

The Romance of Science: Essays in Honour
of Trevor H. Levere

Archimedes

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VOLUME 52

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The Romance of Science: Essays in Honour of Trevor H. Levere

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ISSN 1385-0180

ISSN 2215-0064 (electronic)

Archimedes

ISBN 978-3-319-58435-5

ISBN 978-3-319-58436-2 (eBook)

DOI 10.1007/978-3-319-58436-2

Library of Congress Control Number: 2017944446

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Printed on acid-free paper

This Springer imprint is published by Springer Nature

The registered company is Springer International Publishing AG

The registered company address is: Gewerbestrasse 11, 6330 Cham, Switzerland

Contents

1	Trevor Levere, Affinities That Matter	1
	Ernie Hamm	
2	Elements, Instruments, and Menstruums: Boerhaave’s Imponderable Fire Between Chemical Masterpiece and Physical Axiom	9
	Victor D. Boantz	
3	At the Medical Edge or, The Beddoes Effect	47
	Larry Stewart	
4	“Men of Letters” and “Men of Press Copies”: The Cultures of James Watt’s Copying Machine	65
	David Philip Miller	
5	Poetry, Chemistry, and Wisdom	81
	David Knight	
6	Facts or Fantasies in the Chemistry Lecture Theatre?	95
	Robert G.W. Anderson	
7	Poetry in War and War in Nature. From Vauban to <i>Naturphilosophie</i> to Clausewitz	117
	Janis Langins	
8	John Herschel’s Geology: The Cape of Good Hope in the 1830s	135
	Gregory A. Good	
9	More Food for Thought: Mill, Coleridge and the Dismal Science of Economics	151
	Margaret Schabas	

10	“These Can Not All Have an Interest for England”: Symmetry, Beauty and the Trouble with Romanticism in Britain	163
	Gordon McOuat	
11	Science Born of Poison, Fire and Smoke: Chemical Warfare and the Origins of Big Science	181
	Andrew Ede	
12	Politics, Morality, Innovation, and Misrepresentation in Physical Science and Technology	201
	Jed Buchwald	
13	Fishing an Extreme Environment: Science, Sovereignty and Hudson Bay	219
	Jennifer Hubbard	
14	Collectors, Displays and Replicas in Context: What We Can Learn from Provenance Research in Science Museums	255
	David Pantalony	
15	Context, Connections and Culture: The History of Science in Canada as a Field of Study	277
	Suzanne Zeller	
	Index	301

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David Knight Reading chemistry at Oxford, **David Knight** was tempted into history by Alistair Crombie and put to work on Humphry Davy with Sir Harold Hartley as my guide. Ignorantly supposing that the Romantics were hostile to science, he was astonished to find that Davy was a close friend of S. T. Coleridge and through him of William Wordsworth and Walter Scott: they all hoped for a dynamic science, especially chemistry. Coleridge and Davy had been brought together by the enthusiast for chemical medicine, Thomas Beddoes, and Trevor's researches and David's were complementary; they met and made friends. In 1964, he was appointed to start history of science in the Philosophy Department at Durham University, while Trevor went to Canada; both settled happily and have kept in close contact ever since. Both have focused especially on the Revolutionary and Romantic periods, but ranged more widely as one thing led to another. David remarks, "I'm very grateful to have had so good a friend and helpful critic as Trevor right through my career."

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