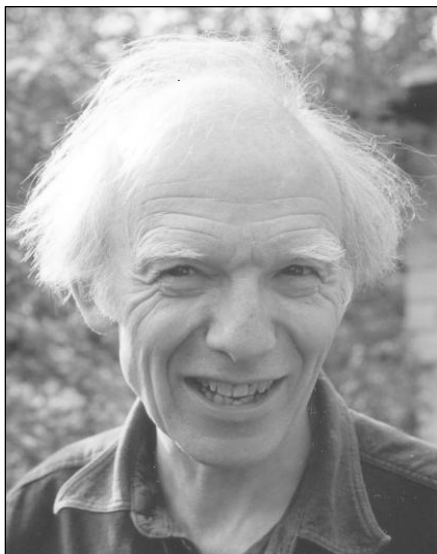


David M. Knight (1936– 2018)



David M. Knight was born on November 30, 1936 in Exeter, England and received all of his education at Oxford (B.A. Keble College, 1960; M.A. and D. Phil. both 1964.) In 1964 he joined the Philosophy Department at the University of Durham, where has spent his entire career and is now professor emeritus.

His research interests include studies in the history and bibliography of science since 1600, especially science and scientific institutions in relation to philosophy and religion in nineteenth century Britain, scientific biography, and the language and illustration of science, especially chemistry. Knight teaches courses in history of science, and science and religion, and supervises undergraduate student dissertations. He also mentors graduate students interested in conducting research in science from the eighteenth or nineteenth centuries.

Knight has published extensively in journals and given numerous presentations at scientific conferences. Some of his more recent papers are: "Humphry Davy: Science and Social Mobility," *Endeavour* 24 (2000): 165–169; "Scientific Lectures: A History of Performance," *Interdisciplinary Science Reviews* 27 (2002): 217–224; "Exalting Understanding Without Depressing the Imagination," *Hyle* 9 (2003): 171–189; and "Popularizing Chemistry: Hands-on and Hands-off," *Hyle* 12 (2006): 131–140. Knight has contributed chapters to several books, notably "Then ... and Now," in P. Morris ed., *From Classical to Modern Chemistry: The Instrumental Revolution* (2002) and "Scientists and their Publics," in M.J. Nye ed., *The Cambridge History of Science, Vol. 5: The Modern Physical and Mathematical Sciences* (2003).

Knight's books include: *Ideas in Chemistry: a History of the Science*, 2nd ed. (1995); *Humphry Davy: Science and Power*, 2nd ed., (1998); *Science in the Romantic Era*, (1998); *The Making of the Chemist: the Social History of Chemistry in Europe 1789–1914* (edited with Helge Kragh, 1998); *Science and Spirituality: the Volatile Connection*, (2004); *Science and Beliefs: From Natural Philosophy to Natural Science, 1700–1900*, (edited with M. D. Eddy, 2005); and *Public Understanding of Science in the 19th Century* (2006). In addition to his many published works, he has been featured on several BBC radio and television programs, most recently a special about Joseph Priestley that was aired in February 2004 on the anniversary of Priestley's death.

Knight is past editor of the Cambridge University Press scientific biography series and currently General Editor of the Ashgate Series on History of Science & Technology. He is on the editorial boards of *Annals of Science*, *Ambix*, and *Foundations of Chemistry* and has been on the Council of The Society for the History of Natural History. Knight has served on a wide variety of scholarly committees, including a term as president of the British Society for the History of Science.

Knight received the Templeton Foundation Award in 1998 for teaching "Science & Religion in the 19th Century." He received the 2003 Sidney M. Edelstein Award for his outstanding achievement in the history of chemistry. He considers the Edelstein Award "an appreciation of history of science here in Durham." David Knight died on January 19, 2018.

Sources

Autobiographical information provided by David M. Knight. See also <http://www.dur.ac.uk/philosophy/staff/?username=df16dmk>

David M. Knight entry in *Biography Resource Center* at <http://www.gale.com/BiographyRC/>.

David M. Knight, "Science and Beliefs," on the web at http://www.ashgate.com/subject_area/downloads/sample_chapters/Science_and_Beliefs_Ch1.pdf

Photo courtesy of David M. Knight.