

Mary Jo Nye (1944–



Mary Jo Nye was born December 5, 1944, and raised in Nashville, Tennessee. Nye completed her undergraduate studies in Chemistry at Vanderbilt University (1962–1964) and the University of Wisconsin, Madison (1964–1965). She received her Ph.D. in History of Science at the University of Wisconsin in 1970.

In 1970 she became a faculty member at the University of Oklahoma, where she was named George Lynn Cross Research Professor in the History of Science in 1991. In 1994, Nye was appointed Thomas Hart and Mary Jones Horning Professor of the Humanities and Professor of History at Oregon State University in Corvallis, where she is also chair of the graduate program in the history of science.

Nye's research interests include: the history of chemistry and physics since the eighteenth century in Western Europe, Great Britain and the United States; the social and cultural history of science, including laboratory science, university education, and the political activities of scientists; and the philosophy of science, especially relations between theory and evidence. Her current research includes studies of the Hungarian-born physical chemist Michael Polanyi and the British physicist and Nobel laureate P.M.S. Blackett. She teaches courses in the history of science, including seminars on Linus Pauling, and the historiography of science.

Nye has been a National Science Foundation Postdoctoral Fellow, University of Oklahoma (1969–1970), Andrew Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow, University of Pittsburgh, (1974–1975), Research Associate, Office for the History of Science and Technology, University of California at Berkeley (1977), National Endowment for the Humanities Fellow, The Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton (1981–1982), Associate Fellow, Rutgers Center for Historical Analysis, Rutgers University (1989–1990), By-Fellow, Churchill College, University of Cambridge (1996, 1998), and Senior Fellow, Dibner Institute for the History of Science and Technology, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (2000–2001). Her Visiting Scholar appointments include: Office for the History of Science and Technology, University of California at Berkeley (1979, 1981, 1983, 1984, 1985, 1987); Department of History and Philosophy of Science, University of Cambridge (1995); the Max Planck Institut für Wissenschaftsgeschichte, Berlin, (1999, 2002, 2004); and Department of History of Science, Harvard University (2000–2001).

Nye has written and edited several books including: *From Chemical Philosophy to Theoretical Chemistry: Dynamics of Matter and Dynamics of Disciplines, 1800–1950* (1993); *Before Big Science: The Pursuit of Modern Chemistry and Physics, 1800–1940* (1999); Ed. *Modern Physical and Mathematical Sciences*, Volume V of *The Cambridge History of Science*, ed. David C. Lindberg and Ronald L. Numbers (2003); and *Blackett: Physics, War, and Politics in the Twentieth Century* (2004).

Nye is a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences (1993) and a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (1998). She received the 1999 Sarton Memorial Award and the 2000 Distinguished Lecture Award from the History of Science Society, and the Herbert J. Reynolds Lectureship in the History and Philosophy of Science, Baylor University, 2003. Nye was the 1999 recipient of the Dexter Award.

Mary Jo Nye is married to Robert A. Nye and they have one daughter, Lesley Nye Barth of Cambridge, Massachusetts.

Sources

Autobiographical information provided by Mary Jo Nye. Her web page is at <http://oregonstate.edu/cla/history/faculty/nyem/>

The Bookshelf Talks With Mary Jo Nye (*American Scientist On-Line*):
<http://www.americanscientist.org/template/ScientistNightstandTypeDetail/assetid/40260;jsessionid=baa6gWCz81>

The Thomas Hart and Mary Jones Horning Chair:
<http://osufoundation.org/givingopportunities/facultysupport/endowedpositions/thethomashartandmaryjoneshorningchair/>

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