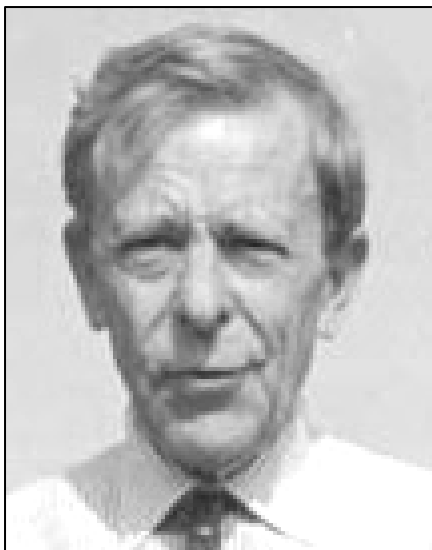


Colin A. Russell (1928– 1990)



Colin Archibald Russell was born on September 7, 1928 in London, England and received his early education at the Epsom Grammar School and University College, Hull. After taking a B. Sc. at the University of London he was an assistant lecturer in chemistry at the Kingston Technical College (1950–1959) and then lecturer, senior lecturer and principal lecturer in organic chemistry at Harris College, Preston (1959–1970). During this time he received an M. Sc. (1958) and Ph.D. (1962) from the University of London in the history and philosophy of science, and later the D.Sc. (1978). In 1970 he founded the department of the history of science and technology at the Open University, where he remained for the rest of his career and is now emeritus professor. Russell's research interests are in the history of all aspects of the chemical science, relations between science and religion, science and the environment, and the history of railways.

Russell is a Chartered Chemist and Fellow of the Royal Society of Chemistry, an organization in which he served as a member of the Parliamentary Links Scheme (1978–present) and on the Council (1999–2002). He was president of the British Society for the History of Science (1986–1988) and has been president of Christians in Science, vice-president of the Universities and Colleges Christian Fellowship, a trustee of the John Ray Initiative, and a founding member of the International Society for Science and Religion.

Russell has written several hundred reviews, short articles, scientific papers and book chapters, including most recently: "Chemical Techniques in a Pre-electronic Age: The Remarkable Apparatus of Edward Frankland," chapter in *Instruments and Experimentation in the History of Chemistry*, ed. F. L. Holmes and T. H. Levere (2000); "The Centrality of the "Chemical Revolution" for Later Industrial Change: A Challenge for Industrial Archaeology," *Transactions of The International Committee for the Conservation of the Industrial Heritage* (2000); "Where Science and History Meet: Some Fresh Challenges to the Christian Faith?," *Faith & Thought Bulletin* (2001); "Conflict of Science and Religion" and "Views of Nature," chapters in *History of Science and Religion: An Encyclopedia*, ed. G. Ferngren, (2000); "Chemistry in Society," chapter in *The New Chemistry*, ed. Nina Hall, (2000); "Advances in Organic Chemistry Over the Last 100 Years," *Annual Reports on the Progress of Chemistry, Section B* (2004); and "Richard Watson: Gaiters and Gunpowder," chapter in *The 1702 Chair of Chemistry at Cambridge: Transformation and Change*, ed. M. Archer and C. Haley (2005).

His many books include: *The History of Valency* (1971); *Science and Religious Belief: A Selection of Recent Historical Studies* (1973); *Chemists by Profession: The Origins and Rise of the Royal Institute of Chemistry* (with Gerrylynn K. Roberts and Noel George Coley, 1977); *Science and Social Change in Britain and Europe 1700-1900* (1984); *Lancastrian Chemist: The Early Years of Sir Edward Frankland* (1986); *The Rise of Scientific Europe, 1500-1800*, (ed. with D. C. Goodman, 1991); *The Earth, Humanity and God* (1994); *Edward Frankland: Chemistry, Controversy and Conspiracy in Victorian England* (1996); *Michael Faraday: Physics and Faith* (2000); *Chemistry, Society and Environment: A New History of the British Chemical Industry* (2000); and *Recent Developments in the History of Chemistry*, (Vol. II, co-ed. with G. K. Roberts,, 2005). He has also contributed to several Open University teaching units and TV programs.

Russell was the 1990 recipient of the Dexter Award, for his outstanding contributions to the history of chemistry. He received the David Mellor Medal from the University of New South Wales in 1995.

Colin Russell died on May 17, 2013.

Sources

Biographical information provided by Colin A. Russell.

Photo courtesy of Colin A. Russell.