.

21st March, 1949.

5 March, 1949.

My dear Butler,

I fear I cannot be in town on Tuesday, March 8th. My colleague, Professor J.H.G. Grattan, with whom I am collaborating on a book which is just passing into the press, has fallen seriously ill and I cannot possibly get away until all the material is in a state suitable for printing, which will, I hope, be within the next week or two.

I learn with very great regret that you are considering retiring from the secretaryship of our Society. I hope this decision is not irrevocable and in any event I hope to discuss the matter with you before it takes effect.

I beg that you will apologise for me at the Council meeting on Tuesday and also at the meeting in the afternoon. Please express to Professor Butterfield my special regret that I cannot be present on what is, I feel an historic occasion in the history of our subject.

Very sincerely yours,

Charles Singer.

F.H.C. Butler Esq.,
10, Exhibition Road,
South Kensington,
London, S.W.7.

THE BRITISH SOCIETY FOR THE HISTORY OF SCIENCE

10 EXHIBITION ROAD, SOUTH KENSINGTON, LONDON, S.W. 7

TELEPHONE: KENSINGTON 8806

Box file

PRESIDENT:

DR CHARLES SINGER

HON. SECRETARY:

F. H. C. BUTLER

HON. TREASURER:

H. W. ROBINSON

8th. February 1949

My dear Singer,

Many thanks for your letter of the 4th. Feb. The Royal Historical Society do not feel able to accept our invitation for a joint meeting in March (Tuesday 8th) and therefore I have had to take steps to provide an alternative programme. I was much impressed with Butterfield's address ^{at} ~~to~~ the Institute of Historical Research on 'The Historian and the History of Science' and as the meeting on 8th. March was to deal with History I thought it would be appropriate to invite Butterfield to address the

Society and to have a discussion afterwards. This he is willing to do although a little diffident to 'challenge' the Society, as he puts it.

However, I think the meeting should be a good one if we can get a reasonable audience as we did last year.

I will put your letter suggesting Partington as P. before the Council on the 22nd.

I hope you and Mrs. Singer are both well.

With kindest regards,

Yours & Sincerely,

J.H.C. Butler.

THE BRITISH SOCIETY FOR THE HISTORY OF SCIENCE

The next Meeting of the Council of the Society will be held on Tuesday 22nd February, 1949, at 2.30 p.m. in the Council Room of the Science Museum, Exhibition Road, South Kensington, London, S.W.7.

Will members kindly notify me of any items for the Agenda of the Council Meeting not later than first post on Tuesday 15th February, 1949.

10, Exhibition Road,
South Kensington,
London, S.W.7.

F.H.C. BUTLER,
Honorary Secretary.

8th February, 1949.

2nd July 1949.

Dear Mr. Butler,

My husband and I are so sorry that we are neither of us able to come and hear Dr. Bernal. I particularly looked forward to his paper, but most unfortunately I have been laid up and am a most rebellious prisoner at home. I am sure my husband will have written to express his apologies that he is prevented on Monday afternoon from attending the meeting.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs. Charles Singer,

F.H.C. Butler, Esq.,
British Society for the History of Science,
University College,
Gower Street,
London, W.C.1.

Pending
THE BRITISH SOCIETY FOR THE HISTORY OF SCIENCE

10 EXHIBITION ROAD, SOUTH KENSINGTON, LONDON, S.W. 7

TELEPHONE: KENSINGTON 8806

PRESIDENT:
DR CHARLES SINGER

HON. SECRETARY:
F. H. C. BUTLER

HON. TREASURER:
H. W. ROBINSON

42, Lyndewode Road,
Cambridge.

May 16.1949.

Dear Mrs Singer,

I enclose a proof of the abstract of your talk to the Society which is to be published in the Bulletin. I should be grateful if I could have it back with any corrections within about a week or 10 days. I am afraid that it would not be possible to make major alterations at this stage.

Best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

Mrs D.W.Singer,
Kilmarth,
Par,
Cornwall.

J. Lillie

Ref-23 M

24th November 1949.

Dear Mr. Butler,

My husband and I are so very sorry that we cannot manage to come up to London for the Monday meeting. We are both absolutely swamped with arrears of work and we dare not come to London until we can get a little more straight. We are particularly sorry to miss this programme. Dr. Rooseboom is spending a couple of days with us here before her lecture.

From all I hear the August Congress will be most delightful. I was recently in Paris for the Council Meetings of the International Academy and the International Union (as well as for the meeting of my own little Commission de Bibliographie). It was mentioned that one of the subjects for which contributions will be particularly requested at the Amsterdam Congress is:

Scientific relations between East and
West from the historical point of view;

and also the somewhat odd title:

Influences and Precursors in the History
of Science.

I daresay you have already received preliminary particulars, and I notice in the Minutes of the last Meeting of the British Society your excellent plan to send to Holland the names and addresses of our members.

I see also that you are asking for lists of publications by members of the British Society from 1947. I hope to send you these for the denizens of Kilmarnock at the end of the year or early January.

With best greetings and again regrets for Monday,
Yours very sincerely,

F.H.C. Butler, Esq.,
10 Exhibition Road,
London, S.W.7.

Mrs. Charles Singer

20th February 1950.

Dear Mr. Butler,

My husband asks me to send you the enclosed which reaches me this morning. Perhaps in making the arrangements you would be kind enough to disabuse him as regards the identity of our active Hon. Sec. !

We have been fully intending both to come to the meeting on February 27th. But "l'homme propose.." and in this case an unlucky need for adjustment in the date of a long arranged visit from the Julian Huxleys is the force that "dispose". It is very disappointing, but we shall certainly be in London in June, and we shall all meet in Amsterdam.

Yours very sincerely,

Mrs. Charles Singer

F.H. C. Butler, Esq.,
10 Exhibition Road,
South Kensington,
London, S.W.7.

Send NLT
after 12 Nov

at once

if no answer
Crombie (sent 5 Nov)

Decide
in London if
I send

NLT PROFESSOR SUE HEYL UENVER
Institut^T histoire de la
medecine
Université d'Istanbul
Istanbul Turkey

Monsieur ~~Has~~ Avec vous reçu ma
lettre aeriennne du douze Octobre
~~Prere~~ Veuillez telegrapher reponse car

UNESCO exige nous faisons
tout arrangement cette annee
et ~~de y a~~ ~~avons~~ naturellement
plusieurs propos alternatifs

D. Singer ~~pour~~ ^{president} Commission de Bibliographie
de l'Union Internationale d'histoire des Sciences
Kilmarth Par Cornwall England