

The British Journal  
for the  
History of Science

Lyell Centenary Issue

Papers delivered at the  
Charles Lyell Centenary Symposium  
London 1975

July 1976

Volume IX Part 2 No. 32

Published by  
The British Society for the History of Science

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## LYELL CENTENARY ISSUE

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## The Charles Lyell Centenary Symposium

The sixth scientific symposium of the International Committee on the History of Geological Sciences of the International Union of Geological Sciences took place between 1 and 5 September 1975. Most of the meetings were held at Imperial College, London, but there were also sessions at King's College, the Geological Society, and the Royal Institution in London, and, for one day, in Oxford. The symposium, organized by the History of Geological Sciences Sub-committee of the Royal Society's British National Committee for Geology, marked the centenary of the death of Sir Charles Lyell, and the papers that were presented explored Lyell's work, the background to it, the intellectual and institutional context in which it was carried out, and its impact on science past and present.

The joint sponsors of the meeting were the Royal Society, the Geological Society, the International Union of the History and Philosophy of Science, and the British Society for the History of Science. It was part of the British Society's contribution to offer space in its *Journal* for the publication of the proceedings, and the result is this Lyell Centenary Issue, containing roughly one third of the papers that were delivered. Publication of these papers complements the general reports on the Symposium that have appeared in *Nature*, cclvii (9 October 1975), 444-6, and *Geotimes*, xxi (March 1976), 16-17.

With the aid of special grants from the Royal Society, the International Union of the History and Philosophy of Science, the Organizing Committee of the Symposium, and the British Society for the History of Science, it has been possible to exceed the normal size of an issue, and it is a pleasure to record my thanks to these organizations for their generosity.

R.F.

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