

## Instructions for Contributors

Many thanks for agreeing, or wishing, to write for Viewpoint! Hopefully these brief instructions should answer any questions you might have about what you have been asked to write or wish to submit for the BSHS newsletter. If, however, you still have a specific enquiry to make then please email me at [newsletter@bshs.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@bshs.org.uk).

Melanie Keene, editor

### Copy deadlines

Copy deadlines are set as follows:  
15th December - for the February issue  
15th April - for the June issue  
15th August - for the October issue

If you require an extension then please contact the editor in good time.

### House style

Viewpoint is intended as an informal publication; all articles should therefore be written for a general audience. No footnotes are usually included. Please use figures for numbers over 15 (e.g. 19th-century rather than nineteenth-century). Please use UK spellings.

### Submitting images

If possible images should be supplied in .tif format, at 300dpi resolution. You are responsible for obtaining copyright permissions and for attributing ownership. A small budget is available for help with funding these if necessary - contact the editor for further information.

### The object of the issue

Either a commissioned piece or a submitted article, this column focuses on one object from the history of science: an instrument or artefact, building, substance, etc. In particular, it addresses the themes of material culture and heritage, embodied history of science, things and practices. It should be 800 words long, with 1 illustration (supplied by the author).

### Reviews: Books/Television/ Exhibitions/Radio/Web

Reviews of books, television and radio programmes, museum exhibitions, and websites should be approximately 600 words long. Try to give a balanced summary of the main topics and argument, what you found particularly striking (either good or bad). Remember the wide range of Viewpoint readers beyond the academic historian of science community, and consider whether they would find the book, programme, exhibit or site of use or of interest. The editor will arrange for any appropriate illustrations for the review, unless the author has any particular suggestions.

### Conference reports

Conference reports should be approximately 600 words long, and ideally should be accompanied by 2 photographs of the event itself. Please let the editor know who was the photographer, if they are not your pictures. You should give a flavour of the event's main themes and speakers, as well as any additional special sessions or trips. Rather than just repeating the conference schedule (usually available elsewhere), think about how to communicate the atmosphere and anything particularly interesting about the event.

### Announcements

Brief notices of awards, conferences, jobs, requests for information, details of research discoveries, and communications from other societies and institutions are encouraged for consideration. Please keep these brief - 250 words at a maximum.

### The feature article

The feature article is approximately 2,000 words long, and usually includes 3 pictures. It is intended to introduce recent academic research in the history of science to the wide range of BSHS members, but is not a journal article. Try, then, to pitch your piece for an educated general reader, writing in an entertaining and informative matter. In general, use no footnotes.

### Viewpoint column

Either a commissioned piece or a submitted commentary, this column is an opportunity to reflect on the particular theme of the issue, on different roles within the community of BSHS members, and on the historiography of the discipline as a whole. It should be 800 words long, with 1 illustration (which is usually found by the editor).

### BSHS grant report

Unfortunately we do not have space to include all submitted BSHS grant reports in the printed publication. Reports will, however, be made available online. If possible, these should be 500-800 words long, with at least 1 illustration.

### Professional development

Please contact the editor if you would like to contribute to our occasional series of articles giving advice on professional development for early career researchers.

### Letters to the editor

Your feedback - both positive and negative - is welcomed. Please email all correspondence to the editor at the above address, stating whether you would like your words to be published or not. Try to keep your points brief as we have limited space to print letters; and please note that letters may also be edited (with acknowledgement) before publication.

### Interview

Interviewees should be contacted by a member of the Viewpoint team or Outreach and Education Committee, and a face-to-face meeting or electronic correspondence arranged. If you have additional suggestions for an interview subject (either yourself or someone else), please contact the editor.

### Other

For any other potential contributions, please contact the editor in the first instance.



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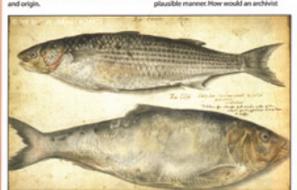
### Digital Curatorship for Scientific Creativity

The exhibition *Beautiful Minds*, capturing the spirit of Nobel achievements, at the British Library until 15 March 2006, celebrates 100 years of recognition bestowed on great scientists and authors, highlighting the role of creative milieu in encouraging originality. During this time there have been major changes in the way science is done. The scientific community has grown much larger, scientific data, analysis and communication have become increasingly digital and, through the internet, accessible. How will curation capture future scientific achievement and creativity? What manner will historical information be selectively retained and transmitted from generation to generation in the digital era?

What helps truth to survive, as far as possible, in the complexity and volume of the primary sources, the way different archival collections emanating from different places can be time for comparison. There are no sure guides to authenticity of information; but one of the reasons why archives are kept on professional collections from individuals is that they give an integrity due for one thing, to the difficulty of removing or tampering with specific historical events.

Existing search engines would allow deletion of any mention of an event or an individual in all cases. However, archive towards Robert Hooke's intellectual legacy, and to do in minutes what might require months with paper manuscripts (short of burning the text) in the new era of digital storage will be able to go through an individual's digital holdings and amend personal history in a plausible manner. How would an archive interpret, but the writer of an ancestral manuscript may need to use and subsequent misapprehensions may be repeated in the writings of others. Modern historians have to respect the evidence, to test for its situation and origin.

Figure 2 (see page 8). Following Francis Bacon's *Novum Organum* (1620), his teacher and mentor Roger Bacon had introduced his views for publication. This title shows Bacon and Shal. BL, Additior MS.5308; f.16r. "A Book of fishes done at Hamburg with Mr. Ray's note"



### Editorial

Welcome to the refreshed Newsletter of the British Society for the History of Science. With the hope that this is the place to which all those with an interest in the history of science will come to read and express their views, it has been revised three points. This as well as carrying the usual reports, news and listings, we are including feature articles, reviews and a host of interesting and entertaining regular items. Viewpoint also takes on the aims of our former publication, *Education Forum*. The intention is, therefore, to appeal to a broad constituency and to represent the views of teachers, museum curators and library professionals and those with a general interest in the history of science as well as our academic membership. In order to make a success of this exciting initiative, we need the enthusiastic cooperation of our members. If you would like to contribute items - e.g. to our series on the history of science fiction - articles, conference reports or reviews of suitable books, films, plays, exhibitions, websites or television programmes, please contact me at [newsletter@bshs.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@bshs.org.uk).