

1851 Royal Commission Alumni Association

E-mail Newsletter – July 2003

The Alumni association continues to swell and we welcome those new members who have signed up since the last newsletter. Your entries will be placed on the web site and will be incorporated during the next update, taking place in two phases over July and August. At the same time we will be making any amendments and additions which existing Association members have asked us to make. We hope that you are using the web site (www.1851alumni.org.uk) to identify fellow award winners and professional colleagues. Please let us know if there is any way we can enhance it.

Some recipients of our last newsletter found the font difficult to read, so this time we are using the standard e-mail format, which hopefully will be easier for all. At the same time, to allow for imposed limitations on sending and receiving multiple-addressed e-mails on some systems (including the Royal Commission's!) we are sending this newsletter to smaller batches of addressees. Any which bounce, we will try re-sending as individual e-mails. This way we hope you will all get the message.

Profile of the Commission

After 152 years of existence and 112 years of granting major educational awards, the Commissioners feel that the work of the 1851 Royal Commission should be better known than it is. After all it is a terrific story and we hope that you, as recipients of 1851 major awards, enjoy telling it. For our part, we have had a number of accounts of the work of the Commission published in the national media and for the first time this year we have issued a Press Release announcing the 2003 Industrial Fellowships. This is with the aim of getting this particular award better known in Industry, thereby attracting future applications from a wider range of technology companies.

We would also like to know of any distinctions that you, our alumni, have achieved which we may not have heard about. After all the success of the Commission's fellows is what the 1851 is all about, and we hope you will to continue its enviable record of distinction. So please let us know. One idea we are exploring is the possibility of an Alumnus of the Year award – voted for by you, the Association members.

It is also planned to update and re-launch the Commission's main web site (www.royalcommission1851.org.uk) in early September; this will include more information, as well as the full details of our 2004 awards programme. Again, the aim is to create a more eye-catching site which will broaden awareness of the Commission's work.

Future Alumni activity

In previous newsletters we mentioned the possibility of organising events for alumni to get together from time to time. This was discussed by the Commissioners at their recent Board of Management meeting and they agreed to a proposal by the Science Scholarships Committee to run a pilot event in the autumn of this year. This will involve only current Science Fellows (recently invited to join the Association) in an evening of short presentations on their projects followed by a buffet supper over poster displays. If successful, this formula can then be developed for future events, with wider involvement of alumni. Depending on your views, we are looking at more ambitious events in the future, so please let us know what you think. The aim of the Association is, after all, to bring alumni together, initially via the web, but we hope that enough of you would like some sort of reunion in the future.

2003 Awards

The Commission has just completed the 2003 major awards, which will be announced in The Times. They are as follows:

Research Fellowships

Mr. D. Allsop, University of Edinburgh, Evolutionary Biology at University of Sydney, Australia
Dr. P. Chakraborty, Indian Statistical Inst., Kolkata, Noncommutative Geometry at University of Cardiff

Mrs. B. Ghosh, University of Cambridge, Earthquake Geotechnical Engineering at University of Cambridge

Ms. R. Oliver, University of Oxford, Nanotechnology at University of Cambridge

Mr. G. Simpson, University of Bristol, Organic Chemistry at Massachusetts Inst. of Technology, USA

Miss V. Welch, University of Oxford, Zoology at University of Oxford.

Industrial Fellowships

Mr. M. Briers, QinetiQ Ltd/University of Cambridge. Robust interpretation of structured data.

Mr. T. Drane, Automatic Parallel Designs Ltd/U.M.I.S.T. Digital signal processing.

Mr. A. Mackay, Lotus Engineering/University of Southampton. Active technologies research.

Mr. N. Robertson, QinetiQ Ltd/University of Oxford. Automatic causal reasoning for urban surveillance.

Mr. D. Schottlander, Mirada Solutions Ltd/University of Oxford. Application of the semantic grid to cancer research and diagnosis.

Mr. P. Varney, Thales Optronics/University of Loughborough. Improving the dynamic performance of airborne electro-optic equipment.

Industrial Design Studentships

Mr. P. Brewin, University of Cambridge, Royal College of Art/Imperial College

Mr. A. Corso, Brunel University, Brunel University

Mr. A. Driver, Imperial College, Royal College of Art/Imperial College

Mr. A. Nias, University of Bath, Royal College of Art/Imperial,

Miss R. Roberts, Imperial College, Royal College of Art/Imperial College

Mr. T. Sutcliffe, Imperial College, Royal College of Art/Imperial College

Current Awards Programme

As most of you know, the Commission's current awards programme comprises the annual grant of fellowships for scientific research (both pure and applied) at post-doctoral level, Industrial fellowships (PhD standard) and Industrial Design studentships (for post-graduate courses). In addition the Commission gives occasional special grants to individuals and organisations whose projects are consistent with the aims of the Commission. As with many charitable funds, the decline in stock markets over the past couple of years has reduced the funding available for special grants, but the Commission's core programme of fellowships and studentships continues unaffected, among the country's most prestigious and valuable awards.

Publications

In the last newsletter we listed the numerous publications relating to the Great Exhibition and the Royal Commission. These included the recently published history of the Commission, by Hermione Hobhouse, which many of you have already purchased. In addition to that list, this year has seen a biography of Henry Cole, published by the Victoria & Albert Museum and a biography of Joseph Paxton. The 150th anniversary of the move of the Crystal Palace from Hyde Park to Sydenham will be marked next year with a book and an exhibition at the Dulwich Picture Gallery.

Lost Alumni

We are continuing to try to get in touch with 1851 award holders with whom contact has been lost. Do you know the whereabouts of any of the following? If so, please let us know.

Dr. Joseph Ivan Armstrong: R/F 1933-35. From 1947 on staff of Control Commission for Germany. (Probably deceased). Dr. John David Solomon: R/F 1934-36. No information since 1936. Geologist.

(Probably deceased).

Professor R.M. Goody: R/F 1951-53. Was Professor of Applied Physics at Harvard.

Professor M. Onyszchuk: O/S 1954-56. Emeritus Professor at McGill University.

Dr. Michael H. Proctor: O/S 1959-61. Originally from Dublin. From 1965, Foreign Office and Department of Education & Science.

Dr. John Douglas Pearson: R/F 1961-63. From 1966 with Research Analysis Corporation, Virginia, USA

Professor P.J. Herley: O/S 1961-63. Was Professor at University of New York at Stony Brook

Dr. Morris Kaplan: O/S 1965-68. From 1970 at M.D. Anderson Hospital and Tumor Institute, University of Texas. Originally from Cape Town.

Dr. John Gilbert Jones: R/F 1966-68. 1968 - at School of Earth Sciences, Macquarie University.

Dr. Brian A. Foster: O/S 1966-69 at Bangor. From 1969 at Department of Zoology, University of Auckland.

Dr. Muhammad Ramzan: O/S 1967-70 at Oxford. Originally from University of Lyallpur.

Dr. Lorna Jean Bennett (Mrs. Stuart): O/S 1969-72 at Oxford. From 1972 at Harvard University. Originally from Simon Fraser University.

Mr. K.S.E. Hossain: O/S 1970-72. In Switzerland since 1974. Award held at Southampton University.

Dr. Rodney Bowshell: O/S 1971-73 at Oxford. 1974/75 at Department of Mathematics, University of Western Australia.

Dr. Maxwell Kac: O/S 1972-74. 1974-76 at University of Hamburg. Originally from Universities of Melbourne and ANU.

Dr. Valerie Allyson Stoute: O/S 1973-75 at King's College London. Originally from Universities of W. Indies and Toronto.

Dr. Duncan M.F. Edwards: O/S 1980-83. Last heard of at Farmitalia Carlo Erba, Milan.

John Paul Fitzgerald: O/S 1989-92 at University of Stirling and Dunstaffnage Marine Laboratory

Dr. Wesley Phoa: R/F 1991-92. Most recently at Capital Strategies Research, Los Angeles.

Dr. U. Eigbe: R/F 1994-96. Most recently at J.P. Kenny Ltd, Staines, Middlesex.

Dr. A.G.W. Davis: I/F 1990-93. Last at European Patent Agency, Munich

...and finally...

We hope that you find these newsletters interesting and informative. Please remember that this is your association and we would like you to get something useful out of it, both in terms of engagement (or re-engagement!) with the Royal Commission and linking up with fellow alumni. Please do not hesitate to get in touch with me, ideally by e-mail, if you have any ideas for enhancement of the association of future activities, and we will see what we can do.

With every good wish from all of us at the Commission,

Malcolm Shirley,

Secretary