

# ANNOUNCING

# Arabic Sciences and Philosophy

## A Historical Journal

This **NEW** international journal publishes original studies on the history of the Arabic sciences, mathematics and philosophy in the world of Islam between the eighth and the eighteenth centuries. It also includes studies of the inter-relations between the Arabic, Greek, and Indian sciences and philosophy, and Latin, Byzantine, Hebrew, Italian and other European sciences and philosophy. Articles are published in English, French or German with abstracts in all three languages.

Subscription, Volume 1 1990, March and September: £28 for individuals; £48 for institutions; £25 for single parts; airmail £7 per year extra.  
ISSN 0957-4239

### OF RELATED INTEREST

## Science in Context

This interdisciplinary journal is devoted to the study of the sciences from the points of view of comparative epistemology and historical sociology of scientific knowledge. The Spring issue 1990 will be a **special issue** entitled 'The Place of Knowledge: the Spatial Setting and its Relation to the Production of Knowledge'.

For a **free sample copy**, or **more information**, please write to: Cambridge University Press, Journals Publicity Department, FREEPOST\*, The Edinburgh Building, Shaftesbury Road, Cambridge, CB2 1BR. (\*No postage required if posted in the UK.)



## THE BRITISH SOCIETY FOR THE HISTORY OF SCIENCE

**Membership** of the Society, which normally includes a subscription to *The British Journal for the History of Science*, is open to all persons approved by the Council of the Society and elected at an ordinary meeting. The annual subscription for the membership year 1990 is £18.50 (\$40.00) or £9.25 (\$25.00) for associate membership, which includes students at centres of higher education. There is an Introductory Offer for ordinary members who pay £14.00 (\$30.00) for the first year. Applications for membership should be made on a form which is available from the Society's Executive Secretary at the address below.

**Meetings:** The Society mounts an ambitious programme of meetings. The pattern is flexible, the only fixture being the three day summer meeting, held at a different British University or Polytechnic each year. About four other meetings, lasting for between one and three days, are held during the year, sometimes devoted to a clearly-defined theme or an important anniversary, and often arranged in conjunction with other scholarly societies.

The *British Journal for the History of Science* is the official organ of the Society. All correspondence on the contents of the *Journal* should be addressed to the Editor, Dr J.H. Brooke, Department of History, University of Lancaster, Lancaster LA1 4YG, England.

**Books for review** should be sent to the Reviews Editor, Dr John Hendry, 58 Canfield Gardens, London NW6 3EB.

**Advertising:** Contact the Advertising Department, Blackwell Scientific Publications, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 0EL. Fax no. (0865) 721205.

**Other publications:** BSHS Monograph Series is designed to allow the publication of monographic studies in the history of science quickly and cheaply. All correspondence on the subject of monographs, and any new suggestions for titles, should be sent to the Series Editor, Dr J. G. Smith, Department of History, University of Leicester, Leicester, Leics LE1 7RH, England. Monographs are available to members at a special price, post-free from the Society's Executive Secretary. Non-members may obtain them through bookshops, or post-free from the Executive Secretary. Titles are as follows:

2. *The Letters of Georges Cuvier: A Summary Calendar*. Ed. by Dorinda Outram. 1980. £4.50/\$10.00 (£3.50/\$8.00 to members).

3. *Rationality and Ritual: The Windscale Inquiry and Nuclear Decisions in Britain*. By Brian Wynne. 1982. £7.00/\$15.00 (£5.00/\$11.00 to members).

4. *The Royal Society and Its Fellows 1660–1700: The Morphology of an Early Scientific Institution*. By Michael Hunter. 1982, reprinted 1985. £9.00/\$19.00 (£6.50/\$14.00 to members).

5. *Francis Bacon's Natural Philosophy: A New Source. A Transcription of Manuscript Hardwick 72A with Translation and Commentary*. By Graham Rees, assisted by Christopher Upton. 1984. £7.90/\$17.00 (£5.60/\$12.00 to members).

6. *Archives of the British Chemical Industry, 1750–1914: A Handlist*. By Peter J. T. Morris and Colin A. Russell. Contributing editor John Graham Smith. 1988. £14.50/\$31.00 (£9.00/\$19.00 to members).

**Lists of theses:** Each year, the Society publishes a full list of current theses in history of science in British universities. This is available free to members, and at £3.00 (\$6.00) to non-members on request to the Executive Secretary. Standing orders are accepted from members or non-members who wish to receive the list regularly.

The Society's *Newsletter*, an informal publication edited by Dr Frank A. J. L. James, RICHST, The Royal Institution, 21 Albemarle Street, London W1X 4BS, appears in January, May and September each year. It is free to members, £6.00 (\$12.00) for institutions and non-members.

All the administrative business of the Society is handled by The Executive Secretary, Wing Commander G. Bennett, 31 High Street, Stanford in the Vale, Faringdon, Oxfordshire SN7 8LH.

Volume 23  
Part 1 No. 76

## March 1990

- 1 Editorial
- 3 **Michael Ben-Chaim:** Social mobility and scientific change: Stephen Gray's contribution to electrical research
- 25 **Graeme Gooday:** Precision measurement and the genesis of physics teaching laboratories in Victorian Britain
- 53 **Ruth Barton:** 'An Influential Set of Chaps': The X-Club and Royal Society Politics 1864–1885
- Essay Reviews**
- 83 **Deborah Jean Warner:** What is a scientific instrument, when did it become one, and why?
- 95 **A.G. Molland:** A very astronomical poet
- 99 Book Reviews
- 125 Books Received



*Published for*  
*by*

**The British Society for the History of Science**  
**Blackwell Scientific Publications**

Oxford · London · Edinburgh · Boston · Melbourne

© The British Society for the History of Science 1990

Printed in Great Britain at the Alden Press, Oxford