March 2019

Volume 52
Part 1 No. 192

1 Francis Bacon’s doctrine of idols: a diagnosis of ‘universal madness’
   S.V. Weeks
41 The mechanical life of plants: Descartes on botany
   Fabrizio Baldassarri
65 Mathematicians on board: introducing lunar distances to life at sea
   J.M. Bennett
85 Charles Darwin and the scientific mind
   David Stack
117 Translation and transmutation: the Origin of Species in China
   Xiaoxing Jin
143 Rothschild reversed: explaining the exceptionalism of biomedical
   research, 1971–1981
   Stephen M. Davies
165 Book reviews

March 2019

Volume 52
Part 1 No. 192

ISSN 0007-0874

Published for The British Society for the History of Science
by Cambridge University Press
The British Journal for the History of Science (BJHS) is the journal of the British Society for the History of Science, the major national body for this subject in Britain. One of the premier journals in the field, it publishes high quality papers and review articles in all aspects of the history of science. There are four issues per year comprising an annual volume of around 750 pages. BJHS also includes an extensive book review section. Occasional thematic issues are published on important problems or topics.

Contributions are very welcome. They should be sent to the Editorial Assistant, Mrs P Hatton, email bjhsassistant@brtiinet.com. They are considered on the understanding that they are unpublished and are not on offer to another journal. Contributions should be submitted in electronic form as an email attachment, preferably in MS Word format.

For instructions on how to submit a paper to BJHS, visit http://www.bshs.org.uk/publications/bjhs and click on ‘Instructions for contributors’. Please be sure to follow all instructions carefully as failure to do so may impair the Editor's and Publisher’s ability to treat the submission in a timely fashion. Informal editorial enquiries (not submissions) may be sent to the Editor, Prof. Charlotte Sleigh, School of History, Rutherford College, University of Kent, Canterbury, CT2 7NX, UK, email CL.Sleigh@kent.ac.uk.

For books for review should be sent to the Reviews Editor, James Sumner, email reviews.editor@bshs.org.uk.

© British Society for the History of Science. The British Society for the History of Science retains copyright for all published articles. It is the author's responsibility to secure any necessary permission for publication. Single copies of articles may be made for research or private study. Permission to make multiple copies must be obtained from the Society. Typescripts are not normally returned to authors. In all matters concerning the publication of the article, the Editor's decision is final. The Editor, Editorial Board and Council of the Society cannot accept responsibility for any views expressed by contributors in articles published by the Journal.

Subscriptions: BJHS is published quarterly in March, June, September and December by Cambridge University Press, University Printing House, Shaftesbury Road, Cambridge CB2 8BS, UK. The subscription price (excluding VAT) of Volume 52, 2019, is £230 net (USA, Canada and Mexico US $436) post free institutions print and electronic, institutions electronic only £201/$389, single parts cost £57 net (USA, Canada and Mexico US $125) plus postage. Four parts form a volume. Orders, which must be accompanied by payment, may be sent to any bookseller, subscription agent or to the publisher: Cambridge University Press, Journals Fulfillment Department, University Printing House, Shaftesbury Road, Cambridge CB2 8BS or in the USA, Canada and Mexico to Cambridge University Press, Journals Fulfillment Department, 1 Liberty Plaza, Floor 20, New York, NY 10006, USA. Copies of the journal for subscribers in Canada and Mexico are sent by air to New York to arrive with minimum delay. EU subscribers (outside the UK) who are not registered for VAT should add VAT at their country's rate. VAT registered subscribers should provide their VAT registration number. Japanese prices for institutions are available from Kinosakiya Company Ltd, PO Box 51, Chintate, Tokyo 156, Japan. Prices include delivery by air. Periodicals postage paid at New York, NY and at additional mailing offices.

THE BRITISH SOCIETY FOR THE HISTORY OF SCIENCE

Membership of the Society, which includes a subscription to The British Journal for the History of Science, is open to all persons approved by the Council of the Society and elected at an Extraordinary General Meeting. Details of the annual subscription can be found on our website www.bshs.org.uk or from the Executive Secretary at the address below. There is an Introductory offer for the first year.

Other BSHS publications: BJHS Themes is a fully open access, peer-reviewed journal for the history of science, which publishes annual thematic collections aimed at animating the history of science community. BJHS Themes enabled by investment from the Society’s Wheeler Bequest in collaboration with Cambridge University Press. Themes collections consist of insightful, original and timely studies that hit the historiographical moment. Articles are free to read online for all. Typically, issues are chosen through an open, annual competition.

Past issues:


The Society’s magazine, Viewpoint, an informal publication, appears three times a year. It is free to members. £12.00 for institutions and UK non-members, 17.00 for overseas non-members from the Executive Secretary.

Administrative business of the Society is handled by Lucy Santos, Executive Secretary, British Society for the History of Science. The Society is registered in England as a Limited Company (No. 562208) and is a Registered Charity (No. 258854). Email office@bshs.org.uk.

Information about the Society is available through the Internet: http://www.bshs.org.uk

Copying: This journal is registered with the Copyright Clearance Center, 222 Rosewood Drive, Danvers, MA 09123. Organizations in the USA who are also registered with the CCC may therefore copy material (beyond the limits permitted by sections 107 and 108 of US copyright law) subject to payment to CCC of the per-copy fee of $12.00. This consent does not extend to multiple copying for promotional or commercial purposes. Code 0007-0874/2019 $12.00.

ISI Tear Sheet Service, 3501 Market Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19104, USA, is authorized to supply single copies of separate articles for private use only.

Organizations authorized by the Copyright Licensing Agency may also copy material subject to the usual conditions. Articles from the Journal in electronic form can be obtained from Cambridge Core (cambridge.org/core). Permission should be sought from Cambridge University Press or from its American branch.

Advertising: Contact the Journals Advertising Manager, Cambridge University Press, University Printing House, Shaftesbury Road, Cambridge CB2 8BS.

Information on the British Journal for the History of Science and all other Cambridge journals can be accessed via cambridge.org/bjshs

Claims for missing issues should be made immediately on receipt of the subsequent issue.

This journal issue has been printed on FSC-certified paper and cover board. FSC is an independent, non-governmental, not-for-profit organization established to promote the responsible management of the world's forests. Please see www.fsc.org for information.

Printed in the United Kingdom by Bell & Bain.