

# **ORAL HISTORY OF SCIENCE COLLECTIONS AND PROJECTS**

This list was compiled by Simone Turchetti<sup>1</sup> as an appendix to 'The Oral History of Science in Britain: A Scoping Survey' for National Lives Stories in September 2007:

---

<sup>1</sup> Centre for the History of Science, Technology and Medicine (CHSTM), University of Manchester. E-mail: [simone.turchetti@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:simone.turchetti@manchester.ac.uk).

## **APPENDIX 1: ORAL HISTORY PROJECTS**

### ***1. In Britain. Focussing on science, technology and medicine:***

#### ***Before the 1960s***

IET Faraday Medallists films, Institution of Engineering and Technology, London<sup>2</sup>

#### ***1960-69***

Scientists in British Industry, 1964-1967, British Library<sup>3</sup>

Experiment: A Series of Scientific Case Histories, 1964, BBC<sup>4</sup>

#### ***1970-79***

Science Studies Unit (SSU) Oral History Project (genetics), 1969-1971, University of Edinburgh<sup>5</sup>

SSU Oral History Project (science), 1969-1971, University of Edinburgh<sup>6</sup>

---

<sup>2</sup> Issues covered: Strictly speaking this is not oral history. But from as early as 1918, the winners of the Faraday Medal are asked to present their life and work in a speech recorded on a 16mm film (and more recently on U-matic videotape). The films have a duration of about 15 minutes. Interview subjects: 95 medallists including E. Rutherford, E. Appleton, George Thomson, Mark Oliphant, Nevill Mott, Bernard Lovell, Oliver Lodge, John Cockcroft, Hermann Bondi. Location of videos: IET Archives, London.

<sup>3</sup> Issues covered: these are interviews made by Stephen Cotgrove in preparation for his book, (Gerald Waters and Stephen Cotgrove (eds.), *Scientists in the British Industry*, Bath: University Press, 1967) and then given to the British Library. Interview subjects: 11 chemists. Location of Transcripts: BL Sound Archive.

<sup>4</sup> Issues covered: Talks by distinguished scientists conducted by David O. Edge for the BBC. Edge worked at BBC from 1959 to 1966. (further information in David Bloor, "David Owen Edge: Obituary", *Social Studies of Science*, 33 (2003): 171-6). Interview subjects: Peter Medawar, Hermann Bondi, Otto Frisch, R. V. Jones. Published as a monograph titled D. O. Edge, *Experiment: A Series of Scientific Case Histories* (London: BBC, 1964).

<sup>5</sup> Issues covered: Developments at the Institute of Animal Genetics, University of Edinburgh. Interview Subjects: staff at the Institute (mainly geneticists): Francis Albert Eley Crew, Alan William Greenwood, John Alexander Fraser Roberts, J. M. Robson, Guido Pontecorvo, Alick Buchanan Smith, Lord Balerno, Hugh Paterson Donald, Pio Koller, Dame Honor Bridget Fell (Director of Strangeways Research Laboratory, Cambridge), Charlotte Auerbach. Location: transcripts at SSU, University of Edinburgh; original open reels at the School of Scottish Studies, University of Edinburgh; digital copies at the British Library Sound Archive.

<sup>6</sup> Issues covered: science and scientists of distinction in Britain. Interview subjects: William Lawrence Bragg, Alfred Charles Bernard Lovell, John Boyd Orr (1880-1971), Frederick Stratten Russell, Geoffrey

Pioneers of Computing, 1975-1980, Science Museum<sup>7</sup>

Astronomy Transformed, 1976, SSU<sup>8</sup>

Concorde Oral History Project, 1979, British Library<sup>9</sup>

### **1980-89**

History of Fusion interviews, 1981-1982, Churchill Archive, Cambridge<sup>10</sup>

20<sup>th</sup> century British meteorologists, 1983-, Royal Meteorological Society, Exeter<sup>11</sup>

---

Ingram Taylor, Maurice Yonge (1899-1986) and Sir Harold Hartley. Location: transcripts at SSU, University of Edinburgh; original open reels at the School of Scottish Studies, University of Edinburgh; digital copies at the British Library Sound Archive.

<sup>7</sup> Issue Covered: Development of computing in Britain and the US, including development of chief British computing machines such as the Pilot ACE, the Colossus, and the Manchester “Baby”. The project was led by computing scientist Christopher Riche Evans with the support of the Science Museum and the National Physical Laboratory at Teddington. Evans’ initial plan was to broadcast a radio series on BBC. It eventually led to a publication (C. Evans, *Pioneers of Computing*, London: Science Museum, 1981) which includes 10 C-60 audiocassettes. More information in: H. S. Tropp, “Pioneers of Computing (review),” *Annals of the History of Computing* vol. 3, num. 4 (1981), pp. 417-420. Interview Subjects: 30 computer pioneers including British computing developers such as: Tom Kilburn, F. C. Williams, Andrew D. Booth, John Pinkerton, Maurice V. Wilkes, James H. Wilkinson, Donald W. Davies, Michael Woodger. Location: Science Museum, London.

<sup>8</sup> Project developed by David O. Edge, SSU director and Michael Mulkay, University of York in which it is examined the development of the two chief radio astronomy research groups in Britain during the 20th century: Jodrell Bank, University of Manchester and Martin Ryle’s group at Cambridge University. Edge was a radio-astronomy student in the 1950s. Interview subjects: 20. Transcripts in D. O. Edge and M. Mulkay, *Astronomy Transformed: The emergence of radio-astronomy in Britain*, New York: Wiley, 1976.

<sup>9</sup> Issues covered: document the origins and development of the Concorde airliner in preparation for the book Kenneth Owen, *Concorde, new shape in the sky*, London, 1982. The project continued until 2001. Interview subjects: several engineers and technicians including Archibald Russell, Technical Director, Bristol Aircraft and deputy technical director, Concorde Anglo-French engineering organisation, Sir James Hamilton, Director-General, Concorde at the Ministry of Aviation 1966-70. Also see: K. Owen, *Concorde and the Americans: International Politics of the Supersonic Aircraft*, Shrewsbury: Airlife published in association with the Science Museum, London, 1997.

<sup>10</sup> Issues covered: history of fusion research in the UK as well as the establishment of fusion research at Culham Laboratory. Much of the information available is in J. H. Hendry, John Davis Lawson, *Fusion Research in the UK, 1945-1960*, Atomic Energy Agency (AEA). John Hendry collected interviews between 1981 and 1982 with R. S. Pease, Moses Blackman, Peter Thonemann, R. Carruthers, D. W. Fry, H. A. B. Bodin, and others, **but they were not recorded**. Some recorded interviews have been deposited at the Churchill Archives Centre in Cambridge as part of Lawson’s “History of Fusion” collection (ref. GBR/0014/HIFU). There are transcripts of interviews with Sir John Cockcroft and Sir George P. Thomson (broadcast January 1958), transcript and tape recording of interview of A. J. Croft by Thonemann (1982).

<sup>11</sup> Issues covered: research activities of leading British meteorologists in the 20th century, especially with regards to the role of the Met Office in D-Day. Most interviews conducted by Stan Cornford and The Royal Meteorological Society’s History of Meteorology and Physical Oceanography Group. Interview subjects: E. Knighting, Richard J. Odgen, Oliver M. Ashford, Keith A. Browning, FRS, and another 20 meteorologists.

Antarctic Oral Heritage Project, 1985-2007, British Antarctic Survey<sup>12</sup>

Medical Sciences Video Archive, 1985-, Oxford Brookes University<sup>13</sup>

Royal Society of Chemistry interviews, 1987, British Library<sup>14</sup>

### **1990-99**

Wellcome Witnesses to Twentieth Century Medicine Seminars, 1990-, University College London<sup>15</sup>

Oral History of General Practice in Britain between 1935 and 1952, 1992-4, Wellcome Unit for the History of Medicine, University of Oxford<sup>16</sup>

---

Interviews are audio-visual and their records can be retrieved at the website <http://www.metoffice.gov.uk/corporate/library/catalogue.html> searching for "RMS interviews".

<sup>12</sup> Issues covered: The British Antarctic Survey's Archive Service began an Oral Heritage programme in 1985. By 2007 23 interviews had been completed, and the list of potential interviewees identified by the BAS Club and Archives Service stands at over 60. The project is overseen by a Steering Committee which includes Gordon Devine, David Drewry (on the scientists side) and Chris Lee (oral history interviewer) (see <http://www.antarctica.ac.uk/basclub/heritagebrochure2006.pdf>).

<sup>13</sup> Issues covered: Interviews with distinguished scientists and doctors as well as Fellows of the Royal College of Physicians. Most of the interviews were conducted by Max Blythe have been filmed and edited in the University's television studio, under the technical direction of David Dillon, the production officer in the Audio Visual Unit. Interview Subjects: 130 notable figures in clinical medicine and science including Dorothy Hodgkin, Maurice Wilkins, Walter Bodmer, Kay Davies, Lord Phillips of Ellesmere and more recently, 11 prominent British anaesthetists. The School of Biological and Molecular Sciences and the School of Humanities at Oxford Brookes University are currently involved in a joint project to publicise the Archive, and to transcribe and index interviews to improve access to the collection. The work is being carried out by Dr Carol Beadle and Susannah Wright, and is funded by a grant from the Wellcome Trust held by Professor Anne Digby of the School of Humanities. Location: School of Biological and Molecular Sciences, Oxford Brookes, Oxford.

<sup>14</sup> Issues covered: interviews with leading chemists in Britain in preparation for a video. Interviewed subjects: Harry Emeléus (chemist), Dorothy Hodgkin (bio-chemist), George Porter (chemist). Prepared by Moira Donnelly. Note: **Porter's interview is closed**. Location: British Library (C454).

<sup>15</sup> Issues covered: The history of 20th century medicine. The programme is developed by the UCL group including Tilli Tansey, Lois Reynolds, Daphne Christie and Wendy Kutner. The Witness seminars are meetings to which individuals associated with a particular set of circumstances or events in recent medical history are invited to discuss, debate, agree or disagree amongst themselves about their reminiscences in a chairman-led meeting. Between 1993 and 2006, the Wellcome Trust has published 29 volumes which are transcripts of the seminars and the discussions range from monoclonal antibodies to maternal care, leukaemia and hip replacement. More info at: <http://www.ucl.ac.uk/histmed/publications/wellcome-witnesses/index.html>). The programme is also described in E. M. Tansey, "Witnessing the Witnesses: pitfalls and potentials of the Witness Seminar in twentieth century medicine," in R. Doel, T. Söderqvist, *Writing Recent Science: the historiography of contemporary science, technology and medicine*, London: Routledge, 2006, pp. 260-78.

Oral History of the Contraceptive Pill, 1992-1998, British Library<sup>17</sup>

Scott Polar Research Institute (SPRI) Oral history programme, 1992-2001, University of Cambridge<sup>18</sup>

VEGA Science Trust, 1994- , University of Sussex<sup>19</sup>

Oral History of Defence Electronics, 1995-2005, University of Bournemouth<sup>20</sup>

Fellows of the Royal Society interviews, 1996-7, British Library<sup>21</sup>

General Practitioners Oral History Project, 1997, Oxford Brookes University<sup>22</sup>

---

<sup>16</sup> Conducted by Michael Bevan and now deposited at the BL Sound Archive (C648). 71 Interviews on 246 cassettes. A similar smaller project interviewing Scottish GPs was conducted later.

<sup>17</sup> Issues covered: the history of the contraceptive pill. This was Lara V. Marks' chief research project in the 1990s and it has led to two important collections in the BL Sound Archive. One (C612) contains interviews in preparation for the BBC "Timewatch" programme, "The pill: prescription for revolution" (1992). The other (C1241) contains Marks' interviews in preparation for the book *Sexual Chemistry: a history of the contraceptive pill*, 2001. Interview subjects: 30 members of the public in C612, and 53 scientists, medical practitioners and lay test participants in C1241 (these include an interview with Carl Djerassi). Location: BL Sound Archive.

<sup>18</sup> Issues covered: explorers, scientists, missionaries and others working in the Arctic and Antarctic in connection with SPRI activities. Interview subjects (amongst others): Ray Adie (Geologist), Terence Armstrong (geographer, 1920-1996), Colin Bertram (biologist, 1911-2000), Ken Blaiklock (surveyor), Vivian Fuchs, (geologist and explorer, 1908-1999), Sir Alexander (Sandy) Glen (geographer), John Heap (glaciologist, 1932-2006), Sir Martin Holdgate, Dr Andrei Kapitsa (glaciologist), Robert Moss (physicist), Bernard Stonehouse (Polar biologist), Charles Swithinbank (glaciologist). All interviews by Christopher Warren. Location: SPRI library. Visit: <http://www.spri.cam.ac.uk/library/oralhistory>.

<sup>19</sup> The aim of this programme is 'to create a broadcast platform for science, engineering and technology'. Some interviews are recorded on video rather than audio. Interview subjects: Fred Sanger, John Cornforth. Actively supported by Harry Kroto, Nobel Prize winner. Location: Sussex Innovation Centre, Brighton (partly web-based, <http://vega.org.uk>).

<sup>20</sup> The goals of the programme are to Record, preserve and disseminate information about the developments in electronics (radar and radio engineering). Interview subjects: Phil Rowe, R. G. Wells, E. H. Cooke-Yarborough, D. H. Tomlin. Location: ex-Centre for the History of Defence Electronics, University of Bournemouth, ex-CUDOS (Centre for Understanding Technology through oral sources, ex-Oral History Research Unit, ceased to exist in 2005). The centre has also developed other projects concerning the changing perceptions of technology in the 20th century with children asked to interview older relatives about their memories. In 2004, the oral history interviews have been transferred to the Dorset Record Office Sound Archive.

<sup>21</sup> Issues covered: Pilot oral history project championed by Michael Atiyah, FRS, to video record leading FRSs figures. Interview Subjects: George Porter (chemist), Francis Graham Hall (astronomer), Nicholas Kurti (physicist), John Polkinhorne (mathematician and physicist). Interviews by Max Blythe.

<sup>22</sup> Issues covered: general practice in Britain. The collection follows a study of Prof. Anne Digby on the subject, which has also led to the publication of a monograph titled: *The Evolution of General Practice in Britain, 1850-1948*. Location: History of Medicine Archival Collections, Oxford Brookes University, Oxford.

Ove Arup Oral History Project, 1997, Churchill Archive, Cambridge<sup>23</sup>

British Rocketry Oral History Programme, 1998, unclear<sup>24</sup>

The oral history of science project, 1998, Science Museum Library, London<sup>25</sup>

### ***Launched after 2000***

BT People's Connected Earth, 2000, web-based<sup>26</sup>

Tapes and Videos of the Laboratory of Molecular Biology (LMB), MRC, Cambridge<sup>27</sup>

---

<sup>23</sup> Issue covered: interviews with engineers and architects who knew or worked with Ove Nyquist Arup, the prominent Anglo-Danish structural engineer and founder of the firm Arup&Co. Interview subjects: (about 20 individuals interviewed by Louise Brodie) including: Professor Sir Alan Harris, Michael Grice, Peter Moro, John Blanchard, Edward Mills, Francis Skinner, Dame Jane Drew, Roger Rigby, William Tatton-Brown, Ruth Winawer, June Mardall, Sir Gerhard Jacob [Jack] Zunz, Ronald Hobbs, Geoffrey Wood, David Armstrong, Yuzo Mikami, George Dell & Vic Kemp, Betty Jenkins, Professor Sir Alan Harris, Michael Grice, Peter Moro, John Blanchard, Edward Mills, Sir Denys Lasdun, Francis Skinner, Dame Jane Drew, Roger Rigby, William Tatton-Brown, June Mardall, Ruth Winawer, Sir Gerhard Jacob [Jack] Zunz, Ronald Hobbs, Paul Ahm, Geoffrey Wood, John Nutt). Location: Churchill College Archive Centre and BL Sound Archive (C765).

<sup>24</sup> Issues covered: experiences of those who worked on the British rocketry programme in the 1950s and 1960s. More than oral history as such, this is an organisation uniting researchers involved in rocketry in Britain in the 1950s and 1960s, and historians presenting papers at conferences. The bulletin *Prospero* contains a transcript from an interview with Mary Whitehead. For more information contact: Dave Wright at [brohp2@aol.com](mailto:brohp2@aol.com).

<sup>25</sup> Issues covered: oral history project set up by the British Society for the History of Science to commemorate its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Covers the decades 1945-65. Anna-K. Mayer has sought to find out: who were the individuals involved in this expansion; what factors contributed to its coming about; what purposes did the subject serve; what changes did it undergo; what audiences and functions had the BSHS; and how was the process of expansion situated within the larger cultural and political context of the time. See A. K. Mayer, "I have been very fortunate," *BJHS* 32 (1999), 223-235. Interview Subjects: 29 historians of science including: David Allen, Asa Briggs, Bill Brock, Angus Buchanan, Maurice Crosland, Alistair Duncan, David Edge, Kathleen Farrar, Robert Fox, Frank Greenaway, Rupert Hall and Marie Boas Hall, Mary Hesse, Michael Hoskin, Alex Keller, David Knight, Stephen Mason, Jack Meadows, Jack Morrell, Arnold Pacey, Piyo Rattansi, Jerry Ravetz, Martin Rudwick, Colin Russell, Stephen Toulmin, Gerard L'Estrange Turner, Charles Webster and Bob Young. Location: BSHS Archive, Science Museum Library, London.

<sup>26</sup> Issues covered: BT maintains public access to its documentary heritage through BT Archives, but by 2000 - following the closure of the BT Museum in 1997 - the need for accessibility to the artefact collections led to the creation of a web-museum. Interview subjects: mostly users, but with about 20 electrical and radio engineers, 10 technical officers, one computer programmer, two signal experts. The recordings are located at BT Archives. The catalogue of oral history interviews is online: <http://www.connected-earth.com/Collections/Catalogues/Oralhistory/index.CFM>.

<sup>27</sup> Issues covered: the history of LMB as recounted by its protagonists. Interview subjects: Francis Crick, John Kendrew, Aaron Klug, Frederick Sanger, Max Perutz (10 videos and 10 interviews). Location: LMB Archives, Cambridge. Soraya de Chadarevian has been involved in gathering some of them. They have been used in preparation for S. De Chadarevian, *Designs for Life. Molecular Biology after WW2*, Cambridge: University Press, 2002. The experience of using interviews in the project is recounted in: S. De Chadarevian, "Using Interviews to Write the History of Science," in T. Söderqvist, *The Historiography of Contemporary Science and Technology*, Amsterdam: Harwood Academic, 1997, pp. 51-70.

Peoples Archive, 2003- , Middlesex House, London<sup>28</sup>

Oral history of diabetes, 2002-2003, University of Oxford<sup>29</sup>

Videos of the Biochemical Society, web-based<sup>30</sup>

Sub-Glacial Antarctica project interviews, 2004-2007, University of Bristol<sup>31</sup>

Wellcome Trust Neurosciences Oral History Programme, 2005, London<sup>32</sup>

Interviews with British scientists who emigrated to the United States in the 1950s and 1960s, 2005-2006, Science and Technology Studies, University College London<sup>33</sup>

HOGG History of Geology Oral History project, 2007, The Geological Society, London<sup>34</sup>

---

<sup>28</sup> Issues covered: Peoples Archive is a company dedicated to filming for posterity the life stories of the great thinkers, creators, and achievers of our time. Interview Subjects: Sidney Brenner, Renato Dulbecco and Francis Crick (biology), Donald Knuth (Computer Science), Michael Atiyah (Mathematics), Freeman Dyson (Physics). Location: Middlesex House, London.

<sup>29</sup> Issues covered: Wellcome-funded project on the history of diabetes in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The interviewees are mainly patients. The project was set up by Prof. David R. Matthews, Professor of Diabetic Medicine at the Oxford Centre for the Diabetes, Endocrinology and Metabolism. Helen Lloyd recorded the life stories. Interview subjects: 50 people between 1927 and 1997. Location: Oxford, but also on the web at: [www.diabetes-stories.co.uk](http://www.diabetes-stories.co.uk) and at the BL Sound Archive.

<sup>30</sup> These are video and audio recordings made with key contributors to the advancement of biochemical research in the UK. The material was selected with advice from the collection's curator, John Lagnado. In 2004, the British Universities Film and Video Council (BUFVC) started to put the documents on line. They can be retrieved through the EDINA (Edinburgh University Data Library) website: <http://www.filmandsound.ac.uk>. Interview Subjects: Edward Abraham, James Baddiley, Walter Bartley, Herman Blaschko, Kenneth Burton, Patricia H. Clarke, John Cornforth, Trevor Goodwin, Edward F. Hartree, Dorothy Crowfoot Hodgkin, A.T. James, Ralph Keckwick, H. Gobind Khorana, Hans Kornberg, Hans Kosterlitz, Hans Krebs, James E. Lovelock, Henry McIlwain, Thaddeus Mann, Walter Morgan, Helen Muir, Joseph Needham, Albert Neuberger, Alexander G. Ogston, Max Perutz, N.W. Pirie, H.F. Quastel, Frank Rose, Fred Sanger, E.C. Slater, E. Lester Smith, Albert Szent-Györgyi, Alexander Todd. Location: on the web and Edinburgh University.

<sup>31</sup> Issues covered: Study of Antarctica's sub-glacial explorations in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Interview subjects: David Drewry.

<sup>32</sup> Issues covered: development of neurosciences in Britain. Focus on Neuropharmacology; Psychiatry/Neuropsychology; and Neuroimaging. Interviewed subjects: Geoffrey Burnstock, Salvador Moncada; Ann Silver, Alan North (Neuropharmacology); Michael Rutter, Uta Frith, Richard Gregory, Elizabeth Warrington (Psychiatry); Peter Mansfield, Roger Ordidge, Terry Jones and Richard Frankowiak (Neuroimaging). Location: Wellcome Trust, London: <http://www.ucl.ac.uk/histmed/audio/neuroscience>.

<sup>33</sup> The interviews, in the main reflecting on whole-career trajectories, were conducted as part of an ESRC funded research project, "The Anatomy of the 'Brain Drain' Debate in the UK" by Brian Balmer, Jane Gregory and Matthew Godwin, Science and Technology Studies, University College London and will be deposited with the ESRC. For further information on the project, see: <http://www.ucl.ac.uk/sts/balmer/balmer-braindrain.htm>

## ***2. In Britain. Focussing on other subjects, but also dealing with science, technology and medicine:***

Oral History of Recorded Sound, 1960s-1990s, British Library<sup>35</sup>

Rodney Geisler Oral History Project, 1973, British Library<sup>36</sup>

Imperial War Museum Oral History Programme, 1980-, IWM London<sup>37</sup>

Cambridge University Filmed Interviews with Leading Thinkers, 1982-<sup>38</sup>

NLS Leaders of National Life, 1988-1990, British Library<sup>39</sup>

Cable and Wireless Records, 1990, Porthcurno Telegraph Museum<sup>40</sup>

---

<sup>34</sup> Issues to be covered: documenting the development of the history of geology through oral sources in occasion of the bicentenary of the Geological Society. The project is organized by the History of Geology Group (HOGG): <http://www.geolosc.org.uk/gsl/site/GSL/lang/en/page1001.html>.

<sup>35</sup> Issues covered: anything relating to the history of recorded sound, includes some technicians and engineers working in the field. Interview Subjects: Agnes Watts (1903-1987), pioneer of the direct-cut disc recording technique; Peter Walker (1916-), developer of QUAD amplifiers and electrostatic speakers; John Gilbert (1908-), awarded 1985 Hi-Fi-News award for 'achievements in audio', 1987 AES Bronze Medal for technical innovation and promotion of AES; and many more. Location: BL Sound Archive (C90).

<sup>36</sup> Issues covered: interviews in preparation of a film or a documentary for Geisler's film company. Interviewed subjects include: Handel Davies, senior designer at the Royal Aircraft Establishment, Farnborough. Location: BL Sound Archive (C599).

<sup>37</sup> Issues covered: memories of men and women, civilians and service personnel with regard to their experiences of conflict. Interview subjects include: Joseph Rotblat (physicist), Albert Hughes (chemist, Chemical Defence Research Establishment), Alan Wolley (instrumentation scientist, National Physical Laboratory, Teddington). The institute has the sound collection "Britain and the Refugee Crisis" which contains interviews with scientists (Guido Pontecorvo) and scientists' rescuers (Esther Simson, Academic Assistance Council), during WW2.

<sup>38</sup> The interviews were started by Jack Goody in 1982 and continued by Alan MacFarlane to include social, physical and biological scientists. Having started with leading anthropologists, the subjects have broadened to include other social scientists and, recently, biological and physical scientists, including: Jean Bacon (computer scientist), Michael Bate (neuroscientist), Patrick Bateson (ethologist), Sydney Brenner (biologist), Dan Brown (chemist), Luigi Luca Cavalli Sforza (demographer), John Coates (mathematician), Hal Dixon (biochemist), Owen Gingerich (astronomer, historian of science), John Gurdon (biologist), Hermann Hauser (computer scientists, entrepreneur) and Anthony Hewish (radioastronomer). Interviews average 2 hours: <http://www.alanmacfarlane.com/ancestors/index.html>.

<sup>39</sup> Issues covered: to 'record first-hand experiences of as wide a cross-section of present-day society as possible'. Interview Subjects: Maurice Wilkins (biologist, with Steven Rose), Brian Flowers (physicist, with Paul Thompson), Anthony Storr (psychiatrist). Location: British Library (C408).

<sup>40</sup> 20 interviews by David Souden with Cable and Wireless personnel. Interview material was published by Souden in: *Voices over the horizon: tales from Cable & Wireless*, Cambridge: Granta (1999) and *Voices of*



NLS General Interviews, 1991-1992, British Library<sup>41</sup>

Millennium Memory Bank, 1999, British Library<sup>42</sup>

NLS Lives in the Oil Industry, 2000, British Library<sup>43</sup>

British Nuclear History Project, 2005-2008, University of Southampton<sup>44</sup>

### ***3. In the US. Covering subjects of interest for British science, medicine, and engineering:***

History of Physics Oral History Project, 1962- , American Institute of Physics<sup>45</sup>

History of Modern Oceanography, 1976-1977, Texas A&M University<sup>46</sup>

Charles Babbage Institute Program, 1982- , University of Minnesota<sup>47</sup>

---

*change: further tales from Cable & Wireless*, Chesterton: Granta, (2001). Part of the Cable and Wireless Archive deposited at Porthcurno Telegraph Museum, <http://www.porthcurno.org.uk/>, PK Trust, Eastern House, Porthcurno, TR19 6JX, England. The interviews were recorded on DAT tapes. There is a catalogue entry referring to these interviews in the Access to Archives network: [www.a2a.org.uk](http://www.a2a.org.uk); CWA/ADV/885. Contact: [alan.renton@porthcurno.org.uk](mailto:alan.renton@porthcurno.org.uk). Also see: Science Museum Cable Company Interviews 6 5” tapes (BL C386), with transcripts.

<sup>41</sup> Issues covered: to 'record first-hand experiences of as wide a cross-section of present-day society as possible'. Interview subjects include: Aaron Klug (chemist), Max Perutz (bio-chemist), Joseph Rotblat (physicist), Zhores Medvedev (geneticist). All interviews by Katherine Thompson. Location: British Library (C464).

<sup>42</sup> Issues covered: Describing lives of a number of individuals living in Britain in occasion of the turning of the century. Some are researchers and scientists. BL Sound Archive (C900).

<sup>43</sup> Issues covered: Joint project with the University of Aberdeen records the major changes which have occurred in the UK oil and gas industry in the twentieth century, focusing particularly on North Sea exploration. Interview subjects: Kenneth Glennie 1926- (geologist), Timothy Watson , 1946- (decommissioning engineer), Geoffrey Tilling 1944- (chemical engineer), Sjoerd Francis Schuyleman 1943- (geologist). Interviews by Hugo Manson. Location: British Library Sound Archive (C963).

<sup>44</sup> Issues covered: UK nuclear weapon policies, 1953-1973. Programme developed at the Mountbatten Centre for International Studies with the support of the AHRB. No list of interviews or interviewees is available. Meetings organised in coordination with the British Rocketry Oral History Project (BROHP).

<sup>45</sup> Issues covered: development of physics in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The whole collection includes nearly 1000 items. Interview subjects: the most prominent British physicists in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, including William Lawrence Bragg, James Chadwick, Mark Oliphant, Patrick M. S. Blackett, Rudolf E. Peierls, John Cockcroft, Robert Atkinson, Henry Boot and many others. Location, see: [www.aip.org/history](http://www.aip.org/history).

<sup>46</sup> Issues covered: origins and development of oceanography in the US, Interview Subjects: Sir Edward Bullard, 1975 by Robert Calvert (oral historian), Cushing Library, Texas A&M University.

<sup>47</sup> Issues covered: history of computers, software, and networking. Comprising over 300 items, this collection is the equivalent of the AIP program for computing). Interview subjects: John M. M. Pinkerton (computing engineer, Leo Computers and Ferranti); David Wheeler (EDSAC computer); Donald Watts Davies (ACE computers), Arthur Humphreys, ICL managing director; Richard Lloyd (Power-Samas);

Space Science and geophysics programmes, 1992-1994, AIP<sup>48</sup>

NSF Oral History on Bletchley Park, 1992, Virginia Polytechnic Institute<sup>49</sup>

Nobel Prize Winners video interviews, 2000-2004, web-based<sup>50</sup>

SIAM Oral History Project, 2004-2006, Philadelphia, US<sup>51</sup>

---

Terence Maxwell (Power-Samas), Thomas J. Watson and James Birckenstock (British Tabulating Machines), Peter Watson (Berkeley computer Service, Glasgow). Location: CBI, University of Minnesota, <http://www.cbi.umn.edu/oh/index.phtml>.

<sup>48</sup> Issues covered: these are specific programmes stemming from the AIP documentation programme. 1. International Ultraviolet Explorer/Space Science. Interview Subjects: Alex Boksenberg, Greenwich Observatory, W. S. Garton, Imperial College; 2. Active Magnetospheric Particle Tracer Experiment (AMPTE)/Space science. Interview Subject: Peter Hedgecock, Imperial College; 3. Giotto/Space science. Interview Subject: J. Antony McDonnell, University of Kent, United Kingdom. 4. Deep Sea Drilling Project (DSDE)/Geophysics and oceanography. Interview Subjects: Dick Croon, University of Edinburgh; 5 World Ocean Circulation Experiment (WOCE)/Geophysics and Oceanography: George Needler, Institute of Oceanographic Science. Location, see: [www.aip.org/history](http://www.aip.org/history).

<sup>49</sup> Jan Lee, formerly editor-in-chief of the IEEE Annals of the history of Computing, interviewed I. J. Good and Donald Michie on the occasion of a US visit of the two Bletchley Park analysts. Interview Subjects: Good and Michie. Location of transcripts: Virginia Polytechnic, Blacksburg, Vermont. More info at: <http://www.nsf.gov/awardsearch/showAward.do?AwardNumber=9207182>. On Bletchley Park there is also a collection of memoirs written by those who worked at the establishment. Technically their accounts are not oral history, but in any case it is worth mentioning: F. H. Hinsley, Alan Stripp, *Code-breakers. The Inside Story of Bletchley Park*, Oxford: University Press, 1993. It contains about 30 memoirs providing an account of daily life at the Government Communications Headquarters.

<sup>50</sup> Issues covered: life, career and opinions of Nobel Prize Winners. Interview Subjects: Nobel Prize Winners: Brian D. Josephson (physics), Harold W. Kroto (chemistry), R. Timothy Hunt and Paul M. Nurse (biochemistry), John E. Sulston (molecular biology), James W. Black (drug engineering), Peter Mansfield (medical engineering), and Frederick Sanger (molecular biology, biochemistry). Location: online at: [www.nobelprize.org](http://www.nobelprize.org)

<sup>51</sup> Issues covered: The history of numerical analysis and scientific computing. Project developed by the Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics (SIAM). Interview subjects: 31 computer scientists including the British Michael J. D. Powell, Atomic Energy Research Establishment Harwell (interviewed by Phil Davies in 2005), and James H. Wilkinson, Cambridge and NPL, (interviewed by John Nash in 1984). Location: online at: <http://history.siam.org/oralhistories.htm>.