

## **BOOK, FILM, THEATRE, EXHIBITION REVIEWS BY TITLE OF JOURNAL OR NEWSPAPER**

### ***Addiction***

Review of H Wayne Morgan. *Drugs in America: a social history, 1800-1980*. Syracuse University Press, Syracuse 1994. In *Addiction* 1996; **91** (6): 885-891.

'Professor Morgan's book tells a tale of one thoroughly unsatisfactory situation followed by another. By the last decades of the nineteenth century the United States had quite a serious drugs problem. This had been produced by many factors: the development by the pharmaceutical industry of a succession of new painkillers and sedatives – morphine, chloral hydrate, cocaine, heroin; their free, cheap and unregulated availability; and the demand-led tendency of contemporary doctors (themselves a pretty motley bunch) to prescribe narcotics with gay abandon – the physician who could end pain was a popular fellow! ... The consequence was that medicalization was superseded by criminalization through the Harrison Act of 1914 which basically prohibited "hard" drugs ... The results are well known: a lasting marriage between drugs and the crime world.'

### ***The American Historical Review***

Review of Wolf Lepenies. *Melancholy and society*. Translated by Jeremy Gaines, Doris Jones. Foreword by Judith N Shklar. Harvard University Press, Cambridge Mass 1992. In *The American Historical Review* 1993; **98** (4): 1209-1210.

'... Deploying a dazzling parade of learning in the traditional German academic manner, Lepenies takes it on himself to write the social history of boredom, juxtaposing ennui against its opposite yet double, utopianism. In this endeavour, Lepenies obviously aspired to create a lofty work of cultural history in the tradition that extends from Karl Mannheim to Michel Foucault, an intellectual heritage to which he makes devoted reference ... Despite Lepenies' penetrating insights, it is not convincingly demonstrated that tedium truly has an integral history of its own ...'

### ***American Journal of Sociology***

Review of Caroline Walker Bynum. *The resurrection of the body in western Christianity, 200-1336*. Columbia University Press, New York 1995. In *American Journal of Sociology* 1996; **101** (4): 1144-1146.

'Historians of theology have long been aware that the views of early Christians to the body added up to doctrines and attitudes far more complex, and in many ways more positive, than the outright contempt for the rotten and corruptible flesh typically but erroneously emphasized in old-fashioned histories ... "Despite its suspicion of flesh and lust" writes [Caroline Bynum Walker], "Western Christianity did not hate or discount the body;" and, in the light of this statement, she tackles perhaps the most crucial problem of all: the doctrine of resurrection ... From the vantage point of late-20<sup>th</sup>-century narcissistic concerns with the preservation of the flesh, it is not the doctrine of resurrection itself that seems most remarkable but the capacity of theology and church practices to give significant expression to that mystery of mysteries.'

### **Archives Internationales d'histoire des Sciences**

Review of Anthony John Turner (with the assistance of ID Woodfield and contributions by HS Torrens). *Science and music in eighteenth-century Bath: [catalogue of] an exhibition in the Holburne of Menstrie Museum, Bath, 22 September 1977 – 29 December 1977*. University of Bath, Bath 1977. In *Archives Internationales d'histoire des sciences* 1978; **28**: 162.

'The prime function of this well-illustrated publication is to serve as a catalogue to an exhibition on Science and Music in Eighteenth Century Bath, focussed on the life and work of William Herschel ... this catalogue bears the mark of substantial research ... [it] contains the most balanced printed record currently available of the Bath Philosophical Society (founded 1779), of which Herschel was a member and important contributor ... While historians of science have been scrutinizing the growth of natural philosophy in provincial Birmingham, Manchester and Edinburgh, they have hitherto scandalously neglected Bath. Mr Turner's catalogue is a significant first step towards putting this right.'

Review of Nicolaas A Rupke. *The great chain of history: William Buckland and the English school of geology, 1814-1849*. Oxford University Press, Oxford 1983. In *Archives Internationales d'histoire des sciences* 1984; **34**: 283-284.

'For too long, William Buckland has remained the great neglected figure in the history of British geology, regarded, perhaps, as too lightweight a thinker, or as too religiously contaminated, to deserve the attention accorded to Hutton and Lyell. Dr Rupke's study is therefore highly welcome, especially because he abandons the view of Buckland as the Deluge-obsessed Catastrophist, the dragon who had seized the young damsel of geological science before she was rescued by the knight in shining armour, Charles Lyell. Instead he focuses on the real historical problem, that of understanding why Buckland was, with good reason, held in such high esteem in geological and educated circles between the late 1810s and about 1840 ...'

### **Body and Society**

Review of Jonathan Goldberg. *Sodometries: Renaissance texts, modern sexualities*. Stanford University Press, Stanford Conn 1992. In *Body & Society* 1995; **1** (1): 181-183. 'This subtly rewarding volume draws upon and brings together two fruitful fields of inquiry currently being developed. One is the relationship between body and book ... The second terrain is the investigation of sexual identity ... Goldberg perceptively explores the Humanist appropriation (and often deformation) of Classical mythologies so as to afford hazardous homoerotic readings a legitimate pedigree. He investigates the use of the exotic Other (for example the image of Indian or savages with their fabled depraved sexualities) as a device for airing unseemly erotic possibilities within permissible contexts. Not least, he examines the complex ambiguities and frissons involved in the conventions of cross-dressing on the Elizabethan stage. In this discussion, as elsewhere, Goldberg juxtaposes the past with the present and challenges the premises of the modern critic ... Though literary rather than historical sociological in focus, this work will be found rewarding reading by all scholars serious about the contingency of the concepts of sex and gender.'

## **Books and Issues**

'The Kuhnian Revolution'. Review of TS Kuhn. *The essential tension: selected studies in scientific tradition and change*. University of Chicago Press, Chicago & London 1977. In *Books & Issues* 1979; **1** (1): 8-10.

'There may be more erudite or prolific historians of science than Thomas Kuhn. But only he has become a household name amongst intellectuals at large. Philosophers, sociologists and economists go around talking of "Kuhnian revolutions", "Kuhnian paradigms", and "Kuhnian theory-switches" ... As a historian of the modern physical sciences, Kuhn is unsurpassed in range and authority. This volume can be read in this regard with great profit and enjoyment. As a subtle and probing investigator of how science works, he remains impressive. But as a trend setter, a paradigm forger of fashions in the history of science, Kuhn's day is perhaps over.'

## **The British Journal for the History of Science**

'Science and the universities'. Essay review of Lawrence Stone (ed). *The university in society*. 2 volumes. Oxford University Press, London/Princeton University Press, Princeton NJ 1974. Maurice Crosland (ed). *The emergence of science in Western Europe*.

Macmillan, London 1975. In *British Journal for the History of Science* 1976; **9**: 320-323.

'The very rise of the universities in medieval Europe was intimately associated with the reception and assimilation of the greatest of Classical natural philosophers, Aristotle. In our own century, science and the universities are inseparable. It is perhaps surprising, then, how oblique and precarious were the relations between those institutions and the pursuit of science through much of the intervening period ... to study science within a university was to study it as an art, in relation to the liberal humanities and philosophy, within an ideal of paedeia ... Before the nineteenth century, the one critical exception to this rule was where medical education became firmly entrenched within the teaching functions of the university ... One of the special characteristics ... of universities in, and since the nineteenth century has been that science became for the first time a major part of their teaching function, without being essentially hitched to medicine. *The university in society* helps us to understand this innovation ... When we analyse "demand" as a factor in the establishment of science in nineteenth-century universities, we are perhaps investigating not so much a demand from outside ... But rather we are witnessing newly orchestrated demands of scientific academics (and would-be academics) themselves ... many of the essays in *The emergence of science* bear out this analysis ... Science, which ... had had to move outside the universities in order to flourish in the early modern period, had to move back in order to maintain its own progress...'

Review of John Redwood. *Reason, ridicule and religion: the age of Enlightenment in England, 1660-1750*. Thames & Hudson, London 1976. In *British Journal for the History of Science* 1977; **10**: 269-270.

'Mr Redwood's subject is the massive literature of "atheism" in England in the generations following the Restoration of Charles II in 1660 ... the strength of Mr Redwood's book lies in conjuring up a broad panorama of radical thought, the whole suffused by the ideology of Reason, any single aspect of which was regarded as being the thin end of the atheistic wedge ... He offers a breathless, descriptive running commentary upon the controversialists' interminable bouts, crammed with snippets of information and laden with quotations, which do credit to Mr Redwood's voracious reading in primary sources, but which cry out in vain for analysis and interpretation ... it is more a monument of industry than ideas, and it must be used with care.'

Review of Peter J Bowler. *Fossils and progress: paleontology and the idea of progressive evolution in the nineteenth century*. Science History Publications, New York 1976. In *British Journal for the History of Science* 1978; **11**: 83-85.

'Peter Bowler's crisp book is an accomplished piece of historical revisionism. Reviewing interpretations of the history of life derived from the fossil record in the period from the 1820s through to the late nineteenth century, he argues that "progressionism" was far less influential than recent historians generally have assumed ... Dr Bowler's – somewhat controversial – argument is that the mainstream of palaeontological interpretation from the time of Cuvier in France, and Buckland and Conybeare in Britain, was not "progressionist" but "directionist". That is to say, it was chiefly concerned with establishing the successive changes in the terrestrial environment. While it recognized a rather unspecific series of life-forms, these were seen primarily as evidence for modifications of the surface of the earth in geological times, rather than the unfolding of a transcendently-guided, unilinear divine plan for life, culminating in man ... one must ... question Dr Bowler's treatment of "progressionist" and "directionalist" as being historically mutually exclusive ... It is an oversimplification to argue that "directionalists" saw new forms of life merely as "by-products" of a changing environment ... Dr Bowler ducks any larger consideration of how rival interpretations of fossils dovetailed with wider discussion of man, religion, history and society in the nineteenth century. But these are minor differences in approach. They do not detract from the value of a book that is technically assured, well researched, clearly stated and which offers fresh light on the interpretation of the meaning of fossils.'

Review of Annette Kolodny. *The lay of the land: metaphor as experience and history in American life and letters*. The University of North Carolina Press, Chapel Hill 1975. In *British Journal for the History of Science* 1978; **11**: 178-179.

'Nobody will have difficulty in finding fault with Dr Kolodny's book ... Yet this is a book for historians of science to read and be jolted by. Dr Kolodny's concern is to trace changing conceptions of the natural environment, and man's relationship with it, from the late sixteenth century through to recent times, with particular stress on the American experience ... Her working methods are above all those of the literary critic and the Freudian analyst ... landscape is constantly identified as feminine: bounteous as a mother (Mother Earth); as a virgin (Virginia, Maryland); as raped and violated. Mankind is represented as the various forms of the male; the son or the lover, living sometimes in nature's bosom (the "child of the forest"), sometimes – in the shift from the "infantile" pastoral stage to agriculture – the "husbandman", the deflowerer and despoiler. Western man's desire to dominate nature embodies the tragic paradox of male sexuality ... Dr Kolodny does not merely remind us how metaphorically charged is our language of "nature". She also reiterates, in Benjamin Lee Whorf's phrase, that "people act about situations in ways which are like the ways they talk about them" ...'

Review of Giuliano Pancaldi. *Charles Darwin: 'storia' ed 'economia' della natura*. La Nuova Italia, Firenze 1977. In *British Journal for the History of Science* 1979; **12**: 99-100.

'Dr Pancaldi's sweep enables him to relate Darwin illuminatingly back to eighteenth-century traditions of ideas. He sensibly emphasizes that Darwin's chief debt was not to specific earlier theories of evolution; it was rather to Enlightenment *histoires naturelles*, with their discussions of conflict, order and process, and in particular to concepts in the human sciences, such as found in the Scottish school of moral philosophy ... his main point is that the chief milieu of the reception of Darwinism was not amongst experimental biologists and naturalists, but amongst philosophers. Darwinism became a shuttlecock batted to and from between philosophical idealists and materialist ...'

Review of Joseph M Levine. *Dr Woodward's Shield: history, science and satire in Augustan England*. University of California Press, Berkeley & London 1977. In *British Journal for the History of Science* 1979; **12**: 227-228.

'Dr Levine's perky book falls into two halves. The first is a no nonsense narrative biography of one of the most energetic, productive, and quarrelsome naturalists and antiquarians who flourished during the principate of Newton ... objects were the key sources of knowledge, for Woodward was a thorough-going "Modern" in the Battle of the Books, unconvinced that all truth lay locked away in ancient tomes ... The second half of the book is a case history. In 1693 Woodward acquired an iron shield, which depicted the Gallic sack of Rome ... The mountains of scholarship possessed by Woodward and his friends failed to discriminate between a Roman artefact and the workmanship of the high Renaissance. Similarly – as was pointed out at the time – Woodward's comprehensive geological theories were desperately vulnerable to elementary facts which he had even uncovered himself ... Dr Levine's book is briskly written and stimulates important questions ... it will stand as an important contribution to understanding the intense community of naturalists and scholars in late Stuart England.'

Review of Cecil J Schneer (ed). *Two hundred years of geology in America*. Proceedings of the New Hampshire Bicentennial Conference on the History of Geology. University Press of New England, Hanover, New Hampshire 1979. In *British Journal for the History of Science* 1981; **14**: 209-210.

'Cognoscenti ... know that Cecil J Schneer Jr has few peers in the master craft of weaving divers shreds and patches of historical research into unified and illuminating tapestries. They will recognize his finest hour in his introduction to this volume, where, with great brio and economy, he conjures up before the mind in quick succession all the great themes which have suffused American geology: the exploration of a virgin land; its relation to the pursuit of the science in Europe; the special geological problems and opportunities of field-working a whole vast continent (giving rise to particularly American geological approaches); the situation of geology in an outdoor nation, literate, wealthy, and highly pious; and the intimate relations between geology and capitalism in critical development of mining and petroleum exploration ... the reader will get more stimulus out of the first twelve introductory pages than out of the next 350.'

Review of Stephen J Pyne. *Grove Karl Gilbert: a great engine of research*. University of Texas Press, Austin & London 1980. In *British Journal for the History of Science* 1982; **15**: 79-81.

'Karl Gilbert was arguably the most original, technically sound, and influential American geologist of the [second half of the nineteenth century] ... He approached geology ... through the eyes of Newtonian physics ... His most enduring contributions to the science (such as the idea of the laccolith, an intrusive mass of rock which has domed up the overlying strata) show an engineer's fascination with the relations of force and resistance. Where other geologists saw progress or decay, and looked for unidirectional, unicausal philosophies of Earth history, Gilbert saw everywhere balance and adjustment ... Perhaps a narrative biography is not the best way to illuminate a man whose day-to-day life was as uneventful as Gilbert's ... And there is one striking omission. Geology (like classical mechanics) possesses its own charged and highly symbolic visual language. It is surprising, and a pity, that Stephen Pyne offers so little analysis of the nature of Gilbert's visual thinking, almost none of his diagrams and drawings being reproduced.'

Review of Margarita Bowen. *Empiricism and geographical thought: from Francis Bacon to Alexander von Humboldt*. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge 1981. In *British Journal for the History of Science* 1983; **16**: 301-302.

'With few honourable exceptions, histories of geography still lag a couple of generations behind other discipline histories ... hence Bowen's project of aligning the growth of geographical thought to the emergence of epistemology, and in particular post-Renaissance modern philosophy of science, through examination of the ideas of Bacon, Descartes, Locke, Enlightenment empiricism, Kantian idealism, and then positivism whets the appetite ... Unfortunately, promise outstrips performance in every way ... Bowen wants current geography to reorient itself to the holistic vision dimly discerned by Varenius and then trumpeted by Humboldt; hence geographers are awarded bouquets or brickbats according as they approximate to the Humboldtian model ... But what is most disappointing is the failure to integrate the historical development of the philosophy of science to geographical theory and practice ...'

Review of Marguerite Carozzi. *Voltaire's attitude toward geology*. Société de Physique et d'Histoire Naturelle, Geneva 1983. In *British Journal for the History of Science* 1984; **17**: 116-117.

'Only one pronouncement by Voltaire of a geological nature is generally known: that he explained the presence of fossil shells in Alpine regions by suggesting they were litter dropped by gluttonous pilgrims trudging back from the Holy Land ... It was obviously his way of reducing to ridicule "scriptural geology" accounts of such fossils (that they were the products of a universal deluge) ... By the late 1760s, Voltaire, like many other informed naturalists, had developed a sophistication earlier lacking in reading the fossil record, while remaining uncertain about a wider interpretative framework within which to place it ...'

Reviews of John Lyon, Phillip R Sloan. *From natural history to the history of nature*. University of Notre Dame Press, Notre Dame & London 1981. David Goodman. *Buffon's Natural History*. (The Open University Arts: a second level course, the Enlightenment). The Open University Press, Milton Keynes 1980. In *British Journal for the History of Science* 1984; **17**: 321-322.

'David Goodman's thoughtful way-in gives us a Buffon notable for its concentration on theories of the earth and dynamic notions of terrestrial development. John Lyon and Phillip Sloan ... offer a similar perspective ... Yet, weirdly, what is slipping through the scholarly net is precisely what Buffon's contemporaries surely read him for: his descriptions of animals ... It is certainly time to face the Buffon who admired dogs for having "no ambition, no interest", and who loathed cats for being "knaves, service and flattering", who "conform to the habits of society but never to the manners" ...'

Review of Lloyd G Stevenson (ed). *A celebration of medical history: the fiftieth anniversary of the Johns Hopkins Institute of the History of Medicine and the Welch Medical Library*. The Johns Hopkins University Press, Baltimore & London 1982. In *British Journal for the History of Science* 1985; **18**: 84.

'... in discussing the Johns Hopkins Institute and its incumbents, all the contributors to this worthwhile, if somewhat disparate, volume, become duly reverential and are on best behaviour ... it is only when assessing the history of medicine in the Old Continent that the authors breathe some fire ...'

Reviews of Sally Shuttleworth. *George Eliot and nineteenth century science: the make-believe of a beginning*. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge 1984. Redmond O'Hanlon. *Joseph Conrad and Charles Darwin: the influence of scientific thought on Conrad's fiction*. The Salamander Press, Edinburgh 1984. In *British Journal for the History of Science* 1985; **18**: 107-109.

'... Shuttleworth delves into the progressive modulations of what organicity meant to the novelist, from her early concern with "natural history", through her emphasis on metabolic "organic" growth, in the middle period, to the pervasive evolutionism of *Daniel Deronda*, preoccupied as it is with line, descent, race and inheritance; and likewise from the pastoral vision of organic nature in *Adam Bede* (Adam: back to origins), to the later stress on bleaker individualistic struggle ... [O'Hanlon's] method is basically to take us through key Conradian texts, plots, characters, especially *Lord Jim* and *The heart of darkness*, weaving in the echoes and reminiscences of the scientific writings of these thinkers as they strike him as illuminating Conrad's preoccupations with instinct, will, reversion, primitivism, decadence, struggle, and so forth ... there remains the question: so what? What does it all add up to?'

Review of Dorothy A Stansfield. *Thomas Beddoes MD, 1760-1808*. D Reidel, Dordrecht, Boston & Lancaster 1984. In *British Journal for the History of Science* 1986; **19**: 121-122.

'... the poignancy of this account of the original Shropshire lad lies in the fact that Mrs Stansfield doesn't mask the crumbling of the hopes of a man blessed with so much energy, talent and ardour. By the time of his premature death at the age of 48, Beddoes had seen the political climate darken from new dawn to reactionary midnight, his Pneumatic Institute fall into total failure as a consumption therapy, and not least his wife become hopelessly infatuated with his best friend, Davies Giddy. His protégé Davy had gone on to great things in London, while he had been left behind in Bristol serving as a physician to the fashionable society he despised ... Beddoes was a major figure in the social and intellectual ferment of the closing decades of the eighteenth century. Dorothy Stansfield is to be congratulated for, at long last, bringing him to life.'

Review of Jeffrey Moussaieff Masson (editor and translator). *The complete letters of Sigmund Freud to Wilhelm Fliess, 1887-1904*. Harvard University Press, Cambridge Mass & London 1985. In *British Journal for the History of Science* 1987; **20**: 100-101.

'... Most of Freud's published writings tell us all too little about his day-to-day encounters with, and responses to, his patients. These letters are highly rewarding in this respect. Three features in particular stand out. First, how widely accepted it was in Viennese bourgeois circles in the 1880s that nervous illnesses were sexual in origin ... Second, how completely the early Freud accepted the standard view that sexual neuroses stemmed from masturbation or analogous unsatisfactory sexual practices ... And third, how little success Freud believed he was having with his patients ...'

Review of Sander L Gilman. *Difference and pathology: stereotypes of sexuality, race and madness*. Cornell University Press, Ithaca 1985. In *British Journal for the History of Science* 1987; **20**: 104-105.

'... a well integrated collection of essays (some previously published, some new) exploring the wider world of stereotyping of the Other in the nineteenth century: alongside the mad, here are prostitutes (and women in general), Jews, blacks, some homosexuals, and that vast fin de siècle catch-all category of the Other, the degenerates. One connecting thread running through all these essays is that the stigmatizing vocabulary and images used to depict all these targets was almost interchangeable ... Gilman's book is particularly rewarding because it is not concerned to praise or blame, or to single out the precise part played by science; his concern is the integration of all forms of intellectual fire-power in the cultural army ...'

Review of James Paradis, Thomas Postlewait (eds). *Victorian science and Victorian values: literary perspectives*. Rutgers University Press, New Jersey 1985. In *British Journal for the History of Science* 1987; **20**: 107-108.

'... In these 350 pages, the great Victorian intellectual worthies from Coleridge and Hare through to Huxley, Tyndall, Pearson and Jevons are paraded yet again ... The trouble with many of these essays is that they contain a great deal of knowledge, but rather little that is new to say ... most ... seem to derive from a lost age of innocence, when literary history and the history of ideas were not touched by the exterminating angels of Foucault, structuralism, Derrida, deconstructionism and all that's happened since ... Reading this collection leaves one with a sense of just how quickly scholarly tides are flowing ...'

Review of Phillip A Nicholls. *Homeopathy and the medical profession*. Croom Helm, Beckenham 1988. In *British Journal for the History of Science* 1988; **21**: 368-369.

'... Based upon wide and well-digested research in the primary printed sources, [this monograph] offers an intelligent historico-sociological perspective upon the entire history of homeopathy in Britain, beginning with the reception of Hahnemann's writings in the 1830s, concentrating on the movement's heyday in the high Victorian period, and offering some assessment of the continuing thread of support through the present century ... The social history of medicine is beginning to enter a new phase, abandoning its rather modish – and inverted-Whiggish! – allegiance to so-called alternative movement, and seeing them instead for what they were: one of many options on offer in the medical market place ...'

Review of Daniel Roche. *Les republicains des lettres: gens de culture et Lumières au XVIII siècle*. Fayard, Paris 1988. In *British Journal for the History of Science* 1989; **22**: 463-464.

'... A brief review cannot begin to evoke the empirical profusion of Roche's research in the provincial archives, or the sophistication of his enumerations (changing patterns of memento mori literature, new reading habits amongst the higher clergy, the presence of physicians amongst the freemasons, etc.). Cumulatively, his studies constitute a further nail in the coffin to those theories which see the spread of Enlightenment ideas as part of an ideological war of the bourgeoisie against feudal and aristocratic society. The provincial gens de culture – those who read the cheap imprints of Encyclopédie which Darnton has studied, or discussed political reform in debating societies – were not merchants and tradesmen, but landowners, nobles, abbés, and members of the higher professions and the bureaucracy. For them, Enlightenment ideas did not spell revolution, but participation in fashionable, progressive, improving culture. Bordeaux begins to look remarkably like Edinburgh ...'

Reviews of Christopher Fox. *Lock and the Scriblerians: identity and consciousness in early eighteenth-century Britain*. University of California Press, Berkeley & London 1988. Christopher Fox (ed). *Psychology and literature in the eighteenth-century*. AMS Press, New York 1987. In *British Journal for the History of Science* 1990; **23**: 110-111.

'... these two books are especially welcome for they take it as their fundamental premise that eighteenth-century writers felt no incongruity about philosophizing in verse, about regarding the mind as an habitual projector of fictions, or about expressing their own deepest formulations about human nature in a range of exciting literary forms (not least the aphorism, as used by Shaftesbury, and the dialogue, as perfected by Berkeley and Hume) ... Read together this fine pair of books indicates how much the history of philosophy and modern techniques of literary scholarship have to contribute to that new history of the human sciences in the Enlightenment which it will be the task of the 1990s to construct.'



Review of Magda Whitrow. *Julius Wagner-Jauregg (1857-1940)*. Smith-Gordon, London/Nishimura, Niigata-Shi, Japan 1993. In *British Journal for the History of Science* 1995; **28**: 114-115.

'... Wagner-Jauregg pioneered the awareness in German-speaking Europe of the thyroid imbalance origin of goitre and cretinism ... His other innovation won him the Nobel Prize (1927) – he remains the only psychiatrist ever to be so honoured. This was the use of artificially induced malaria bouts as a treatment for general paralysis of the insane – GPI cases, consequent upon tertiary syphilis, were extremely common in asylums at that time ... But, as Magda Whitrow's account shows, a far from negligible number of patients were sacrificed in the experiments leading to its introduction. And this, together with his advocacy of Faradization (electric-shock) treatment for shell-shock can hardly avoid creating the impression of a man too easily capable of distancing himself from ordinary human feelings (the left-wing press accused him of the "electric torture") ... Wagner-Jauregg must be seen as an expression of, and a contributor to, the deep ambivalence and enigmas of psychiatry around 1900 – not least in his almost obsessional preoccupation to find an organic basis of mental disorder. It is almost as if he could hardly bear facing consciousness in its own right...'

Review of Paul Ilie. *The age of Minerva. Vol 1 – Counter-rational reason in the eighteenth century: Goya and the paradigm of unreason in western Europe. Vol 2 – Cognitive discontinuities in eighteenth-century thought: from body to mind in physiology and the arts*. University of Pennsylvania Press, Philadelphia 1995. In *British Journal for the History of Science* 1997; **30**: 236-238.

'Paul Ilie presents the reader with an intriguing centre-piece for his study: Goya's famous Capriccio 43, featuring a thinker asleep at his desk, surrounded with owls, bats and a sphynx-like cat, captioned "The sleep of reason produces monsters". The eight hundred pages of his mammoth work (as yet unfinished: there is a third volume to come!) are first and foremost dedicated to deciphering that image: do monsters appear when rationality nods, or are they Reason's hideous brood? In more general terms, he is concerned to address and explain the crisis of Reason or the critique of Reason that Goya's painting symbolized – a crisis that may be discerned in many other facets of late Enlightenment philosophy and literature ... Overall, this work presents a Burtonian irony. By spinning out what might have been a fascinating article on Goya into a two (and more!) volume work, Ilie has reproduced the paradox of irrationality that forms his subject ...'

Review of Marina Frasca-Spada, Nick Jardine. *Books and the sciences in history*. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge 2000. In *British Journal for the History of Science* 2001; **34** (2): 233-235.

'... In their "Introduction", Frasca-Spada and Jardine outline the key questions posed by the new historiographies, critical theories and sociologies of the book, notably the assault on simplistic assumptions about reading led by Roger Chartier ... and by the subtle deconstruction of authorial credit and authority effected by Adrian Johns's *The nature of the book: print and knowledge in the making* (1998). Such issues are then further taken up in two "Afterwords", one a brilliant, hermeneutically focused analysis by Jardine, the other by Johns, highlighting the parallels between the opportunities, but also crises of credit, created by the fifteenth-century Gutenberg paper technology and those afforded by its late twentieth-century electronic analogue ... the mixed success of its essays (ranging from the Carolingian period to the late Victorian era) may provoke interesting reflections upon the fate of the book in the history of science ... It is, however, a book no scholar can afford to ignore ...'

### **British Medical Journal**

'Medicine and the media'. Review of six programmes on Stoke City General Hospital produced by the Television History Workshop Group for Channel 4. In *British Medical Journal* 1985; **290**: 546-547.

'A bunch of enthusiasts sets up "hospital shop", encourages the locals to come forward with relics and photographs of the town hospital, and then records their memories on video ... This is just what the Television History Workshop Group did in Stoke ... General Hospital ... What we get is the human face of the hospital, and many of the interviews make sobering viewing ... Oral history is vital, but it needs setting within a wider framework ... here we have history without historians, and no one has gone and looked at the hospital records, explained its finances, or probed its prescription books and diet sheets ... Letting chins wag, letting the camera dwell on scenes of washing up – all this is meant to capture grass roots experience. But it quickly become slack television. And it's lazy history too, since it doesn't explain, interpret, or assess ...'

'Medicine and the media'. Preview of BBC2 comedy, 'Yes Prime Minister', episode screened 25 January 1986, entitled 'Smokescreen'. In *British Medical Journal* 1986; **292**: 198.

'... What "Smokescreen" shows is how the antismoking case dissolves away in a puff of smoke before the mad rationalism of the civil service and its intrigues. To read between the lines, the programme suggests much about the standing of medicine in government today ... The facts of death disappear behind the smokescreen of economics ("cigarette taxes pay for a third of the cost of the National Health Service") ... In a nation where over a third of the voters are smokers, tax cuts make a more appealing moral issue ... What is new, and a fascinating straw in the wind, is the way the health minister, Dr Thorne, is presented. Worse than a zealot, he is a fool ("The point is, he's only a *doctor*," explains Sir Humphrey

'The medical comedy'. Review of C Douglas. *Ethics made easy*. Mainstream, Edinburgh 1986. In *British Medical Journal* 1986; **292**: 1328-1329.

'When houseman David Campbell (MB CHB, MRCP part I) and endocrinologist Jean Moray Campbell embark on their long delayed affair, destiny and hospital politics step in at first to make it easy for them. Jean's husband falls sick with mystery headaches, which lead to fits and require his convenient admission to hospital. At the same time the two lovers find themselves appointed to a health care ethics study group, which is bound to guarantee them lots of time together. But fate works in mysterious ways ... what appeals about Douglas's books, I suspect, is not their caricatures but their control. Despite occasional sideswipes at radical feminist communist lesbian nurses, he resists grotesques, cunningly allowing the reader to imagine mayhem while contenting himself with a slice of life ... Laughing with as well as at his characters, we relish their zest for living ...'

'Slave of duty'. Review of AM Kass, EH Kass. *Perfecting the world: the life and times of Dr Thomas Hodgkin, 1798-1866*. Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, Boston 1988. In *British Medical Journal* 1988; **297**: 1052.

'Thomas Hodgkin is best known as the discoverer of the disease of the lymph nodes named after him. He was also an early advocate of the stethoscope and the outstanding British pathological anatomist of the early Victorian era. One of the "great men of Guy's" (alongside Thomas Addison and Richard Bright), Hodgkin pioneered systematic necropsies at the hospital, developed the pathological museum, and inaugurated lectures in pathology ... Hodgkin was so gifted as a pathologist, so committed to medical science, such a visionary of a better world, and so tirelessly dedicated to suffering humanity; yet almost all he touched turned to ashes, and his personal life was less than fulfilled ... Hodgkin's strengths and

weaknesses, his successes and failures, all stemmed equally from his Quakerism, which the Kasses rightly identify as the key to his life ... a biography both fascinating and definitive.'

'The king is but a man'. Review of *The madness of George III*, Royal National Theatre. In *British Medical Journal* 1991; **303**: 1557-1558.

'... The pride of majesty laid low by disease is the very stuff of tragedy ... Alan Bennett's spectacular achievement in dramatising the "madness" of George III in the winter of 1788 lies in seeing all this, yet conveying something more besides: the domestic comedy of it all ... Bennett remains remarkably faithful to the historical record, but also pulls off a true coup de théâtre. He imagines the demented king surrounded – tormented even – by a circle of family, friends, and foes alike madder far than he: Prime Minister Pitt, a sexually repressed alcoholic ... opposition grandees like Charles James Fox, crazy for power ... and Prinky, the Prince of Wales, vain, petulant, infantilised, a prodigal son engrossed with hatred for his papa ... and, perhaps maddest and most dangerous of all ... the royal physicians: Sir George Baker, a ninny convinced that the key to the royal malady lies in the vagaries of the pulse; the smoothy Richard Warren ... and the wheezy Sir Lucas Pepys, who waxes ecstatic at the sight of a well formed stool – a trio of physicians out of the Mad Hatter's tea party ... Bennett holds up madness as the mirror of reality, a metaphor of the paradoxes of being and seeming, royalty and reality ...'

'From maverick to sage'. Review of *The human element: A scattering of ashes*, BBC 1, 28 June 1992. In *British Medical Journal* 1992; **305**: 124-125.

'Billed as "an intimate portrait of Carl Djerassi, the father of the pill", *A scattering of ashes* made absorbing viewing but was anything but intimate ... Djerassi is on record as having been superambitious and wildly competitive. Reflecting on his lab life a few years ago, after diagnosis of cancer of the colon, he confessed in an interview that he had devoted 98% of his life to science and 2% to personal matters ... What drove him? Exile? Insecurity? The scientific rat race? Dollars? Love of truth? Anyone hoping for intimate answers ... would largely have been disappointed, for here we were given Djerassi holding forth, on his estate, in his new role as white haired sage ... The camera lingered over the artists' colony Djerassi had set up as a shrine to his daughter who had committed suicide (no one asked whether than 2% had anything to do with it) ... no one put Djerassi on the line or on the couch – no one asked him any questions ...'

Review of Lynn Payer. *Disease-mongers: How doctors, drug companies, and insurers are making you feel sick*. J Wiley, New York 1992. In *British Medical Journal* 1993; **306**: 1212. 'Lynn Payer's sane and timely analysis of the abuses of modern American medicine adds a further voice to a critique growing since the 1970s, when the guru Ivan Illich first exposed "iatrogenesis", doctor-created disease ... Well or sick, people are bamboozled into lab tests, often of dubious reliability. Thanks to "diagnostic creep" or "leap", some disorder will typically be revealed. Extensive and expensive treatments are then urged, for the physician who does nothing dreads malpractice accusations ... The key question is: Should works like *Disease-mongers* also carry a health warning? Are medical journalists like Payer themselves anxiety makers ... In claiming to allay galloping alarm about disease, isn't she also (for professional reasons of her own) creating medicine scares. Isn't her own doom-mongering as hazardous as disease-mongering? ...'

'Symbol of a nightmare society'. Review of *Angels in America: Millennium approaches*, Royal National Theatre. In *British Medical Journal* 1994; **308**: 67.

'... *Millennium approaches* focuses on a gay couple, Louis and Prior, whose relationship breaks up when Prior develops the first signs of Kaposi's sarcoma and Louis deserts him in an orgy of guilt and self-hatred. Their broken union is mirrored by, and dramatically dovetailed with, the marriage of Joseph and Harper Pitt, a childless Mormon couple riddled with guilty secrets of their own: Jo turns out to be a closet gay and his wife a valium addict. Presiding over all is the evil genius of Roy Cohn – a real life buddy of Joseph McCarthy and later Ronald Regan – a homophobic lawyer, who first vehemently denies his own homosexuality ("I hate labels") and then denies he's got AIDS ("liver cancer", he says) ... In Tony Kushner's epic vision, AIDS plays much the same part as the demon drink and tainted sexuality in *Cat on a hot tin roof* or *Who's afraid of Virginia Woolf?* – it serves as a symbol of a nightmare society whose macho careerism and utopian fantasies are matched by inner decay and sordid secrets ...'

Review of Steven Epstein. *Impure science: AIDS, activism and the politics of knowledge*. University of California Press, Berkeley & London 1996. *British Medical Journal* 1997; **314**: 385.

'... The main reason why that "golden age" of the 1970s now seems so far away is AIDS. The lethal new disease that broke up the party is still – a decade and a half and a billion dollars later – without vaccine or cure and is spreading globally out of control. Above all, the syndrome's deadliness, and the ensuing panic and politics radically called into question standard hierarchies of medical knowledge, themes explored by the sociologist Steven Epstein in his thoughtful analysis of the politics of expertise in contemporary America ... Not least, the users' group pressure challenged the design and even the morality of classical clinical trials ... With time against them, sufferers voted with their feet, setting up "buyers' clubs", making bootleg drugs, smuggling untried drugs across the border, or subverting clinical trials (such as by drug sharing) ... the very idea of expertise could itself be challenged, provoking a great debate as to who should have a seat at the table in a paternalistic medical setup being forced to become more democratic, accessible, and client friendly ...'

Reviews of Richard M Titmuss. *The gift relationship: from human blood to social policy*. Original edition with new chapters, edited by Ann Oakley, John Ashton. LSE Books, London 1997. Oakley A. *Man and wife: Richard and Kay Titmuss: my parents' early years*. Flamingo, London 1997. *British Medical Journal* 1997; **315**: 1319.

'... Richard Titmuss has ceased to be a household name. But, for the postwar generation, he was one of the intellectual pillars of the welfare state ... *The gift relationship* (1970), his last major work ... is vintage Titmuss: the model of the British National Blood Transfusion Service is commended not merely because giving rather than selling blood fosters social altruism but because ... it also makes for an efficient system. Titmuss is himself the object of inquiry in a thoughtful and moving book by Professor Ann Oakley – sociologist, feminist, and ... his daughter. Why, she asks, did her father become so renowned whereas her mother, Kay, is utterly forgotten? ... What ... happened, of course, was that Kathleen Miller became Mrs Titmuss ... With the steadfast support of a loyal wife ... Titmuss went from strength to strength, publishing prolifically, hobnobbing with the great and the good, getting a chair at the London School of Economics (the first professor in this country to have had no higher education), and living to turn down a life peerage from Harold Wilson. Kay meanwhile disappeared into the shadows ... did it never occur to her father and mother, Oakley asks, that the egalitarian goals they espoused had a crucial blind spot and fatal flaw – the unquestioned disparity of the male-female relationship? ...'

### **Cambridge Review**

'Let Newton be'. Review of 'The European fame of Isaac Newton', an exhibition at the Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge. In *Cambridge Review* 1974; **95**: 82.

'Isaac Newton cries out for exhibitions ... such exhibitions, with strong and important themes, would be an invigorating experience. Unfortunately, the Fitzwilliam exhibition, "The European Fame of Isaac Newton", however enterprising, is not. It is confessedly a small show, designed to celebrate a newly acquired painting, "An Allegorical Monument to Sir Isaac Newton" ... It was part of a series of paintings produced under the speculative entrepreneurship of the Venetian-based Irish operatic impresario, Owen MacSweeney, in celebration of the great English heroes of the seventeenth century Whig pantheon ... that of Newton is the work of Giovanni Battista Pittoni and the brothers Valeriani ... The let-down is that the painting itself is dull ... Its neo-classical apparatus doesn't encapsulate the message of Newton's science with enough specificity ... The symbolic ray of light seems to bend, against the laws of science, and the colours of the spectrum seem wrong ...'

### **Centaurus**

Review of Edward Manier. *The young Darwin and his cultural circle: a study of the influences which helped to shape the language and logic of the first drafts of the theory of natural selection*. D Reidel, Dordrecht & Boston 1978. In *Centaurus* 1980; **23**: 176-177.

'Professor Manier's investigations into the young Darwin have two foci. The first is his "cultural circle" ... ranging from long-dead figures like Hume, to friends such as Lyell; from greats like August (sic) Comte to nonentities like James F Ferrier, the English Idealist philosopher ... [the] second focus is upon Darwin's language, especially his major metaphors ... He offers fine-textured discussion of the nuances of methodologically important terms such as "law", "analogy" and "probability" which appear frequently in the early manuscripts ... Professor Manier's interests are at root philosophical. There is no attempt here to recreate the conditions of Darwin's life and thought ... Historians will profit from elements of this book, but will feel that the young Darwin still awaits recovery.'

Review of William Glen. *The road to Jaramillo: critical years of the revolution in earth science*. Stanford University Press, Stanford Calif 1982. In *Centaurus* 1984; **27**: 325-326. '... [William Glen's] main aim is to thread together the story of how the age-old conviction that the continents and oceans were fixed in position gave way, quite suddenly, between 1957 and 1966, to the new theory that continent-sized slabs of rigid crystal material shell are continually moving about, opening and shutting ocean basins, thrusting up mountains and forming deep sea trenches where they collide, forming and re-forming the major features of the earth's surface ... he pictures a world of science which was highly competitive, but one where the fundamental patterns were not those of rivalry between distinct schools, outlooks, or world-views, but rather of pragmatic struggles among highly mobile individuals for priority and success ... Because of its fine detail and its access to sources at first hand, William Glen's book will remain essential reading for everyone studying the story of plate tectonics.'

Review of Thomas L Hankins. *Science and the Enlightenment*. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge & New York 1985. In *Centaurus* 1986; **29**: 160-161.

"The first half of the eighteenth century was a singularly bleak period in the history of scientific thought", judged Stephen Mason only a generation ago. Since then, the scholarly tide has dramatically turned, and the eighteenth century has become one of the epochs of science most intensely researched and popular with student courses ... In two hundred pages, Professor Hankins surveys the major scientific currents of the age of the Enlightenment ... The text is, not surprisingly, strongest and most confident in Professor Hankins' own research areas, particularly the mechanical and mathematical sciences, but even where he must be reliant mainly on secondary sources, his reading has been wide and up-to-date. This book, which admirably digests the main currents of eighteenth century science, can be recommended to students with confidence and read by anyone with profit ...'

Review of RGW Anderson, Christopher Lawrence (eds). *Science, medicine and dissent: Joseph Priestley (1733-1804)*. Wellcome Trust/Science Museum, London 1987. In *Centaurus* 1989; **32**: 347-348.

'This volume of papers to mark the 250 anniversary of the birth of Joseph Priestley, mainly delivered at a conference held at the Wellcome Institute in 1983, marks a major step forward in our understanding of the eighteenth century English chemist – or polymath as he would better be described ... One wishes that more of the contributors had moved further beyond the analysis of Priestley's own writings to assess – as [John] Brooke asks us to do – the typicality or atypicality of Priestley's ideas in their own time, and their influence upon their age. Little is said, for instance, of Priestley's interplay with the Lunar Society circle, with which he was closely connected. Nevertheless, this well-researched volume is sure to stimulate further questioning along these lines ...'

### ***Comparative Studies in Society and History***

Review of Everett Mendelsohn, Yehuda Elkana (eds). *Sciences and cultures*. Sociology of the Sciences Yearbook, 1981. D Reidel, Dordrecht, Boston & London 1981. In *Comparative Studies in Society and History* 1984; **26** (1): 187-189.

'... What unites the contributors of this stimulating (if poorly proofread) collection of essays is that they all presume that it is philosophically, sociologically, and historically impoverishing or distorting to set science on a pedestal beyond culture; rather, in various ways and to varying degrees, the scientific endeavour is coterminous with the outlooks, ideologies, and interests of society at large. But there the common ground ends. For here is that rare beast: a collection of essays whose merit as a collection is that they have little in common (as the plurals in its title imply) – proof that cultural approaches to science are alive and well, and multiplying ...'

### ***The Economic History Review***

Review of Valerie Fildes. *Wet nursing: a history from antiquity to the present*. Blackwell, Oxford 1988. In *The Economic History Review* 1989; **42** (3): 436-437.

'... As Fildes emphasizes, the old view that mothers put their infants out to wet nurse merely from indolence and ignorance, vanity or fashion, and that the practice proved fundamentally hazardous to the health – physical and psychological – of the baby must be modified ... Fildes shows that it is equally a myth that wet nurses invariably neglected their charges ... One of the more important features of this highly readable book lies in its exploration of the system of wet nurse recruitment ... this was often highly organized, sometimes by municipal authorities, sometimes by private agencies, and occasionally through hospitals ... In view of a growing racial anthropology, it is fascinating to learn that planter society in the American South apparently remained quite content to use black slaves as wet nurses. Or was, perhaps, the gradual emergence of such fears of pollution responsible for the relatively early demise of wet nursing in Anglo-Saxon society in contrast, say, to France? ...'

### ***Eighteenth Century Studies***

Review of JA Sharpe. *Early modern England: a social history, 1550-1760*. Arnold, London 1987. In *Eighteenth Century Studies* 1989; **23** (1): 109-111.

'... Dr Sharpe's overall vision is of a society becoming, over the long haul, more capitalistic, wealthier, but also more sharply stratified in its divisions between rich and poor. Yet despite, or perhaps because of, this growing cleavage, day-to-day living arrangements, formal and informal – marriage, the family, the village and county community – operated rather successfully. The household was supportive; the worst of the famines, vagabondage, and urban breakdown experienced in many parts of Continental Europe was avoided. Not least, there was a notable decline ... in crime and disorder – a sign, Sharpe believes, and surely right – that, for all its great faults and failings, early modern England provided a social system which successfully offered at least a decent survival chance for all, and real opportunity to many ... A few minor suggestions for a future revised edition may be offered. Agriculture and agrarian change here receive astonishingly scanty treatment in comparison to industry, trade, and urban life. The status and history of women are little discussed ... There is a tendency – natural, but unbalancing – for most illustrative examples and quotations to derive from the period after 1660. Finally, attention needs to be given to the spelling of "bourgeoisie" and "Hobsbawm" ...'

Review of PJ and RV Wallis. *Eighteenth century medics*. Project for Historical Biobibliography, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, England. Distributed by Vade-Mecum Press 1988 (first published 1985). In *Eighteenth Century Studies* 1989-1990; **23** (2): 229-230.

'... Eighteenth century medics has become an invaluable research and reference tool for all scholars directly or indirectly pursuing the history of medicine ... In basic form, it is an alphabetical index of towards 100,000 individuals connected with the practice of medicine, or at least known to have had an interest in it, in eighteenth-century Britain ... the Wallises' data demonstrate the extraordinary richness and variety of medical practice: army and navy surgeons abound, as do chemists and druggists, horse-doctors, tradesmen who double as booksellers and apothecaries, and, not least, women practitioners (far from all of whom are midwives). It is no surprise that some operators principally identified themselves as "inoculators"; it is intriguing to find other practitioners listed as "phlebotomists". In the early years of the "consumer economy, medicine, far from languishing, or being constrained by the traditional hierarchical pyramid of apothecary, surgeon, and physician, evidently flourished in tropical abundance before the pruning action performed by Victorian professional reform ...'

### ***The English Historical Review***

Review of Andrew S Skinner. *A system of social science*. Clarendon Press, Oxford 1979. In *The English Historical Review* 1981; **96**: 656-657.

Review of *Scienze dell'uomo e scienze della società nel settecento*. Atti del convegno di Torino, 27-28 ottobre 1978. Olschki, Firenze 1979. In *The English Historical Review* 1982; **97**: 916.

Review of WPD Wightman, JC Bryce, IS Ross (ed). *Glasgow edition of the works and correspondence of Adam Smith*. Vol 3 – *Essays on philosophical subjects*. With D Stewart's account of Adam Smith. Clarendon Press, Oxford 1980. In *The English Historical Review* 1983; **98**: 432.

Review of Desmond King-Hele. *The letters of Erasmus Darwin*. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge 1981. In *The English Historical Review* 1984; **99**: 444-445.

Review of Norman Fiering. *Jonathan Edwards's moral thought and its British context*. University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill 1981. In *The English Historical Review* 1984; **99**: 623-624.

Review of Pietro Corsi, Paul Weindling (eds). *Information sources in the history of science and medicine*. Butterworth Scientific, Borough Green, Kent 1983. In *The English Historical Review* 1985; **100**: 955.

Review of JC Bryce (ed). *Glasgow edition of the works and correspondence of Adam Smith*. Vol 4 – *Lectures on rhetoric and belles lettres*. Clarendon Press, Oxford 1983. In *The English Historical Review* 1986; **101**: 511-512.

Review of Nicolaas Rupke. *The great chain of history: William Buckland and the English school of geology (1814-1849)*. Clarendon Press, Oxford 1983. In *The English Historical Review* 1986; **101**: 526.

Review of István Hont, Michael Ignatieff (eds). *Wealth and virtue: the shaping of political economy in the Scottish Enlightenment*. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge 1983. In *The English Historical Review* 1986; **101**: 1001-1002.

Review of LS Sutherland, LG Mitchell (eds). *The history of the University of Oxford*. Vol 5 – *The eighteenth century*. Clarendon Press, Oxford 1986. In *The English Historical Review* 1987; **102**: 679-682.

Review of Angus McLaren. *Reproductive rituals: the perception of fertility in England from the sixteenth century to the nineteenth century*. Methuen, London 1984. In *The English Historical Review* 1987; **102**: 1039.



Review of Otto Mayr. *Authority, liberty and automatic machinery in early modern Europe*. Johns Hopkins University Press, Baltimore 1986. In *The English Historical Review* 1989; **104**: 496-497.

Review of Eric M Sigsworth (ed). *In search of Victorian values: aspects of nineteenth-century thought and society*. Manchester University Press, Manchester 1988. In *The English Historical Review* 1991; **106**: 728-729.

Review of William McKinley Runyan (ed). *Psychology and historical interpretation*. Oxford University Press, New York & Oxford 1988. In *The English Historical Review* 1991; **106**: 1075-1076.

Review of Paul Slack. *The impact of plague in Tudor and Stuart England*. Clarendon Press, Oxford 1990. In *The English Historical Review* 1992; **107**: 136-138.

Review of GW Clarke (ed). *Rediscovering Hellenism: the Hellenic inheritance and the English imagination*. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge 1989. In *The English Historical Review* 1993; **108**: 226.

Review of Robert A Stafford. *Scientist of Empire: Sir Roderick Murchison, scientific exploration and Victorian Imperialism*. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge 1989. In *The English Historical Review* 1993; **108**: 1051-1052.

Review of Terence Ranger, Paul Slack (eds). *Epidemics and ideas: essays on the historical perception of pestilence*. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge 1992. In *The English Historical Review* 1995; **110**: 551-552.

Review of Robin Reilly. *Josiah Wedgwood, 1730-1795*. Macmillan, London 1992. In *The English Historical Review* 1995; **110**: 1282-1283.

Review of Lindsay Wilson. *Women and medicine in the French Enlightenment: the debate over *Maladies des Femmes**. Johns Hopkins University Press, Baltimore & London 1993. In *The English Historical Review* 1996; **111**: 208.

Review of EP Thompson. *Witness against the beast: William Blake and the moral law*. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge & New York 1993. In *The English Historical Review* 1996; **111**: 743-744.

Review of Michael Mason. *The making of Victorian sexuality*. Oxford University Press, Oxford & New York 1994. In *The English Historical Review* 1996; **111**: 1325-1326.

Review of John Gascoigne. *Joseph Banks and the English Enlightenment: useful knowledge and polite culture*. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge & New York 1994. In *The English Historical Review* 1997; **112**: 220-221.

Review of Richard H Grove. *Green imperialism: colonial expansion, tropical island Edens and the origins of environmentalism, 1600-1860*. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge & New York 1995. In *The English Historical Review* 1997; **112**: 763-764.

Review of David Wright, Anne Digby (eds). *From idiocy to mental deficiency: historical perspectives on people with learning disabilities*. Routledge, London 1996. In *The English Historical Review* 1998; **113**: 274-275.

### ***The European Legacy***

Review of Andrea Carlino. *Books of the body: anatomical ritual and Renaissance learning*. Translated by John Tedeschi, Anne C Tedeschi. University of Chicago Press, Chicago 2000. In *The European Legacy* 2001; **6** (6).

'*Books of the body*, a translation of a book first published in Italian in 1994, is a work of considerable technical expertise in the history of medicine written in a manner which makes it perfectly approachable by the non-specialist reader. It focuses on the practice of anatomical dissection in Italy in the late Middle Ages and the Renaissance period, and raises basic questions regarding that practice ... Most of this is not an entirely unfamiliar story, though Carlino has persuasive emphases of his own (in particular his insistence that it was not the Church which somehow hindered late-medieval anatomy). He is, however, fully in charge of his evidence which he commandeers in an exemplary way. His book constitutes a noteworthy account of the range of constraints governing the emergence of the fundamental teaching, investigative and iconic tool of modern medicine.'

### ***Financial Times***

'In need of emergency surgery: Roy Porter feels the failing pulse of the National Health Service as it celebrates its half-century'. Reviews of Andrew Davidson. *Bloodlines: real lives in a great British hospital*. Little Brown, London 1998. John Willman. *A better state of health: a prescription for the NHS*. Profile, London 1998. In *Financial Times*, London, 4 July 1998: 6.

### ***The Guardian***

'Original bliss: Roy Porter acclaims an anatomy of creativity'. Review of George Steiner. *Grammars of creation: originating in the Gifford Lectures for 1990*. Faber, London 2001. In *The Guardian* (London); 17 March 2001: 9.

'Body of evidence: if fingerprinting tells us whodunnit, insects show us when, finds Roy Porter'. Reviews of Colin Beavan. *Fingerprints: murder and the race to uncover the science of identity*. Fourth Estate, 2002. Jessica Snyder Sachs. *Time of death: the true story of the search for death's stopwatch*. Heinemann, 2002. M Lee Goff. *A fly for the prosecution: how insect evidence helps solve crimes*. Harvard University Press, Cambridge Mass 2000. In *The Guardian* (London); 19 January 2002: 9.

### ***The Historical Journal***

Review of Raymond Phineas Stearns. *Science in the British colonies of America*. University of Illinois Press, Urbana 1970. In *The Historical Journal* 1972; **15** (1): 175-177.

Review of Lawrence Stone (ed). *The university in society. Vol 1 – Oxford and Cambridge from the 14<sup>th</sup> to the early 19<sup>th</sup> century. Vol 2 – Europe, Scotland and the United States from the 16<sup>th</sup> to the 20<sup>th</sup> century*. Oxford University Press, London 1975. In *The Historical Journal* 1976; **19** (2): 550-552.

Review of Charles Webster. *The great instauration: science, medicine and reform, 1626-1660*. Duckworth, London 1975. In *The Historical Journal* 1976; **19** (4): 1026-1030.

'Man, animals and nature'. Reviews of Keith Thomas. *Man and the natural world: changing attitudes in England, 1500-1800*. Allen Lane, London 1983. James Turner. *Reckoning with the best: animals, pain and humanity in the Victorian mind*. The Johns Hopkins University Press, Baltimore & London 1981. In *The Historical Journal* 1985; **28** (1): 225-229.

Reviews of John Clarke, Allan Cochrane, Carol Smart. *Ideologies of welfare: from dreams to disillusionment*. Hutchinson, London 1987. Peter Alter. *The reluctant patron: science and the state in Britain, 1850-1920*. Translated by Angela Davies. Berg, Oxford, Hamburg & New York 1987. Frank Mort. *Dangerous sexualities: medico-moral politics in England since 1830*. Routledge & Kegan Paul, London 1987. In *The Historical Journal* 1988; **31** (4): 1020-1022.

### ***History***

Review of Michael Hunter. *Science and society in Restoration England*. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge 1981. In *History* 1982; **67**: 142-143.

Review of Carl B Cone (ed). *Hounds in the morning: sundry sports of merry England. Selections from The Sporting Magazine, 1792-1836*. University Press of Kentucky, Lexington 1981. In *History* 1982; **67**: 496-497.

Review of PJ Marshall, Glyndwr Williams. *The great map of mankind: British perceptions of the world in the age of Enlightenment*. JM Dent, London 1982. In *History* 1984; **69**: 101-102.

Review of Derek A Dow. *The Rotten Row: the history of the Glasgow Royal Maternity Hospital, 1834-1984*. Parthenon Press, Carnforth, Lancs 1984. In *History* 1985; **70**: 144-145.

Review of Ivan Waddington. *The medical profession in the Industrial Revolution*. Gill & Macmillan, Dublin 1984. In *History* 1985; **70**: 529.

Review of Hilary Marland. *Medicine and society in Wakefield and Huddersfield, 1780-1870*. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge 1987. In *History* 1989; **74**: 143-144.

Review of Linda Bryder. *Below the magic mountain: a social history of tuberculosis in twentieth-century Britain*. Clarendon Press, Oxford 1988. In *History* 1989; **74**: 559.

Review of John Keown. *Abortion, doctors and the law: some aspects of the legal regulation of abortion in England from 1803 to 1982*. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge & New York 1988. In *History* 1990; **75**: 151-152.

Review of E Margaret Crawford (ed). *Famine: the Irish experience, 900-1900. Subsistence crises and famines in Ireland*. John Donald, Edinburgh 1989. In *History* 1991; **76**: 99.

Review of Claude Quézel. *History of syphilis*. Translated by Judith Braddock and Brian Pike. Polity Press, Oxford 1990. In *History* 1992; **77**: 76-77.

### ***History of Psychiatry***

Review of Rosina Bulwer Lytton. *A blighted life: a true story*. With a new introduction by Marie Mulvey Roberts. Thoemmes Press, Bristol 1994. In *History of Psychiatry* 1994; **5**: 424-426.

Review of Michael Heyd. *'Be sober and reasonable': the critique of enthusiasm in the seventeenth and early eighteenth centuries*. EJ Brill, Leiden, New York, Köln 1995. In *History of Psychiatry* 1996; **7**: 474-475.

### ***History of Science***

Roy edited *History of Science* from volume 11 (1973) to volume 39 (2001). According to Michael Hoskin (e.mail to Emma Ford dated 14 May 2002), 'this may be the third longest editorship in the field of history of science after my own editorship of *Journal for the History of Astronomy* (33 years and counting), and George Sarton's of *Isis*.'

'The history of palaeontology'. Essay review of Martin JS Rudwick. *The meaning of fossils: episodes in the history of palaeontology*. Distributed for Macdonald by Science History Publications, Chalfont St Giles, Bucks 1972. In *History of Science* 1973; **11**: 130-138.

'Physics and geology'. Essay review of Joe D Burchfield. *Lord Kelvin and the age of the earth*. Macmillan, London 1975. In *History of Science* 1979; **17**: 216-220.

'Dictionaries and the history of science'. Reviews of Charles Coulston Gillispie (ed-in-chief). *Dictionary of scientific biography*. 14 volumes + Supplement i + Index volume. Charles Scribner's Sons, New York 1970-1980. Philip P Wiener (ed-in-chief). *Dictionary of the history of ideas*. 4 volumes + Index. Charles Scribner's Sons, New York 1973-1974. In *History of Science* 1980; **18**: 148-150.

'Danger: science at work'. Review of Maxine Berg (ed). *Technology and toil in nineteenth-century Britain*. SCE Books, London 1979. In *History of Science* 1980; **18**: 303-304.

'The omniologists'. Review of Jack Morrell, Arnold Thackray. *Gentlemen of science: early years of the British Association for the Advancement of Science*. Clarendon Press, Oxford 1981. In *History of Science* 1982; **20**: 232-233.

'Strata and their data'. Review of James A Secord. *Controversies in Victorian geology: the Cambrian-Silurian dispute*. Princeton University Press, Princeton NJ 1986. In *History of Science* 1987; **25**: 324-326.

'Dugald Stewart reprinted'. Essay review of Sir William Hamilton (ed). *The collected works of Dugald Stewart*. With a new introduction by Knud Haakonssen. 1 volumes. Thoemmes Press, Bristol 1994. In *History of Science* 1996; **34**: 241-244.

'To justify the ways of Boyle to man'. Essay review of Michael Hunter, Edward B Davis (eds). *The works of Robert Boyle*. 14 volumes. Pickering & Chatto, London 1999-2000. Michael Hunter. *Robert Boyle (1627-1691): scrupulosity and science*. Boydell Press, Woodbridge 2000. In *Isis* 2001; **39** (2): 241-248.

### **History Today**

'Paperback history'. Reviews of Herbert Marcuse. *Reason and revolution*. 2<sup>nd</sup> edition (first published 1941). Routledge & Kegan Paul, London 1986. David Underdown. *Revel, riot and rebellion: popular politics and culture in England, 1603-1660*. Oxford University Press, Oxford 1987. MJ Heale. *The American Revolution*. Methuen, London 1986. DMG Sutherland. *France, 1789-1815: revolution and counter-revolution*. Fontana/Collins, London 1985. Robert Service. *The Russian Revolution, 1900-1927*. Macmillan, Basingstoke 1986. In *History Today* 1987; **37** (8): 55.

'Tomorrow do thy worst'. Review of Peter Quennell. *The pursuit of happiness*. Constable, London 1988. In *History Today* 1989; **39** (2): 54.

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'Our life and crimes: This was meant to be the century of peace and progress; the reality proved darker'. Reviews of Mark Mazower. *Dark Continent: Europe's 20<sup>th</sup> century*. Allen Lane/The Penguin Press, London 1998. Clive Ponting. *Progress and barbarism: The world in the 20<sup>th</sup> century*. Chatto & Windus, London 1998. In *Independent Saturday Magazine*, 27 June 1998: 10.

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Review of Rachel Laudan. *From mineralogy to geology: the foundations of a science, 1650-1830*. University of Chicago Press, Chicago & London 1987. In *Isis* 1988; **79**: 155-156.

Review of Henry Vyverberg. *Human nature, cultural diversity, and the French Enlightenment*. Oxford University Press, New York & Oxford 1989. In *Isis* 1991; **82**: 378.

Review of John Wiltshire. *Jane Austen and the body: "The picture of health"*. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge & New York 1992. In *Isis* 1994; **85**: 165-166.

### ***Journal of Historical Sociology***

Essay review. 'Reason and the medicalisation of order'. *Journal of Historical Sociology* 1992; **5**: 351-357.

### ***Journal of the History of the Behavioural Sciences***

Review of Lorraine Daston, Katherine Park. *Wonders and the order of Nature, 1150-1750*. Zone Books, New York 1998. In *Journal of the History of the Behavioural Sciences* 1999; **35** (1): 47-48.

'Back in 1981, Katherine Park and Lorraine Daston published a highly original and much acclaimed article: "Unnatural conceptions: the study of monsters in sixteenth-century France and England". Since then, the scholarly world has been awaiting the book-length version ... the resulting study, focusing on the history of "wonder" – that is, beliefs and sensibilities governing attitudes to the abnormal at large – is all the more ambitious, thought-provoking, and, in the main, highly successful ... It is finely structured, beautifully written, and handsomely illustrated ... There is ... no comparable volume that traces with such command changing sensibilities about marvels over such a long time-span.'

### ***Journal of the History of Biology***

'Stone ages, old and new'. Essay review. *Journal of the History of Biology* 1985; **18** (3): 433-438.

### ***The Journal of Modern History***

Review of Leonard G Wilson. *Charles Lyell, the years to 1841: the revolution in geology*. Yale University Press, New Haven & London 1972. In *The Journal of Modern History* 1973; **45** (3): 503-504.

'... the Lyell who emerges from Wilson's volume is essentially an unsophisticated reassertion of the Lyell of the Life and Letters, and the earlier biographers, enriched – but not much modified – by a mass of interesting additional material. This is because Wilson's approach throughout has been simply to let the records – largely Lyell's letters and journals – speak for themselves, painting in a full descriptive background where appropriate. He offers little detached, critical analysis of the Lyell materials, but, rather, mainly personal, biographical comments ... Perhaps Wilson's interests are purely biographical. But if he does want to substantiate his claim that Lyell made a revolution in geology, he will need to demonstrate it more effectively in the subsequent two volumes.'

Review of Chandra Mukerji. *From graven images: patterns of modern materialism*. Columbia University Press, New York 1983. In *The Journal of Modern History* 1985; **57** (2): 330-332.

'In view of the key role that material objects have played in the emergence of the West over the last half millennium, it is curious (argues Chandra Mukerji in her ambitious book) that scholars have not offered better analyses of the impact of things. For their part, economic historians have been interested in textiles, pots and pans, or whatever, principally as commodities, objects of production and consumption, supply and demand. By contrast, anthropologists such as Sahlins and Douglas have focused their attention on material culture essentially for its symbolic meanings, seen within systems of information exchange. In turn, art historians examine paintings just for their aesthetics, and historians of ideas scrutinize scientific advances just for their theories ... In many of its material details, this book – ironically – fails to carry conviction ... yet it is nonetheless a rich exploration of the implications of Western materialism which offers many a stimulating insight into the meanings of things.'

Reviews of Peter J Bowler. *Evolution: the history of an idea*. University of California Press, Berkeley & Los Angeles 1984. Linda L Clark. *Social Darwinism in France*. University of Alabama Press, University 1984. DP Crook. *Benjamin Kidd: portrait of a social Darwinist*. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge & New York 1984. In *The Journal of Modern History* 1986; **58** (4): 894-897.

'... we have till now lacked a basic overview of evolutionism from its earliest gaining of momentum (in the mid-eighteenth century) right up to the present that has given due weight to the scientific and technical issues that were at stake. This we now have in Peter Bowler's *Evolution: the history of an idea* ... Bowler crams in all the necessary scientific background (cosmogony, geology, paleontology, etc.) that the humanities student might lack, as well as the crucial political, cultural, religious, and intellectual contexts (romanticism, the religious debates about miracles, nationalism, and racism) that the science student would need to know ... Linda L Clark's workmanlike *Social Darwinism in France* [is] an oddly mistitled monograph since its conclusion is that such an animal hardly existed ... hence it comes as little surprise that almost no interest group in late nineteenth-century France found it worth their while to appropriate the precise vision of nature's operations set out in the Origin of Species ... French evolutionary ideology, by contrast, typically stemmed from Lamarck, or occasionally from idealist philosophy or from versions of Comtist positivism ... As [DP] Crook rightly perceives, [Benjamin] Kidd's philosophy was a stewpot into which Darwin had been thrown as one of the more minor ingredients ... yet he was a figure of some contemporary significance. Alongside contemporaries such as HG Wells, he captured the public imagination by turning evolutionism into social prophecy. He also helped to put sociology on



the map in England ... A generation ago, it was commonly denied that there were links between Darwin's Origin of species and the sociopolitical thought of the late Victorian age on the ahistorical grounds that science was distinct from ideology. Extensive research has dynamited that assumption; but it is also leading to a more subtle understanding of how complicated are the mediations between theories of nature and theories of society.'

Review of Catherine Gallagher, Thomas Laqueur (eds). *The making of the modern body: sexuality and society in the nineteenth century*. University of California Press, Berkeley & London 1987. In *The Journal of Modern History* 1989; **61** (3): 581-582.

'... modern interest in the history of the body has largely been stimulated by two particularly subdisciplines: academic feminism and the study of sexuality ... In this collection of essays ... sex and feminism totally shape the agenda ... insofar as these contributions – which range from Russia to America, and, despite the title, reach backward to antiquity – do share common themes, these revolve repeatedly around the notion that the “modern” body is par excellence differentiated from the “ancient” body in being both sexualized and also feminized ... this is ... a welcome pioneer volume, graced by an introduction that spells out with great clarity the epistemological and linguistic issues raised by the body. The integration of science, medicine, literature, and social history works particularly well.'

Review of Edward Shorter. *From paralysis to fatigue: a history of psychosomatic illness in the modern era*. Free Press, New York 1992. In *The Journal of Modern History* 1994; **66** (1): 126-129.

'Edward Shorter's prose and preconceptions give ample ammunition to anyone eager to write a hostile review of his provocative text. The sick people who thread in and out of his book are rather unsympathetically styled “somatizers”; they suffer from “pain and fatigue that have no physical causes”, espousing “fashionable” diagnoses for their “pet illnesses” on a “disease-of-the-month” basis. Doctors fare little better. Down the centuries, astute practitioners have been appeasing “somatizers” with placebos and pseudoscientific mumbo jumbo, which they sometimes even swallow themselves ... a study of psychosomatic illness which does not address the wider historical sociology of somatization in general – the daily expression of emotions, gesture, body language, the history of the passions with their local, cultural, and ethnic traditions – can only end up by making the psychosomatically ill seem peculiar, even if in truth they were, in so many ways, the greatest conformists of all.'

Review of H Floris Cohen. *The Scientific Revolution: a historiographical inquiry*. University of Chicago Press, Chicago & London 1994. In *The Journal of Modern History* 1996; **68** (3): 662-664.

'... In a study that fully deserves the term “encylopedic”, Floris Cohen demonstrates, through close analysis of what he calls a “great tradition” of influential texts, how the notion of a scientific revolution took root and gained acceptance in the postwar years ... Floris Cohen also shows how a rather different attack has developed over the past fifteen years. As scholarship has broadened and deepened, there has been a tendency to disaggregate scientific transformation, to view scientific change as far more complex and confused, as a matter of evolution rather than revolution. New stress has been placed on the multifariousness of processes of transmission, diffusion, assimilation ... Looking back in his final chapter upon “fifty years of the scientific revolution”, Floris Cohen would not junk the concept. Rather, his concern is to clarify its uses, to render it more sophisticated, and to develop better historical understandings of precisely how the seventeenth century proved a great turning point not just in science as such but also in the forging of scientific culture.'

### ***Journal of Social History***

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'Those cities which have shaped the world'. Review of Peter Hall. *Cities in civilisation: culture, innovation and urban order*. Weidenfeld & Nicolson, London 1998. In *Literary Review*, November 1998.

'One of the most appealing Englishmen of all time'. Review of Desmond King-Hele. Erasmus Darwin: a life of unequalled achievement. Giles de la Mare, London 1999. In *Literary Review*, July 1999.

'Imprisoned souls'. Review of Michael Newton. *Savage girls and wild boys: a history of feral children*. Faber & Faber, London 2002. In *Literary Review*, March 2002; issue 285: 42-43.

### ***The London Evening Standard***

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'Castaway'. Reviews of James King, Charles Ryskamp (eds). *The letters and prose writings of William Cowper*. Vol 1 – 1750-1781. Vol 2 – 1782-1786. Clarendon Press, Oxford 1979, 1981. John Baird, Charles Ryskamp (eds). *The poems of William Cowper*. Vol 1 – 1748-1782. Clarendon Press, Oxford & New York 1980. In *London Review of Books* 1982; **4** (4): 21-22.

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'What remains curiously neglected by historians of early modern England ... is the socio-cultural "voice" not of artefacts in general ... but of deliberately wrought works of art ... how should these be "read"? ... despite our clichéd stereotypes, word and picture were never antitheses or alternatives, still less rivals ... the production of visual images in post-Gutenberg society was principally aimed not at sub-literate starers, but at those who already formed the readership for anything from bills to books. To see pictures as a sort of baby-food mode of communication, pap for those whose minds could not digest real words, would be to misread the function of the visual image in emergent commercial culture ... Thus the political print was to the eighteenth-century news mongering public rather like the Sunday supplement in recent times: aimed at a particular elite of the reading public ... prints reflected opinion rather than made it ... Visual material is no less value-laden than verbal, and the historian must be perennially on guard for the ideology behind the image ... It is helpful to state that what such materials primarily offer us is not a window on "reality", but a record of the shorthand artistic conventions deployed by the engraver and presumably taken as "read" by his viewers ... How ... should the historian approach these prints? We cannot hope to look from a different angle and see reality "beyond the conventions". But we can "deconstruct" cartoons; we can refuse to take their explicit subject at face value, but rather explore the silent sign-systems they express, linking political power to age, gender, rank and family ...'

### **Phoenix Press**

Roy Porter selects some of his favourite books from the Phoenix Press catalogue.  
Paul Johnson. *History of the Jews*. Phoenix, London 1995.  
Michael Grant. *Myths of the Greeks and Romans*. Phoenix, London 2001.  
Janet Todd. *Mary Wollstonecraft: A revolutionary life*. Phoenix, London 2001.  
Ronald Blythe. *Age of illusion: England in the twenties and thirties, 1919-1940*. Phoenix, London 2001.  
Liza Picard. *Dr Johnson's London: Life in London, 1740-1770*. Phoenix, London 2001.  
Online at <http://www.phoenixpress.co.uk/feature7.asp>

### **Population Studies**

Review of Tim Hitchcock. *English sexualities, 1700-1800*. Macmillan Press, Basingstoke 1997. In *Population Studies* 1998; **52**: 119-120.  
'... Hitchcock contextualises sex in terms of the shifting realities of male-female relations within local communities, and also in terms of changing understandings of the sexual body ... Hitchcock sketches a fruitful dichotomy between the essentially "public" sexual culture which he regards as predominant in the seventeenth century – sexuality as a kind of public play, so long as it was properly managed within the community – and the private sexual milieu (associated with the emergence of such phenomena as pornography and anti-masturbation literature) which he sees emerging during the eighteenth century, under the stimulus of print ... this is far and away the most illuminating analysis yet of eighteenth century English sexuality and must become the starting point for all future discussions.'

### **Psychological Medicine**

Review of M Donnelly. *Managing the mind: a study of medical psychology in early nineteenth-century Britain*. Tavistock, London 1983. In *Psychological Medicine* 1984; **14**: 236-238.

### **La Rivista dei Libri** (Italian edition of *New York Review of Books*)

Roy Porter. 'Foucault e la sessualita'. *La Rivista dei Libri*, August 1991: 41-46.

### **Rural History**

Review of Sue Minter (with research by Ruth Stungo). *The apothecaries' garden: A new history of the Chelsea Physic Garden*. Sutton Publishing, Stroud 2000. In *Rural History* 2001; **12** (1): 116-117.

### **Science**

'Scholarship about science'. Review of Paul T Durbin (ed). *A guide to the culture of science, technology, and medicine*. Free Press (Macmillan), New York/Collier Macmillan, London 1980. In *Science* 1981; **211**: 930-931.

'AIDS in a new mode'. Review of Elizabeth Fee, Daniel M Fox (eds). *AIDS: the making of a chronic disease*. University of California Press, Berkeley 1992. In *Science* 1992; **256**: 250.

## **Social History**

Porter Roy, Whittaker CR. 'States and estates'. Essay review of Perry Anderson. *Passages from antiquity to feudalism*. New Left Books, London 1974. Perry Anderson. *Lineages of the absolutist state*. New Left Books, London 1974. In *Social History* 1976; issue 3: 367-376.

Essay Review of Margaret C Jacob. *The Newtonians and the English Revolution, 1689-1720*. Harvester Press, Brighton 1976. In *Social History* 1978; 3 (1): 246-249.

'... Margaret Jacob's stimulating book argues that the new science of late Stuart and early Hanoverian England cannot adequately be understood severed from its social, political and economic roots and functions ... Her concern lies ... in why science, more particularly the mechanical philosophy, and then par excellence Newtonian natural philosophy, became championed and popularized in the second half of the seventeenth century by those liberal Anglican churchmen and their lay supporters known as Latitudinarians ... She asserts that such use of "science" was "new", "essential" and "vital" in their formulation of a usable natural theology. These claims are perhaps exaggerated. I am much less confident than she that "science" was "essential" for buttressing late-seventeenth-century natural theology as social ideology. For many other traditions of natural theology – based, for instance, upon rationalist metaphysics, covenant theology, moral philosophy, and the natural law – had long been in currency, serving equivalent ideological purposes ... Before the nineteenth century, science, I suggest, is most frequently a rather minor weapon in the ideological armoury for explicating and legitimating economic and political relations – a weapon peculiarly liable to backfire ...'

Review of Brian Easlea. *Witch-hunting, magic and the new philosophy: an introduction to debates of the Scientific Revolution, 1450-1750*. Harvester Press, Brighton 1980. In *Social History* 1982; 7: 85-87.

'... the key aspect of this book is Easlea's claim that the New Philosophy replaced the old, not because of any greater intellectual coherence or scientific plausibility, but because of social factors: roughly speaking because the New Philosophy served the interests of privileged male bourgeois society better. Spirits could too easily be co-opted by radicals. The poor became more telling scapegoats than witches (though society remained misogynist). There is much truth in this, and it is important that it be said (previous books on the Scientific Revolution do not say it). But Easlea states his case so sweepingly, that its truth becomes truism or almost tautology (when don't the leading conceptualizations of a society reflect the interests of the ruling class?) ... But over the last forty years there has been sufficient detailed and controversial scholarship, on (for example) the relations of seventeenth-century English science to the Civil War and Restoration, to show that, at the very least, simple and direct causal links between the bourgeoisie and the advancement of science cannot be posited ...'

Review of Rhys Isaac. *The transformation of Virginia: community, religion, and authority, 1740-1790*. Published for the Institute of Early American History and Culture, Williamsburg, Virginia. North Carolina Press, Chapel Hill 1982. In *Social History* 1984; 9: 127-129.

'Fretting at conventional historians' "notorious obsession" "with the seemingly intractable particularities of non-recurrent and unique events", Rhys Isaac recommends they turn "historical ethnographers" ... Isaac's other perspective ... is to take a bird's-eye view of the transformation of Virginia in the eighteenth century. Though the historical ethnographer utilizes familiar evidence, he seeks to uncover and decode hitherto hidden systems of representations and symbols: body language, the syntax of clothes, the physiognomy of houses and churches, the silent meanings of the mock war of politics, elections and sport,

the legitimizing role of courts of law, the etiquette of hospitality. The problem with these chapters on the land, the homestead, body and climate, church and home, "occasions" etc., is that ethnographic method merely rediscovers, with a portentous flourish, what no one doubted before – eg. that the established church's liturgy was more patriarchal and hierarchical than that of the Methodists or New Light evangelicals, or that the slave quarter had subcultures worlds apart from those of the planters, even when nominally sharing an object such as Christianity ...'

### **Social Studies of Science**

Roy Porter. 'Shutting people up'. Reviews of Klaus Doerner. *Madmen and the bourgeoisie: a social history of insanity and psychiatry*. Translated by Joachim Neugroschel and Jean Steinberg. Basil Blackwell, Oxford 1981. Mark Finnane. *Insanity and the insane in post-famine Ireland*. Croom Helm, London; Barnes & Noble, Totowa NJ 1981. A Scull (ed). *Madhouses, mad-doctors, and madmen: the social history of psychiatry in the Victorian era*. The Athlone Press, London 1981. Michael MacDonald. *Mystical Bedlam: madness, anxiety, and healing in seventeenth century England*. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge 1981. Ruth McClure. *Coram's children: The London Foundling Hospital in the eighteenth century*. Yale University Press, New Haven & London 1981. Roger Smith. *Trial by medicine: insanity and responsibility in Victorian trials*. Edinburgh University Press, Edinburgh 1981. Stephen Trombley. *"All that summer she was mad": Virginia Woolf and her doctors*. Junction Books, London 1981. In *Social Studies of Science* 1982; **12**: 467-476.

'... Klaus Doerner's *Madmen and the bourgeoisie*, first published in German in 1969 ... takes as its point of departure the supposition that psychiatry, far from being an objective and universal science, differs fundamentally from culture to culture ... largely due to the uneven pace of the triumph of the bourgeoisie in different societies ... the bourgeois temper, with its suppressive, steely rationality, grew less tolerant of the feckless and the unproductive ... Doerner's ambitions and insights are enviable; but his explanatory framework is too wooden to convince ... Michael MacDonald's *Mystical Bedlam* ... [explores] overlapping popular and learned beliefs about troubled souls, through analysis of hundreds of consultations recorded in the unique case-books of the early seventeenth-century Buckinghamshire astrological priest-doctor, Richard Napier. The collection of essays ... which Andrew Scull has edited ... focuses particularly on the career of the asylum and the chequered history of moral therapy. Mark Finnane's monograph explores madness in one country ... whereas Roger Smith's illuminates the precariousness of young psychiatry's social toehold by charting the development of the insanity plea in Victorian trials ... Stephen Trombley's *All that summer she was mad* opens another window: the patient's viewpoint ... on the receiving end of psychiatry's sucker punches ... None of these books is keen to define madness medically ... time and again crisis erupted within the tense, inward-looking, and functionally overloaded family ... what they all show, however, is that more people got institutionalized ... as Ruth McClure's book on the Foundling Hospital shows, *all* kinds of institutions ... were striding side by side ...'

### **Sociological Review**

Review of Sydney WF Holloway. *Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain 1841-1991: a political and social history*. Pharmaceutical Press, 1991. In *Sociological Review* 1992; **40** (2): 421.

## **Sociology**

Review of Geoffrey Hawthorn. *Plausible worlds: Possibility and understanding in history and the social sciences*. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge 1991. In *Sociology* 1993; **27** (4): 727.

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'Just what the doctor ordered?' Reviews of Ros Coward. *The whole truth: Myths and meanings of alternative medicine*. Faber, London 1989. Lynn Payer. *Medicine and culture: notions of health and sickness in Britain, the U.S., France and West Germany*. Gollancz, In *The Sunday Times* (Books), 18 June 1989: G10. See also letter in response to review from Michael Thompson. 'Changing lifestyles'. *The Sunday Times*, 9 July 1989: G2.

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'Personal details from the missive society'. Review of Catherine Moriarty (ed). *The voice of the Middle Ages: In personal letters, 1100-1500*. Lennard, Oxford 1989. In *The Sunday Times* (Books), 13 August 1989: G3. See also letter in response to review. *The Sunday Times*, 20 August 1989: G3.

'The sound of silence'. Review of Oliver Sacks. *Seeing voices: a journey into the world of the deaf*. Picador, London 1990. In *The Sunday Times* (Books), 21 January 1990: H5.

'Between the sheets'. Reviews of AD Harvey. *Sex in Georgian England: attitudes and prejudices from the 1720s to the 1820s*. Duckworth, London 1994. Michael Mason. *The making of Victorian sexual attitudes*. Oxford University Press, Oxford & New York 1994. In *The Sunday Times* (Books, section 7), 16 October 1994: 5.

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### **Tabloid (UK newspaper for the Wellcome Foundation Ltd)**

'Take a break from TV and pick up a good book'. Reviews of Laurence Olivier. *Confessions of an actor*. Weidenfeld & Nicolson, London 1982. Graham Greene. *Monsignor Quixote*. Bodley Head, London 1983. Felix Barker, Ralph Hyde. *London as it might have been*. John Murray, London 1982. In *Tabloid* 1982; 1 (5): 4.

'Pages that add their own colour to the stories on film'. Reviews of AJ Cronin. *The citadel*. New English Library, London 1972. Rebecca West. *The return of the soldier*. Fontana, London 1982. Hugh Tinker. *A message from the Falklands: the life and gallant death of David Tinker : from his letters and poems*. Penguin, Harmondsworth 1983. In *Tabloid* 1983; 2 (7).

'Take a dip into some lively knowledge'. Reviews of Alan Bullock, RB Woodings (eds). *The Fontana biographical companion to modern thoughts*. Collins, London 1983. Jennifer S Uglow (ed). *The Macmillan dictionary of women's biography*. Macmillan, London 1984. Ben Weinreb, Christopher Hibbert (eds). *The London encyclopaedia*. Macmillan, London 1983. In *Tabloid* 1984; ?2 (5).

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'I think, therefore I am ready to dispute: Put two scientists together in a book and you get a great row. Roy Porter looks at a good idea that just misses'. Review of Hal Hellman. *Great feuds in science: Ten of the liveliest disputes ever*. John Wiley, New York & Chichester 1998. In *The Times* (London), 9 July 1998: 41.

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'A paean for a lost author: John Bayley's memoir of his wife Iris Murdoch, stricken by Alzheimer's, celebrates their union, says Roy Porter'. Review of John Bayley. *Iris: A memoir of Iris Murdoch*. Duckworth, London 1998. In *The Times* (London), 17 September 1998: 41.

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'Ouch! Read it again: It's all in the mind, pain was never so much fun, says Roy Porter'. Review of Patrick Wall. *Pain: The science of suffering*. Weidenfeld & Nicolson, London 1999. In *The Times* (London), 8 July 1999: 41.

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'A nation of what, exactly?: Roy Porter tangles with the matter of Britain in *The Isles*.' Review of Norman Davies. *The Isles: A history*. Macmillan, London 1999. In *The Times* (London), 11 November 1999: 48.

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'Beam me up, the Divine has been replaced by Star Trek'. Reviews of Victoria Nelson. *The secret life of puppets*. Harvard University Press, Cambridge Mass & London 2001. Gaby Wood. *Living dolls*. Faber & Faber, 2002. In *The Times* (London), 27 February 2002.

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### **University of Chicago Press**

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Harry Oosterhuis. *Stepchildren of nature: Krafft-Ebing, psychiatry, and the making of sexual identity*. University of Chicago Press, Chicago & London 2000.

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### **William and Mary Quarterly**

Review of William R Newman. *Gehennical fire: the lives of George Starkey, an American alchemist in the Scientific Revolution*. Harvard University Press, Cambridge Mass 1994. In *William and Mary Quarterly* 1996; **53** (2): 409-410.

'... "the "lives" of George Starkey. Why the plural? It is because, on coming to England in 1650 as a young Harvard graduate with a knowledge of natural science and a brief period of medical practice and "chymical" activity behind him, Starkey hit on an astute strategy for gaining renown ... in the circles of Samuel Hartlib and, slightly later, Robert Boyle ... he invented an American sage, Eirenaeus Philalethes, a mysterious adept in the alchemical arts, with whom he claimed to be uniquely in touch ... So ingrained in the culture of alchemy was the folklore of weird wandering adepts that Starkey was able, for the rest of his short life (he was unfortunate enough to die in the Great Plague of 1665), to maintain the dual identity. He wrote various works of alchemical theory and practice under the Philalethes name and ... at the same time operated in London as a part-time physician and a practical chemist and alchemist ... To us it might seem that this posture involved Starkey and others in self-serving contortions, but it must be remembered that Starkey had no other claims on income and attention than his avowals of unique gifts and expertise. With no tenured post or prospects of secure patents, he had little alternative but to spin elaborate tales ... The deep scholarship of this book is presented to the nonexpert reader with exemplary lucidity ...

Starkey's book should lead to a rethinking of the role of alchemy in the scientific revolution – a term that, finally, in my judgement, Newman does well to retain.'