



The Master heads the Colleges' effort in the Cambridge 800th Anniversary Campaign

As Chairman of the Colleges Committee, the Master of Darwin, Professor William Brown, is spearheading the colleges' efforts to raise £1 billion by 2012 – a target set by the Cambridge 800th Anniversary Campaign to secure the excellence of Cambridge in the 21st century.

Launching the Campaign in London, Professor Alison Richard, Vice-Chancellor of the University, said: "Cambridge is one of the world's greatest universities. Our commitment to sustain this pre-eminent position and our outstanding contribution to education, scholarship and research is reflected in our ambitious campaign target of £1 billion. Our 800th anniversary in 2009 is a cause for great celebration. But it is also a time for reflection on the challenges we face and the opportunities that we must grasp if we are to remain a beacon of excellence internationally. The Campaign has four investment priorities: our students; our staff; our freedom to

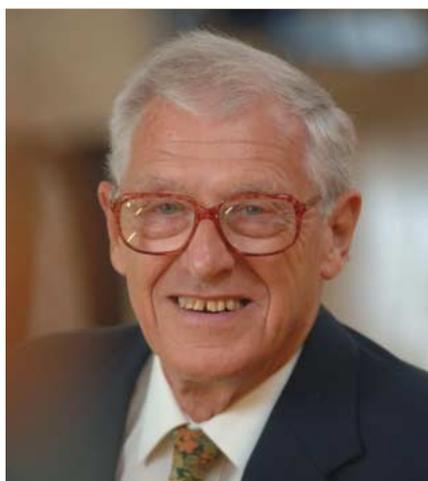
discover and our creativity; our collections and architectural heritage."

The University and Colleges are working closely together on the Campaign and gifts to any of the institutions that make up Cambridge will be counted against the target. "The 800th Anniversary Campaign is a landmark fundraising programme for Cambridge," said Professor William Brown, "The Colleges and the University have an over-riding commitment to secure the future excellence of education and research at Cambridge in a vibrant collegiate setting."

Led by the Vice-Chancellor, the Campaign is also supported by a



Campaign Board, an international group of alumni and friends who have provided high-level financial support and leadership to the Campaign. Sir David Walker, Chairman of Morgan Stanley International, and Dr William Janeway, Vice-Chairman of Warburg Pincus, are chairing the Board.



College Receives a Generous Donation

The college has received a generous donation in the form of shares from Emeritus Fellow, Richard King. Richard has been a fellow of Darwin since 1986. His working life, mostly Cambridge based, has been in the world of hi-tech. His particular interests are in the spawning of intellectual property and technology and in the creation of early stage development companies. Many fail. Some do not, and this is from where the gift to Darwin came. The College is extremely grateful.

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The Environmental Imagination

Dean Hawkes



Architecture is frequently, and with good reason, represented as being primarily concerned with shelter. Our buildings protect us from the extremes of the natural climate, helping to keep us warm in winter and cool in summer. Modern buildings sustain the activities that they accommodate by providing defined and controlled conditions of heat, light and sound. These environmental provisions are largely a matter of calculation, realised through the mechanisms of engineering. This is an essential attribute of practical design, but there is another, critical dimension of the architectural environment that reaches beyond this essentially pragmatic practice. The complex sensory experience that we enjoy in great buildings is the product of acts of imagination in which the complex interaction of light and air and sound with the form and materiality of architectural space. In 2002 I was awarded an Emeritus Research Fellowship by the Leverhulme Trust to undertake an investigation into the environmental character of the works of a selected group of nineteenth and twentieth century architects. The project is now completed and the book, *The Environmental Imagination*, is in press.

The book is broadly chronological, but does not attempt to present a continuous historical account of the development of environmental design.

The approach is thematic and the works of the selected architects are used to identify and explore a variety of issues. At the outset documentary and archival research was used to establish the themes and this was followed by a programme of visits to a large number of buildings in Europe and the United States. The essence of what I am trying to capture must be directly experienced. It cannot be discerned from images or verbal descriptions. The only reliable instruments of observation are the human senses and this demands first-hand experience. As a consequence I have spent many hours in some remarkable buildings, looking, listening and feeling their atmosphere. This is the most self-indulgent research imaginable, but it has, I hope, been purposeful.

The book is in three parts. Part One, 'From Enlightenment to Modernity', reviews the environmental visions of three architects, Sir John Soane, Henri Labrouste and Charles Rennie Mackintosh, whose work spanned the nineteenth century. In Part Two, 'The Twentieth Century Environment – Themes and Variations', the environmental range and diversity of master architects of the Modern Movement is examined. Part Three, 'Image and Environment', is concerned with the work of contemporary architects who give precedence to the poetic potential of

environment in the conception and realization of their buildings.

At the beginning of the nineteenth century the new technologies of the industrial revolution were already being applied to controlling the environment within buildings. At the century's end mechanical means of heating and ventilating were commonplace and the development of electric light offered flexibility of use and precision of control. Soane, Labrouste and Mackintosh all embraced the potential of these new tools, but in their work technology was invariably applied in the service of poetic ends. The remarkable library in Mackintosh's Glasgow School of Art, with its central heating, mechanical ventilation and purpose made electric light fittings, is just one illustration of this.

In the twentieth century the Modern Movement led to new conceptions and configurations of architecture, not least in its environmental intentions. The work of Le Corbusier and Mies van der Rohe serves to demonstrate the adventurous spirit of the modernist environment and the buildings of the Scandinavian masters, Erik Gunnar Asplund and Alvar Aalto, are eloquent illustrations of a deeply rooted response to the Nordic climate. The American, Louis I. Kahn, placed the question of environment at the centre of his architectural method. He wrote, "The sun never knew how

great it was until it struck the side of a building". A sequence of his buildings is used to illustrate the translation of this idea into concrete reality. The final essays in Part Two turn to the work of two of the most intensely poetic architects of the last century; the Venetian, Carlo Scarpa, and the Swede, Sigurd Lewerentz. Scarpa's buildings work with the ambience of the Veneto to produce cool, shimmering interiors. In contrast, Lewerentz, in particular in his late designs for churches, responds to the low summer sun and winter darkness and deep coldness of northern latitudes to create profoundly affecting and comforting interiors.

Part Three of the book examines the environments of buildings constructed in the last decade of the twentieth century. Designs for churches in Switzerland, Portugal and the United States illustrate entirely different and original interpretations of the nature of the sacred environment. The modern art museum presents a

particularly demanding technical challenge in order to meet the stringent environmental requirements for the conservation of works of art. A group of four recent museums reveals how these are in new conceptions of the kind of space in which art, and particularly the art of the twentieth and twenty-first centuries should be displayed. Two of the buildings that I studied return to the "primitive" idea of a building as simple shelter. Sverre Fehn's Archbishopric Museum at Hamar in Norway and Peter Zumthor's enclosure over the remains of Roman buildings at Chur in Switzerland are unheated enclosures in which new construction simply protects surviving historic fabric. In doing this they re-establish contact with deep themes of architecture, by arranging the elements of material, form, construction, solid and void, to make buildings that are alert to the specific conditions of their locations, appropriate to their contents and, most significantly, are original.

My concluding essay, for which I have borrowed Hippocrates' title "Airs, Waters, Places", is a study of Peter Zumthor's Therme Vals, a spa bath high in the mountains in Switzerland. This offers the most complex synthesis of sensory experience imaginable. The primary experience is of bodily immersion in waters at temperatures ranging from 14° C to 42° C, but the bather also encounters, in almost endless permutations, diverse air temperatures, humidities, luminosities, scents and sounds.

My hope is that these studies will make a useful contribution to the literature of architecture, both in the specific field of environmental design and to the broader history and theory of the last two centuries.

Reference:

Dean Hawkes, *The Environmental Imagination: poetics of the architectural environment*, Spon Press, London. To be published April 2006, price £75. ISBN 0415360862

Pieraz et les Darwiniens

Pieraz Cryozootech Stallion, the world's second cloned horse, receives a visitation of Darwinians (from left Anastasios Karamanos (1998–2001), Eric Palmer, Marc Milhoud (hidden), Pascale Chavatte-Palmer (1992–96), Julian Goodman (1997–98) and George Eccles (1992–93)). Pascale and her husband, Eric, who heads the biotech company Cryozootech, hosted a Darwinian evening at their wonderful farmhouse home close to Paris. Pieraz Cryozootech Stallion is the clone of Pieraz an arab gelding double world

champion in endurance racing. Pieraz will not be gelded and hence can be used for the rapid improvement of equine genetic stock in this sport. He is registered in Studbook Z (Belgium) and is for sale! Cryozootech is a french company based in Evry, France, owned jointly by Eric Palmer (Equine Reproduction Specialist) and his wife Pascale Chavatte-Palmer (Veterinarian, Darwin PhD 1996, specialised in equine reproduction and currently working for a French research institute on cloning in cattle).

Alumni Society Forming in India

Sohini Banerjee (Darwin 2002–03) is organising a new Darwin Alumni Society in India. Based in Calcutta she is hoping to encompass all Old Darwinians living in the Subcontinent, and indeed any Indian ex-pats who are interested.

The group will hold informal get-togethers in Calcutta. Alumni who live throughout the rest of India are encouraged to join as there will be news and information disseminated throughout the group by e-mail, there will also be an internet home-page accessed through the Darwin College website.

If you are interested in joining this group contact Sohini on sohini.banerjee@gmail.com.





Darwin College Trip to Down House

In mid-June, a group of nearly thirty students and fellows of the college, along with members of the University's History and Philosophy of Science department, went to visit Charles Darwin's home at Down House, near Bromley in Kent.

After Darwin's death, in 1882, those of his children who had been living at Down moved to Cambridge (Darwin college is partly housed in Newnham Grange, the former home of his son George). Charles's widow, Emma, continued to spend her summers in the old house, which she and Charles had bought a few years after their marriage, but after her death in 1896, few of the Darwins ever went back to Down. The house had been empty for some time when, in the 1920s, the Master of Darwin's college, Christ's, decided it should be preserved for the nation. He managed to persuade the British Association for the Advancement of Science to buy and manage it, but after the Second World War, they found the cost of running it too high and the Royal College of Surgeons (RCS) took it over.

I first visited Down in the last years of the RCS's stewardship, by which time it was clear to visitors that the house needed considerable restoration: much of it was

closed to the public and the displays about Darwin and evolution were not impressive, to put it mildly. The RCS couldn't afford to do the work the house desperately needed, so the Natural History Museum was approached and, with the help of a lottery grant, they arranged for English Heritage to take over in 1996.

In the last nine years, a huge amount has been done to restore the building and improve the facilities for visitors. The ground floor is now just as it was in Darwin's day (apart from the gift shop and café). The famous study, where he wrote *On the Origin of Species*, has been carefully restored using contemporary photographs and as many of his original possessions and pieces of furniture as possible. Similar care has been taken with every other room and as you wander round, it's almost possible to imagine that Darwin and his children have only just left.

Upstairs is a small museum about Darwin's life and work, with displays of things he owned and used, from his beetle-collecting boxes to his hats. Our group disagreed a little as to how good this was: basically, the more you know about Darwin and the history of Victorian science, the more you could find to criticise. While academic Darwin experts are hardly the target audience for these displays, most visitors would probably find them informative and engaging.

In recent years, English Heritage have turned their attention to the garden and greenhouses, gradually restoring them to the condition they would have been in during Darwin's lifetime. Archaeologists



had excavated the garden to discover how it was laid out and what plants grew there and Victorian varieties of gooseberries and cabbage grace the kitchen garden. But for me the most interesting aspect was being able to see how many of Darwin's botanical experiments have been re-created, particularly in his greenhouses, where the carnivorous and climbing plants that fascinated him can be seen growing. Outside you can see a recreation of his experiments in what would now be called biodiversity, which he devised in order to measure how many different species a square yard could support.

Thanks to the organisational skills of Melanie Keene, who made most of the arrangements, and the generosity of the college, who paid for the coach, we were able to enjoy a very pleasant day in Kent. The rain even eased off long enough for us to tour the garden. For anyone with an interest in Darwin who hasn't been, Down is well worth the trip.

Jim Endersby, *Research Fellow*



A Message from the Alumni Office

My first year here at Darwin College has been fascinating and extremely enjoyable. I have heard from many alumni either wanting to find friends they have lost contact with or who wanted to re-acquaint themselves with the College. It has been a pleasure to talk to all of you and I look forward to hearing from many more of you over the course of the next year.

Over the last few months we have been pleased to help an alumni group in Paris form. They have just held their first 'get together' and you will find an article written by the group co-founder, Julien Goodman in this issue. If you would be interested in organising a group where you live we will do all we can to help.

Remember also, if you have just moved to a new area there is almost certainly an 'Old Darwinian' living nearby. We will be very happy to contact them and, if willing, they can provide you with lots of very useful 'local inside knowledge'.

Year group reunions have been run successfully by Oxford and Cambridge Colleges for many years. However, Darwin alumni have not had this opportunity. This is about to change – we are setting aside one Friday each term and inviting Old Darwinians to a Formal Hall Reunion. These reunions will be operated on a trial basis for the next year and if (as we expect) they are successful will continue for years to come. The first group to be invited back will be those that matriculated from 1964 to 1974 – we hope to see you in College soon.

Recently, the Alumni Office launched an e-bulletin, which goes out 3 times a year. We will up-date you on news from the College and inform you of events.

This, we hope, will provide you with information that may not make it into this newsletter. Many of you have already signed up for this but if you haven't I urge you to – just e-mail me sas65@cam.ac.uk, and I will add your e-mail address to the list. If you do not have an e-mail address and would still like to receive this information, I will be sending out 'hard copies' – again just make sure I have your address and tell me you need a posted copy.

The Alumni website has finally been updated and provides (amongst other things) information on benefits Darwin alumni enjoy, any up-coming events and more detailed news of articles in *The Darwinian*. We have also just added some 'Merchandise' pages. You can now purchase cards, prints, College crests or Darwin Lecture Series books via the website. www.dar.cam.ac.uk/merchandise.htm.

We also review books written by Darwin alumni and Fellows. You can buy any of the books listed as we have included a link to Amazon. **If you purchase these or any other goods from Amazon via our website the College library will receive a 5% referral fee which supports the Library. So your purchase will increase the reading material available to our current students.** www.dar.cam.ac.uk/alumni/publications.htm. If you have written a book that you would like included please e-mail me with all relevant details.

The website also includes a facility by which you can donate to Darwin. This is extremely safe and secure – you are re-directed to The Charity Aid

Foundation (CAF) who will process your donation for us. CAF will accept most currencies and also accepts donations by direct debit. Please go to www.dar.cam.ac.uk/alumni/fromthemaster.htm and take a look.

Finally, please take part in the Photo Competition, we would really like to share images of Darwin and its students from the last 40 years – the best will be printed in the next newsletter and will form from the basis of an Alumni Calendar for 2007.

We look forward to hearing from you.

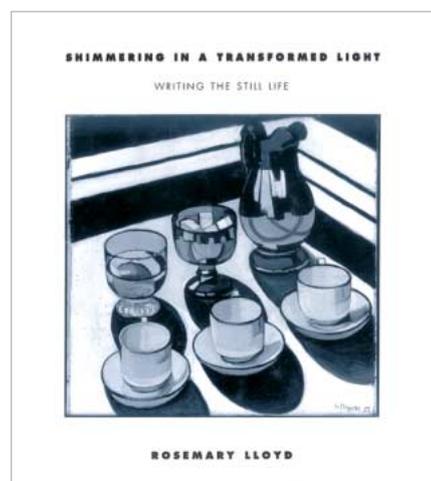
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Shimmering in a Transformed Light

Rosemary Lloyd
Cornell University Press
ISBN 0801442966
£18.50 Hardback

Although much has been written lately on the links between painting and writing, little or no attention has been paid to those moments in literature when the narrative stops to allow for the description of those objects we associate with

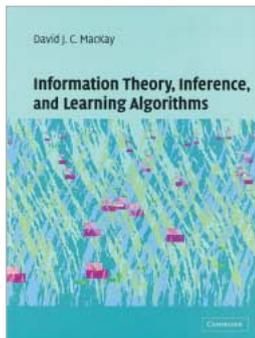
still life. Rosemary Lloyd's book shows how fascinating this overlooked area is; how rich in suggestions of class, race, and gender; how much it indicates about human pleasures and about experiences of space and time.

Lloyd focuses on the last two centuries, particularly at points marked by the irruption of images of contingency and rapid change into the fields of art: for example, the year of the Terror in French history; the decade in which Haussman's politically driven transformation of Paris led Baudelaire to write his great modernist

poem “Le Cygne”; and “on or about December 1910”, the date to which Virginia Woolf attributes a revolution in the definition of literary character.

Lloyd’s central concern lies with the ways in which the still life, written or painted, both evokes and attempts to deal with the sense of contingency. While she makes frequent reference to paintings, she focuses above all on written still lifes, particularly those moments when novels pause to address the subject matter of still life – a bowl of fruit, a hat rack, a desk cluttered with pens and papers – in ways that invite contemplation of other and broader cultural domains.

Rosemary Lloyd is Rudy Professor of French and Professor of Gender Studies at Indiana University, Bloomington. She completed her PhD in Darwin in 1979 and gained a Litt D in 2002. She is author of numerous previous books including Baudelaire’s World, Mallarmé; The Poet and his Circle and Closer and Closer Apart: Jealousy in Literature.



Information Theory, Inference and Learning Algorithms

David MacKay, 2003
Cambridge University Press
ISBN 0 5216-4298 1
£30.00 Hardback

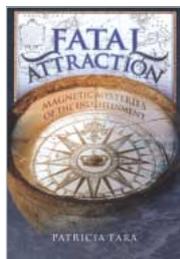
The native American chief Seattle, upon whose ancestral grounds the city of Seattle, Washington now stands, is reputed to have said: “All things are connected.” Skilled teachers make frequent use of Seattle’s law in helping their students erect new knowledge on the foundation of previously acquired concepts, and MacKay is a master of this technique. In spite of the breadth of ideas suggested by the title (and delivered by the text), he argues persuasively that, at the root, these concepts are fundamentally the same. The problems of transmitting a message through a noisy channel, of learning regularities in messy data, and of inferring the likelihood of hypotheses from data all use a common set of mathematical

tools. In MacKay’s case, the toolbox of choice is Bayesian statistics, which he expounds on with missionary zeal. Repeatedly, he shows how a problem in one of these areas can be translated into a comparable problem in another, with great gain in insight.

MacKay’s tome has two important characteristics beyond its integration of diverse themes around a Bayesian framework. First, it is replete with examples and exercises, many of them worked at the end of each chapter. Building on his exhortation in the preface, that “you can understand a subject only by creating it for yourself,” the author provides ample material to test the reader’s growing understanding, along with repeated exhortations concerning the need to do the exercises. Second, the book is conversational. Without compromising mathematical rigor, MacKay manages to reach through the page to the reader, creating the impression that the student is across the desk from a friendly and supportive tutor. This volume deserves a wide distribution and long life, not only as a text at the upper undergraduate and graduate level, but also as a desk reference and tool for self-instruction.

Parunak, H.V.D. Review of Information theory, inference and learning algorithms. MacKay D., Cambridge University Press, New York, NY, 2002. Published in Computing Reviews, Rev. CR130668 (0509-0994). The full text of this review is available on the Computing Reviews web site (http://www.reviews.com/review/review_review.cfm?review_id=130668).

David MacKay is a fellow of Darwin, Professor of Natural Philosophy and Gatsby Senior Research Fellow at the Cavendish Laboratory.

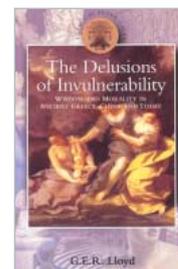


Fatal Attraction

Patricia Fara
Icon Books UK
ISBN 1840466324
£9.99 Hardback

Fatal Attraction tells the stories of three men who were lured by nature’s strangest power. Edmond Halley set out to map the Earth’s magnetic patterns and improve navigation, showing how science could help England to expand her empire. Gowin

Kinght, a poor clergyman’s son, climbed to fame and fortune by developing powerful artificial magnets used in compasses, scientific experiments and popular magic tricks. And although Franz Mesmer claimed that his ‘animal magnetism’, based on harnessing invisible streams of magnetic fluid, was the revolutionary medicine of the future he was ultimately denounced as a quack. **Patricia Fara**, a former fellow of Darwin, portrays the colourful protagonists of the magnetic revolution in which the move from magnetic mysticism to celebrating scientific rationality is a microcosm of the Enlightenment itself.



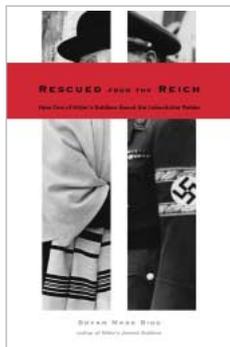
Delusions of Invulnerability

*Wisdom and Morality in Ancient
Greece, China and Today*

Sir Geoffrey Lloyd, May 2005
Duckworth
ISBN 0715633864
£12.99 Hardback

How were the aims of philosophy and the responsibilities of philosophers conceived in ancient Greece and China? How were the learned elite recruited and controlled; how were their speculations and advice influenced by the different types of audiences they faced and the institutions in which they worked? How was a yearning for invulnerability reconciled with a sense of human frailty? In each chapter of this fascinating analysis ancient Greek and Chinese ideas and practices are used as a basis for critical reflections on the predicaments we continue to face today, with a particular focus on the key Greek ideas of the equal participation of all citizens in the political process, and on the key Chinese one of a dedication to the ideal of the welfare of all under heaven.

Sir Geoffrey Lloyd (former Master of Darwin) is Emeritus Professor of Ancient Philosophy and Science, University of Cambridge. He is the author of 16 books, the most recent of which are *Ambitions of Curiosity* (2002), *The Way and the Word* (2002), *Greek Thought* (edited with J. Brunschwig, 2003), *In the Grip of Disease* (2003) and *Ancient Worlds, Modern Reflections* (2003).



Rescued from the Reich:

How One of Hitler's Soldiers Saved the Lubavitcher Rebbe

Bryan Mark Rigg
Yale University Press
ISBN 0300104480
£18.00 Hardback

When Hitler invaded Warsaw in the autumn of 1939, hundreds of thousands of civilians, many of them Jewish, were trapped in the besieged city. The Rebbe Joseph Schneersohn, the leader of the ultra-orthodox Lubavitcher Jews, was among them. Followers throughout the world were filled with anguish, unable to confirm whether he was alive or dead. Working with officials in the United States government, a group of American Jews initiated what would ultimately become one of the strangest, and most miraculous, rescues of World War II.

The escape of Rebbe Schneersohn from Warsaw has been the subject of speculation for decades. Historian Bryan Mark Rigg has now uncovered the true story of the rescue, which was propelled by a secret collaboration between American officials and leaders of German military intelligence. Amid the fog of war, a small group of dedicated German soldiers located the Rebbe and protected him from suspicious Nazis as they fled the city together. During the course of the mission, the Rebbe learned the shocking truth about the leader of the rescue operation, the decorated Wehrmacht soldier Ernst Bloch: he was himself half-Jewish, and a victim of the rising tide of German antisemitism.

A harrowing story about identity and moral responsibility, *Rescued from the Reich* is also a riveting narrative history of one of the most extraordinary rescue missions of World War II.

Bryan Mark Rigg received his PhD from Darwin in 2001. His previous book 'Hitler's Jewish Soldiers' was reviewed in Darwinian 3.

Tribute to Hugh Casburn Price

The following is an abridged version of a tribute paid by Professor Sir Geoffrey Lloyd at Hugh's funeral.



I first met Hugh when I came to Darwin in 1989. Of course a Bursar always has to be wary of an incoming Master. The last thing you want is for someone to go and upset the applecart with all the rows of apples that you have neatly piled up over the years. But though our styles and temperament differed (we Welsh are an enormously diverse lot, aren't we?) he made me feel at home at once. I appreciated his very careful advice and we got through a stupendous development programme together. We had battles with the Planning Authorities over the Study Centre but we won: battles again over the Frank Young Building which we partly won but partly lost (because we could not have as many rooms as we originally budgeted for) but the great thing was that the College had an agreed policy of development and were more or less completely behind the programme. Our major benefactors, the Rayne Foundation and Trinity especially, backed us to the hilt – kept sweet of course by Hugh. Among the spin-offs from the Study Centre was the conversion of the Old Library and what an asset that has been. In all of that Hugh was absolutely crucial. He got tributes not just from everyone in College, but also from the architects Jeremy Dixon and Edward Jones. What a tactful man he was: what a professional. The College owes him a tremendous debt.

And not just this College. In his earlier career he first transformed

Westhill College of Education in Birmingham and then oversaw the development of University College, Durham. And here in Cambridge he was involved in all sorts of activities, the Union Society, Kettles Yard, the Student Counselling Service. He was a great family man, a keen cook, a keen tennis player, he sang, and he painted. His three children by his first marriage are here today. Then in 1984 he met and married the love of the latter part of his life, Penny, who was recommended to go and meet him as he might be interested in some of her work as a calligrapher. Well, it was more than just her calligraphy that he fell in love with.

This is not the occasion to try to do justice to all his talents. Each one of us will have our own special memories of him. I always cherished the way in which, both at Darwin and then at the Needham Research Institute – where he was part-time Bursar in his retirement – he used to come to tell me about the year's financial performance. 'I think the outcome is quite satisfactory, Geoffrey', he used to say: 'satisfactory' in Hugh's vocabulary was a triumph in others'. Because with all his many talents and achievement, he was a most modest man.

We say good-bye to him here: we shall go back to College later and raise our glasses to the memory of a dear, dear friend, whom we shall all sorely miss.

Obituary



David Wheeler, FRS

*Emeritus Professor of
Computer Science*

Fellow of Darwin College

9 February 1927–

13 December 2004

David Wheeler was one of the pioneers of Computer Science. He worked on the original EDSAC computer and wrote the first computer program ever to be stored in a computer's working memory. He pioneered the use of sub-routines and is particularly remembered for his work on data compression.

David Wheeler was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society in 1981, one of the earliest computer scientists to be so honoured. In October 2003, he was made a Fellow of the Computer History Museum for his invention of the closed subroutine, his architectural contributions to the ILLIAC, the Cambridge Ring, and computer testing.

David started his PhD in the University of Cambridge's Computer

Laboratory (then the Mathematical Laboratory) in the late 1940s, graduating in 1951. He then spent time at the University of Illinois before returning to the UK. He continued to work in the Computer Lab right up until his death, a decade after he had officially retired.

David will be remembered for his vast knowledge of all areas of computing, for his willingness to talk with anyone about the things which interested him, for his friendliness and for his humility. David was an inspiration and a help to hundreds of students and colleagues over his long career. His legacy is as much in the lives he touched as in the work he published. We have lost a good man and a friend. He will be missed.

An Evening of Mixed Emotions: Darwin College Commemorates the Sixtieth Anniversary of the End of WW II

A circle of Darwinians and their guests gathered in the Old Library on Sunday, 8 May 2005, for an intimate cultural evening of poetry and music in commemoration of the sixtieth anniversary of the end of World War Two. George Gömöri, Emeritus Fellow, poet, translator and expert of Eastern European literature, compiled the programme of poems (including pieces by W.H. Auden, Dylan Thomas, Clive Wilmer, Richard Burns, Miklós Radnóti, Tadeusz Różewicz, to name but a few), which not only expressed feelings prior to the War, but also vividly brought home its harrowing reality and aftermath, all the time perhaps pointing in between the lines to the tricky moral questions addressing the future beyond the War and the responsibility held by future generations. In view of this, the choice of poems, as a member of the audience later expressed, was not only extremely bleak but, more significantly, seemed rather one-sided in that pieces written

from the German point of view were decidedly absent. But with an informative approach, Gömöri gave short and seminal contextualising commentaries on the poems themselves so that the evening ultimately gained a very rich educational dimension. The literature was read and brought to life by Gömöri, as well as by distinguished poet Richard Burns and acclaimed actor Peter Wickham, both of whom the organisers were very lucky to have involved in the evening. Trying to assuage the pain of the poetry, however, a careful selection of more traditional as well as twentieth-century musical interludes (from Bach and Telemann to Toru Takemitsu) were dispersed throughout the programme, with affiliated College member Louis Kelly shining on the flute and Lydia Wilson, current MPhil student at Darwin, playing on the violin. All in all, the evening left a profound emotional impact on the audience, and reminded of the very

honest and universal power of art to articulate, critique and affect lives – past, present and future. Thank you to all involved and thanks to all who attended. May we learn from the past, and learn never to forget.

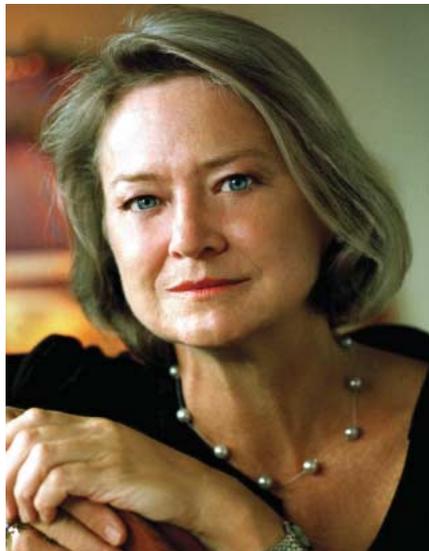
Ariane Kossack (Student Librarian)



Lydia Wilson

CONFLICT:

2005 Darwin College Lecture Series



'Conflict' provided a fascinating theme for this year's Darwin College Lecture Series. As usual, speakers from a range of backgrounds drew packed audiences. Conflict is so widespread in human society that a recurring question throughout the series concerned its inevitability. A vivid starting point was **Richard Wrangham's** anthropological comparison of chimpanzee communities with simple human hunter-gatherers. For both,

their tendency to aggression turns lethal when killing is relatively risk-free. The implications of this for more sophisticated societies were neatly picked up in **Barry Cunliffe's** review of archaeological evidence of the history of warfare up to the Romans. It has been the emergence of technologies and of hierarchies that distance the killer from the victim that has permitted the lethal conflicts of recent millennia.

Nothing could have better rubbed home the savage contemporary consequences than **Kate Adie's** eloquent reflection on her experience as a war correspondence. Her account stressed the ways in which television has changed and distorted society's perceptions of war. But while conflict may be endemic, society's capacity to accommodate it is a matter of political will and skill. **Lisa Anderson** analysed the background to the turmoil of the Middle East in a fascinating history of the frustration of opportunities for Arab politics by inside rivalries and outside intervention. At the level of the workplace, **William Brown** argued that a worldwide decline in strikes did not

reflect the passing of industrial conflict, but rather the fact that weakened trade unions exposed more working people to the implicit conflict of unregulated and often harsh employment.

Other disciplines do not identify conflict as a social phenomenon. The astrophysicist **Paul Davies** described the sequence of violent episodes whereby the universe and the fragile life within it have emerged. Turning to the evolution of that life, **David Haig** discussed the theory of genomic conflict, with its unbalanced implications for their off-springs' genetic inheritance of the differing interests of mothers and of fathers. Gender was also central to **Simon Baron-Cohen's** powerful argument from the psychological evidence that males and females have tendencies to different mental capacities. Gender was, indeed, a perhaps surprising theme emerging from these nicely meshed lectures. Whatever level you look at, from genes to generals, males are unpleasantly predisposed to outdo females in aggressive conflict.

Willy Brown

TWENTY FIRST ANNUAL DARWIN COLLEGE LECTURE SERIES 2006

SURVIVAL

Fridays at 5.30 pm in the Lady Mitchell Hall, Sidgwick Avenue, Cambridge

ALL WELCOME

20 January	Survival of Empires	Paul Kennedy
27 January	Survival of Culture	Edith Hall
3 February	Survival of Languages	Peter Austin
10 February	Surviving Disease	Richard Feachem
17 February	Surviving Natural Disasters	James Jackson
24 February	Surviving Famine	Andrew Prentice
3 March	Surviving Longer	Cynthia Kenyon
10 March	Survival into the Future	Diana Liverman

The lectures are given at 5.30 p.m. in The Lady Mitchell Hall, Sidgwick Avenue, with an adjacent overflow theatre with live TV coverage. Each lecture is typically attended by 600 people so you must arrive early to ensure a place.

Did you know...?

- There is an alumni group forming in China. If you live in China and would like to be part of this new initiative, please e-mail Dr. Ming-Wei Wang on mwwang@siniwest.com.
- Darwin College has 38 alumni in Malaysia. If you live here and would be interested in meeting other Darwin alumni socially, please e-mail Sophia on sas65@cam.ac.uk and she will help to organise a group.

The Master's Garden Party 2005



Two new Honorary Fellows were welcomed to Darwin with the traditional signing of the Fellows' Book during the Master's Annual Garden Party. Professor Richard Perham, ScD, FRS, (pictured left) is the new Master of St John's College. Professor Sir Martin Rees FRS (pictured right) is Professor of Cosmology and Astrophysics, and Master of Trinity College.



Current Research Fellows

One of the most rewarding College tasks is involvement in the selection of post-doctoral Research Fellows. From scores of applicants with research interests across the whole range of academic endeavour, those short-listed present their work before the final, painful task of decision-making. It is a privilege to be on board this whistle-stop tour of the frontiers of research. Darwin's current Research Fellows reflect this wonderful diversity. On the Arts side, **Andy Bell** has been working on the social organisation that lay behind public works such as sea defences and land-draining in early medieval England. The other Finlay Fellow, **Alexandra Lianeri**, is exploring the way in which Western scholars of recent times have interpreted the phenomenon of classical Athenian democracy, and what this tells us about both intellectual worlds. Another historian, **Grant Tapsell**, a British Academy Fellow, is studying the emergence of party politics in the crucial formative period of British politics of the 1680s. The Adrian Fellow, **Jim Endersby**, is a historian of science, whose work on 19th century botanists has had the spin-off of his prize-winning over-view of 200 years of biology, endearingly entitled 'A Guinea Pig's

History of Biology: the Animals and Plants that Taught us the Facts of Life'.

As might be expected, we have a strong group pushing the frontiers of biology forward. These include the two Schlumberger Interdisciplinary Fellows. **Giselle Walker** is working with the most primitive of life forms, eukaryotes, using genetic analysis to explore the origin of multi-cellular life. **Selvino de Kort** is exploring the psychology of memory and anticipation by observing his flock of scrub jays. Also working with birds, but in her case great tits in Madingley Woods as well as captive canaries, **Camilla Hinde** is investigating the influences that appear to shape parental decisions in chick rearing. Using the less endearing subject of marine algae, **Ellen Nisbet** is studying the genomic origins of the parts of cells that permit photosynthesis. As part of her work to inform anti-cancer therapies, **Sarah Drayton**, is examining the molecular chemistry of the signalling systems that counter malign tumours. Physics continues to play an important part in molecular biology, and **David Kreil**, who has just won an MRC fellowship, is drawing on his background in the subject to devise statistical techniques

to investigate how genes are turned on and off as organisms develop.

Two other physicists have won prestigious 5 year Advanced Research Fellowships. **Kostya Trachenko** is working on the molecular characteristics of glasses that inhibit radiation damage, an issue central to the storage of nuclear waste. **Michael Murphy** is studying absorption lines from extremely distant quasars to test the heretical hypothesis that the strength of electromagnetism may not be constant. At an immediately practical level, **Mark Hughes** is exploring the intriguing properties of carbon nanotubes when coated with electrically conductive polymers. Our present Microsoft Fellow, **John Winn**, is using layered probabilistic models to devise more versatile methods of computerised image recognition. A bitter-sweet feature of so many of our research fellows is that they are snatched from us early. Having won the Royal Society for Chemistry's Harrison Memorial Prize for 2005 as the best physical chemist under 30, **Sharon Ashbrook** is shortly to take up a tenured Academic Fellowship at St Andrew's University, to pursue further her path-breaking development of nuclear magnetic resonance techniques for the study of mineralogical solids.

Inaugural Oxford-Cambridge New York Alumni Boatrace

A week after Oxford beat Cambridge in the 2005 boat race, Oxford and Cambridge alumni re-enacted the event in New York at the first New York Alumni boat race.

Although the weather conspired against them, over 80 alumni rowers and friends came out to row or to cheer the crews on. One of the rowers was Darwin alumna Beth Picard (nee Lacy) who studied Computer Science in 1984–85. While at Darwin College, Beth was a keen rower and took it up again two years ago at her local club in Connecticut.

Beth, who met her husband William (also a Darwin alumni, LLM 1985) at Darwin College, was the only woman to row for both Universities. A fantastic endorsement to her rowing prowess!

Two eights races were held. Cambridge won the first race with ease.

The second race, in which Beth took part, was more of a battle of wills. Cambridge led to begin, but by the halfway mark Oxford led by several seats. Cambridge re-doubled their efforts, but Oxford protected their lead and finally won by almost half a length. So the friendly and good-natured day ended in a draw, and a well-earned lunch at the New Leaf Café.

Beth, in the meantime, is looking forward to next year. *'The first New York Oxford Cambridge Alumni Boat Race was a lot of fun and I was thrilled to be part of what I hope will be the first of many future annual events. It was a little daunting being the only woman to row for either University, especially amongst such a 'star-studded' roster, but I enjoyed the race a great deal. Most enjoyable however was the friendly manner of all the competitors and their*



families in and around the Boat House. I look forward to next year'.

A full report of this event is on the Cambridge in America website www.cantab.org, search on 'past events'. If you are interested in taking part in next years race then contact Kathy Lord at Cambridge in America, Kathy@cantab.org.



Above: Darwin May Bumps Dinner
Left: The DCBC President Dr Chester White, with a new boat named in his honour



On May 14th this year a small group of Darwin Alumni living in France met for the first time in a restaurant in Paris. This was the inaugural meeting of the Paris Darwin Alumni that was established by Julien Goodman and Pascale Chavatte-Palmer early in 2005. Six Darwinians, Alain Bouvet, Pascale Chavatte-Palmer, Julien Goodman, Sabrina Henze, Anastasios

Karamanos, Peter Kearns and their partners attended the meal. Anh-Tuan Dinh-Xuan, George Eccles and Nick Green were unable to attend. The environment was extremely friendly and jovial and everybody agreed that we should hold another meal soon in the near future. We also spoke of the intent to keep each other informed about activities that are

happening in France that may be of interest to the others in the group. Sabrina Henze and Alain Bouvet have already passed around information on international dining events and conferences and this is something that we intend to continue to do through a message board on the newly established website.

The new Paris based alumni webpage can be found at <http://www.dar.cam.ac.uk/alumni/paris/index.html>. We would personally encourage other Darwinians to look to establish their own groups and to have a web presence on the college website. This has proved a very rewarding exercise that has led to meeting (and re-meeting) some very interesting people and friends that share one special thing in common.

Julien Goodman (1997–1998) &
Pascale Chavatte-Palmer (1992–1996)



Soon after returning to the Genome Institute of Singapore, Biopolis, **Bernard Leong** (1998–2003) was awarded the National University of Singapore Centennial Entrepreneurial Genesis Award for his entrepreneurship efforts in starting up a biotech company, SimuGen specializing in gene profiling and computational biology. The company has produced a kit that will predict liver hepatotoxicity cheaply, accurately and efficiently. The award was presented on 7th September

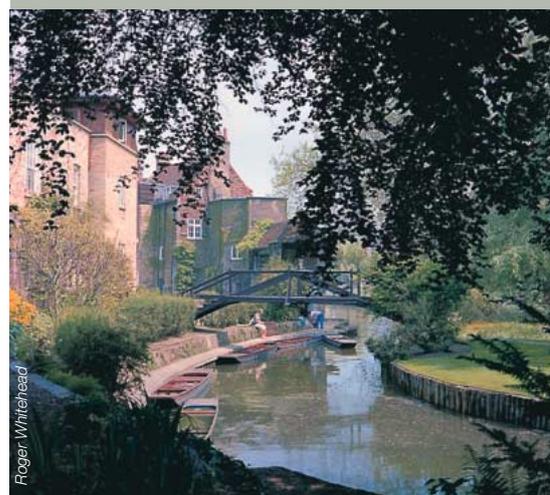
2005 by Dr Vivian Balakrishnan, the Minister for Community Development, Youth and Sports, and Second Minister for Trade (right of picture) and Prof Tan Chorh Chuan, NUS Provost (left of picture). Whilst at Darwin Bernard studied his Part III Mathematical Tripos followed by a PhD at the Cavendish Laboratory. He then moved to Wellcome Trust Sanger Institute with an International Fellowship from Singapore from 2003–5 before returning home to Singapore.

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The editors especially welcome short articles, pictures, artwork and news from our overseas alumni. Correspondence to: darwinian@dar.cam.ac.uk

Designed and printed by Cambridge Printing, the printing business of Cambridge University Press. www.cambridgeprinting.org



Roger Whitehead

Calendar of Old Darwinian Events

2005

2nd Dec	Former Fellow's Reunion (Formal Hall)
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2006

11th March	Former Fellow's buffet lunch
17th March	Darwin Society Dinner
31st March	Reunion Dinner
19th May	Darwin Society Dinner
9th June	Former Fellow's Reunion (Guest Night)
16th June	Reunion Dinner
23rd June	Darwin Ball (provisional date)
14th July	Old Darwinian Summer Party

Your Memories of Darwin College are Wanted!

In the last issue of *The Darwinian* there were some beautiful images of the College taken by current students for the 2005 Darwin calendar. Many of you commented on the beauty and quality of the photos, and how they bought back happy memories.

There must be a treasure-trove of photos of the College amongst our alumni, and it would be fantastic if we could share your photographic memories of your time here with all our alumni across the world. So, please send us pictures of the buildings, river, friends, year group photos, graduations and dinner's. Photos or posters of the May Ball would also be fascinating.

In fact, please send images of anything that other alumni will find interesting and entertaining.

Digital images can be e-mailed to sas65@cam.ac.uk or post photographs to Sophia Smith. All photos will be well looked after and returned.

The best images will be re-produced in the next *Darwinian*, and we hope to use them to produce a Darwin College alumni calendar for 2007.

Remember to note where and when photos were taken and to name the people in them.

Thank you and we look forward to memory sharing.

Closing date for entries is 1st February 2006