

HISTORY GROUP NEWSLETTER



News, views and a miscellany published by the Royal Meteorological Society's
Special Interest Group for the History of Meteorology and Physical Oceanography

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News

Julian Mayes, Secretary / Newsletter editor

.....For news of the History Group, please see page 14.....>>>

News of Members

One of the Group's most prominent meteorologists, Anders Persson, passed away earlier this year. He developed forecast models at ECMWF and the Met Office but he also had a passionate interest in historical meteorology. As noted in his obituary (October issue of *Weather*), after retiring to Sweden, he timed his visits to the UK to coincide with RMets and History Group meetings.

Malcolm Walker Prize – winner for 2020, Dr Simon Lee

Members will remember that the Group's own prize, the Jehuda Neumann Prize, was replaced by a prize in the name of our former Chairman Malcolm Walker. The second winner (2019) was Dr Emma Howard.

The prize for 2020 (the award is made in the following year) is awarded to Dr Simon Lee who has recently been awarded his PhD following studies at the meteorology department at the University of Reading. He will also be known to many of you as the Co-editor of *Weather*. The citation makes specific reference to Malcolm Walker and is reproduced on p. 12.

The prize was awarded to Simon not just to recognise his research (stratosphere / troposphere interactions) but also to acknowledge his enthusiasm for so many areas of meteorology, evident in his many contributions to twitter, for example. Simon made a point of reading about Malcolm's work after he won the prize. He is now taking up a research post at Columbia University, New York.

Royal Society / Met Office online exhibition

A collaborative exhibition '*Stormy Weather from Lore to Science*' has recently been re-established at the Royal Society offices in London. At the moment the building is closed to all but invited visitors. The majority of the subjects have been covered in an online exhibition in the Google Arts and Culture digital exhibitions series. This can be accessed via the following link:

<https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/research/library-and-archive/archive-hidden-treasures/stormy-weather>

The topics included are Weather Lore, Early Science of the Weather, Foundations of the Met Office, Met. Observations, Citizen Science and Numerical Weather Prediction and Supercomputers.

Distinguished Voices Podcast series

Members may remember the 'interviews with distinguished meteorologists' series, a collection of oral histories built up over many decades, largely by the History Group. These recordings have now been collated into a series of podcasts making the interviews easily available to all. They can be accessed at the RMets website at

<https://www.rmets.org/distinguished-voices>.

The work of the History Group will shortly be acknowledged on the website. The series continues, with more recordings planned.

**DISTINGUISHED
VOICES PODCAST**



Online evening talks

Following the first talk last June Jim Fleming, our evening talks continue over the winter months.

- **Terrence Nathan on *Picturing the Atmosphere: Photography and the Advancement of Atmospheric Science*, Tuesday 7th December 2021 at 6pm.**

A “victory for science,” exclaimed an eyewitness to the public announcement of the invention of photography in Paris in 1839. Indeed, there is no tool that has aided in the discovery of more phenomena and that has advanced scientific knowledge across more disciplines than photography. And this is perhaps most evident for atmospheric science, where photography has been central to the discovery, measurement, and documentation of myriad phenomena, many of which are brought to light solely by the action of photography. In this talk I will discuss how photography has advanced understanding of several atmospheric phenomena, including: the stratospheric ozone layer; the flight of thunderbolts; the shattering of colliding raindrops; the crystalline structure of snowflakes; the forensic analysis of tornadoes, and the inexorable warming of Earth’s climate.

Terrence Nathan is a professor of atmospheric science at the University of California, Davis, where he teaches courses on atmospheric dynamics in the Atmospheric Science Program, and a course on the intersection between photography, art and science in the Science and Society Program. His current research is centered on the role of Saharan dust storms on hurricane development; the effects of weather and climate on the trans-Atlantic slave trade; and the historical connection between photography and atmospheric science.

The meeting is now open for registration <https://www.rmets.org/event/virtual-picturing-atmosphere-photography-and-advancement-atmospheric-science>

- **Martin Young on *The evolution of weather forecasting in the UK - the changing role of the forecaster from the pre-computer age to the modern day*. 25th January 2022 at 7pm.**

In the pre-computer era weather forecasts were produced empirically, based on very limited data, reliant on the forecasters’ knowledge and experience. Major errors were quite common less than 24 hours ahead. Nowadays the greatest challenge is dealing with the enormous range of sometimes conflicting computer forecast products, some with very high resolution. Yet the forecaster must still be capable of spotting often subtle features which may have an important bearing on the forecast even just a few hours ahead - all of this set against expectations which are much higher nowadays.

Using examples of UK weather events, including some from his own experience, he reviews how the role of the central guidance forecaster at the Met Office has evolved and demonstrates how the weather forecaster requires a radically different skill set today compared to 50 years ago and earlier.

Martin worked at the Met Office for 40 years, many of which were in operational weather forecasting, including over ten years as a Chief Forecaster. He also spent time in research, a substantial proportion of which related to the application of satellite imagery to forecasting. He contributed papers to Royal Meteorological Society journals over several decades, many with an emphasis on interesting weather events from a forecaster’s perspective.

Now open for registration here....

<https://www.rmets.org/event/virtual-evolution-weather-forecasting-uk>

- **Jonathan Martin on *Reginald Sutcliffe*.** Provisionally in February 2022.

The history of climate science ideas and their applications

RMetS National meeting arranged by the RMetS SIG on Climate Change with reference to the History Group - the Chairman will be Prof. Chris Folland, member of the History Group's committee.

This meeting will take place on 12th March 2022 at the Army and Navy Club, London.

The programme and registration details can be found at

<https://www.rmets.org/event/updated-history-climate-science-ideas-and-their-applications>

A distinguished range of speakers will be speaking at the meeting, including Prof. Sir Brian Hoskins, Prof. Jo Haigh, Prof. Tim Osborn and Mr David Warrilow, Past President of the RMetS.

The meeting can be attended in-person and online.

Meetings of associated organisations

The weather, measur'd: 400 years of meteorological instrument technology

A joint meeting between the Worshipful Company of Scientific Instrument Makers, the Scientific Instrument Society and the Meteorological Observing Systems SIG of the RMetS. The programme and full details can be seen at:

<http://www.scientificinstrumentsociety.org/news/2020/3/2/sis-agm-and-history-of-meteorology-symposium-13-june-2020>

This meeting will be re-arranged for a future date (ignore the date shown in the URL). An e mail will be sent to History group members when the date is confirmed.

Celsius Symposium

12 January 2022, 13:00–16:30 The Humanities Theatre, Thunbergsvägen 3C, Uppsala
In January 1722, Anders Celsius and Erik Burman started to measure the weather in Uppsala. These observations have continued for 300 years. The Department of Earth Sciences is celebrating this tercentenary with a symposium.

13:00–13:10 Welcome by Erika Bjerström, Global Climate Correspondent at Sveriges Television (SVT), the Swedish public service television company.

13:10–13:15 Introduction by Anders Hagfeldt, Rector Magnificus of Uppsala University.

13:15–14:00 Phil Jones, Professorial Fellow at the School of Environmental Sciences at the University of East Anglia: "The Celsius Temperature Series in a global context".

14:00–14:30 Martin Ekman, Associate Professor in Geophysics and author of the book "The Man behind 'Degrees Celsius': A Pioneer in Investigating the Earth and its Changes".

15:00–15:30 Hans Bergström, senior researcher and expert on the Celsius temperature series: "300 years of weather observations in Uppsala".

15:30–16:00 Anna Rutgersson, Professor of Meteorology: "Current technology and observations for future forecasts".

16:00–16:30 What have we learned? What does the future hold? The future of weather and climate data and interpretations.

The symposium is held in English and will be live streamed and recorded.

Register here before 20 December 2021 if you want to attend in person (limited seats):

<https://doit.medfarm.uu.se/bin/kurt3/kurt/30149>

Register here before 10 January 2022 if you want to attend online (a link will be sent out in advance): <https://doit.medfarm.uu.se/bin/kurt3/kurt/31716>

Anna Rutgersson, Professor of Meteorology, Dept. of Earth Sciences, Uppsala University
Read more at: www.uu.se/celsius300

Observatories week / Lerwick Observatory centenary commemoration and visit

A week of activities in early June 2022 organised by the Met Office. This will include a visit to Lerwick, Shetland to commemorate the centenary +1 year of the observatory. The event has been delayed by a year due to coronavirus. The History Group will be involved with the organisation of the event. A visit to Eskdalemuir Observatory may also go ahead in the same week.

We will pass on any further information as soon as possible to enable travel arrangements to be made.

An update on the work of the National Meteorological Library and Archive

The staff at the NMLA have continued to be busy during the pandemic, for example, adding material to the Digital Library and Archive <https://digital.nmla.metoffice.gov.uk/>. Staff have recently completed scanning the England and Wales Climate Returns for 1852

to 1920. These contain a huge quantity of hitherto unpublished data from stations in England and Wales. They are now available alongside the Scottish 'Red Book' Climatological Returns 1857 – 1913 and collectively represent a major newly scanned source of additional data for the British Isles.

Retirement of Michael (Mick) Wood as History Group Treasurer

Michael Wood has just stood down as our Treasurer after serving in that role for 17 years, for most of that time administering your subscriptions. Previously, he was Chairman from 1999 to 2005. Throughout this time he has been an active committee member who has made a significant input to meetings and contributions to this newsletter (including as author). Best wishes for your 'retirement', Mick, and thank you.

The photograph of the three Chairmen was taken at the group's Silver Jubilee meeting in 2008 by Diane Walker. It shows Mick (left), Malcolm Walker (centre) and Howard Oliver (right).



The 'lost' documents of the Royal Meteorological Society

Alan Heasman, Aldbourne, Wilts.

I have spent a bit of my time during this pandemic reviewing and clearing out the reams of documents which, in my case, I have acquired during some 60 plus years of being involved in 'the weather' in one way or another. Many of the documents had been retained on the 'it may come in useful one day' basis but eventually one has to make difficult decisions.

I rather think that was the problem faced by the custodians of the RMetS's archive when in the 1960s, they were contemplating moving from their headquarters building in central London where they had been for many years. The plan was to relocate to a new HQ very close to the UK Meteorological Office which at that time had just settled into its own new HQ building in the (then) 'new town' of Bracknell in Berkshire. The RMetS had been established in 1850 but it had 'inherited' documents from other embryo meteorological groups formed earlier in the C19th. In the early days of those groups and the RMetS, communication between likeminded scientists was mainly by correspondence, printed articles and very occasionally 'face to face' meetings. Thus, vast quantities of letters etc., accumulated between scientists and the RMetS, especially as many had multiple scientific interests. By the 1960s the RMetS had a huge collection and the space to store would have been at a premium and a potential problem for the planned new HQ.

Although details are unclear (they may be buried in the RMetS committee Minutes), a decision appears to have been made to clear out 'old correspondence'. This is where one of my own 'it may come in useful one day' documents reveals part of the story. I have a photocopy of a typescript 'catalogue' entitled '*Meteorology & Astronomy*' which, from a

cover stamp, appears to have been created by Messrs Peter Eaton (Booksellers) Ltd of 80 Holland Park Avenue, London in about 1967. One version of the story is that the reams of the Society's documents were 'rescued' from a rubbish 'skip' before making their way to Messrs Peter Eaton! That seems an unlikely tale for a reputable scientific institution such as the RMetS. More likely is that the documents were offered to Eaton to be sold on the 'open market' and therefore it was necessary for Eatons to produce a 'catalogue'.

The valuable aspect is that there was at least a quite detailed catalogue before the items were dispersed to collectors etc. The 'catalogue' runs to about 100 A4 pages of closely typed script. It must have taken some dedication to even type up the 'catalogue'. The vast bulk of the correspondence runs between 1823 and about 1907 though there are details of Minute books as late as the 1950s. Many entries group the documents together. For example '*... about 14 long letters from J.G. Pattern...*' or '*...letters from W.F.R. Stanley, Adm. W.A.B. Hamilton, E.A. Ormerod, C.V. Walker, R.H. Scott, G.J. Symons...G.M. Whipple...etc*'. Those are names that many readers will recognise. A lot of the entries are fortunately more specific and are accompanied by a detailed and in many ways 'tantalizing' outline. The following examples may give a flavour of the vast and eclectic mix of those documents which may still exist somewhere.

Although the (later Royal) Meteorological Society was established in 1850, there had been an earlier meteorological society from 1823 until at least 1839. Its members included Luke Howard (of cloud classification fame), George Birkbeck (who founded Birkbeck College), John Dalton (chemist, physicist and

meteorologist), John Fredric Daniell (chemist, physicist and meteorologist) and John Gough (the blind experimental philosopher).

Documents from that organisation had been passed to the later Society. For example it included an (unfortunately) undated letter from Luke Howard which read '*The very extraordinary season we have passed will afford at some time matter for curious research. Such rains I never witnessed before. We had at Ackworth 12.43 inches in two months although the climate of that part of Yorkshire is commonly as dry as that of London....*'. The letter apparently ran to some 38 lines.

There was a 14 line letter (undated) from John Ruskin who wrote '*...I need hardly say I am highly gratified to hear that the Meteorological Society consider anything of mine worthy of appearing under their auspices and merit. I am at present travelling in the north where I have been collecting some data relative to the local disposition of clouds and peculiar winds which I hope to.... lay before the Society.....*'.

A long letter circa 1838, from Charles Green, England's most famous balloonist of the C19th, detailed his balloon journeys in 1837 and 1838 carrying meteorological instruments. He writes that one of his flights '*on 10th September 1838 reached 27, 146 feet...*'.

In a collection of about 100 letters from 1842/43 was this seemingly 'strange' article by J.R. Hind entitled 'Influence of the Light of The Moon on Temperature'. He goes on to write '*.....it has frequently been an object of enquiry..... whether the variations of temperature during a lunar eclipse are sufficiently sensible to be ascribed to a diminution or increase of the light of the moon*'. Now there is a subject for modern research !

Some letters reveal a bit of 'tension' in the Society such as this (undated) from Henry Storks Eaton. '*It is too bad when members inquire for the reports of the Scottish Met. Society and I cannot lend them because Glaisher keeps them. If he fails in doing his duty to the Society, I see no reason why I should not perform mine to the best of my ability. It is very fine for him to grumble at the workers but I should like to know where the Society would have been had it not had C.V. Walker as a Secretary Some of Symons' friends complain bitterly that Glaisher takes no notice of communications addressed to him...'*.

Also, on 12 March 1862 Robert FitzRoy wrote '*... I do not wish to be Vice-President of the Royal Met. Society pray be so good enough to state to the Council that I have never consented to be a Vice-president and it now my desire to have my name removed from the Council....I will not undertake any official position even as a merely honorary one...'*.

A letter dated 9 December 1841 from Miss Frances Barbara Burton is simply 'intriguing': '*I have been much indisposed for a fortnight from the misconduct of the servants here and a violent assault made upon me by an enraged Irishman last Sunday has completely shattered my nerves. You must therefore excuse the brevity of expression in my reply...'*. Frances Burton was a pioneering astrophysicist.

Significant weather events were frequently reported to the Society by its members. In October 1881 there were many reports including one from Baldwin Latham who reported from Croydon '*...I never recollect a storm....in which such destruction of trees occurred in such a short space of time and over such a large area....*' Eleanor Ormerod at Isleworth gave her account of the storm and E.J. Lowe in Essex wrote '*...the gale at Gosfield Hall where the destruction was most terrible.... among the vast number of trees there was*

scarcely one without boughs broken off or twisted round and doubled back into the trees...’.

A batch of letters from 1884 included the intriguing one from John Abercromby writing on behalf of his brother ‘..... *who has been forced to tender his resignation of Chairman of the Sunset Committee through illness’.* His brother was probably the Hon. Ralph Abercromby who made significant contributions to meteorology in the C19th. The ‘Sunset Committee’ was the forerunner of the Krakatoa Committee set up after the eruption of August 1883 which produced such a vast range of coloured sunsets around the world.

Many of the letters related to the invention or refinement of meteorological instruments. In 1885, George R. Primrose wrote that ‘... *herewith is a rough plan of an electric barometer which I have devised to register over one wire at long distances continuously or at intervals as desired the electric barometer is intended to be used principally to register accounts from mountain tops, high altitudes using captive balloons, in deep and dangerous mines and other inaccessible places’.*

Letters came from far and wide. In 1887 and 1888 a batch of letters included ones from Richard Ladd (Nova Scotia), W. Koppen (Germany) , H.F. Blanford (India), G.H. Leggett (Queensland), Owen L. O’Conner (Mauritius), and P. Benard (Haiti) . They also came from the ‘great and good’ such as A.S. Herschel (astronomer), J.D. Hooker (botanist), Joseph Henry (pioneer American scientist), George

Washington Moon (English writer and critic), H.H. Hildebrandsson (Swedish meteorologist) etc., etc. A veritable treasure trove of correspondence for any biographical researcher.

There were clearly different points of view on some plans. In 1897 A. Jasper Anderson, medical officer of health for Blackpool suggested that he would ‘...*cooperate in the proposal formeteorological observations on the top of Blackpool Tower.* However, a letter circa 1898 from the Manager of the Blackpool Tower (built 1894) expressed the ‘*impossibility to have fixed meteorological instruments on top of the Tower because the trouble and difficulty of making regular observations*’. Clement Wragge, the British born meteorologist who set up an extensive network of weather stations in Australia in the 1880s showed that he was of sterner stuff when he wrote that ‘*he had established an experimental observatory on Mount Kosciusko at 7328 feet, the highest mountain in New South Wales’.*

One of some 114 letters in 1881 to RMetS was from W.G. Knight in North West Territory, Canada, seems to have a hint of exasperation ‘... *permit me to remind you that mercurial instruments will not do for this country as mercury freezes here in winter. My thermometer registered 55 Degrees below zero on several occasions last winter. This matter should be settled at once and the instruments forwarded....so that they can be delivered at Grand Valley before the steamboats cease running....to Grand Valley which they do sometimes in September for want of sufficient water’.*

Similarly, H.H. Hildesbrandsson (1897) wrote '*I am very sorry that Riggerbach is so severely occupied at his school.... that he cannot work on the atlas with full force until March. If I could spend 6 to 700Kr I would go to Paris and lunch with Riggerbach and settle this matter at once! I begin to be tired of cloud pictures and endless discussion*'.

John St. Clair Gunn from New Zealand wrote in 1901 asking for assistance in his met observations "*You can understand that in my isolated position and with a government that are more energetic in voting honoraria to themselves than supporting met observations, that it is impossible for me to get any assistance locally*". The following year he wrote saying that he hopes to acquaint more people in New Zealand with the science of meteorology and complained about the NZ government promoting the tourist trade with free gifts of sleeping bags instead of devoting time to his science!

Nils Ekholm, the famous Swedish meteorologist wrote in 1900 '*As to the Gulfstream,there is no doubt that the water of the Gulf is readily transported from the west Indies to the coast of Sweden, Norway and Spitzbergen as the fruits of a West Indian plant have often been found there*'.

Incidentally, Ekholm in 1899 pointed out that at (the then) present rates, the burning of coal could eventually double the concentration of atmospheric CO₂ and that this would "*..... undoubtedly cause a very obvious rise of the mean temperature of the Earth*". He saw that as a way of controlling the Earth's climate and preventing a next Ice Age.

In 1902 there was a rather sad document by Rud. Costodis who was writing about London Fogs and experiments to free London from fogs. He wrote '*I am sorry to say that a colleague who was assisting me in these experimental explosions has been blown into*

thousands of pieces and it is only by good fortune that I am spared and still alive'.

Another sad one was written in about 1890, by William Parker Snow, the English arctic explorer and writer. Part of it reads '*Personally, I am utterly broken and I fear the workhouse may be the reward for me. Absolute want has been the normal condition of myself and (my) blind, crippled, mentally afflicted wife in our 73rd year; a few old friends have enabled me to keep the shelter of a home. Food is not so much needed at our age and my ragged attire can be hidden..... Still it is hard to bear especially ill as I am and seeing my poor old wife in such a state after she has braved so much abroad with me*'. Parker Snow, a really intriguing character, died in 1895.

Many famous people were nominated to become members or honorary members of the RMetS. One nomination paper from June 1902 read '*Nomination of Samuel Franklin Cody – author- Birdville , Texas, U.S.A.*'. He was proposed by W.H. Dines (of anemometer fame), R.H. Scott (Head of the UK Meteorological Office) and Francis Campbell Bayard (barrister and meteorologist), each had been President of the Society. Cody was the flamboyant Texan who made the first officially recorded (heavier than air) flight in Britain on 16 October 1908.

There is a final section in the 'catalogue' which records that many Minute books of the Society were disposed of including the following intriguing Minute books of the "Decrease of Water Supply Committee", 'the Sunset Committee' (already referred to), the 'Helm Wind Committee' and the 'Upper Air Committee'. There was even a 'Cash Book' from 1839 which recorded amongst other things 'the purchase of fresh mercury for a barometer £5-00'; subscriptions paid by Sir John Ross (polar explorer) 6 guineas and J.P.

Gassiot one guinea; a £30 loan from Lord Grosvenor and 6 shillings paid for tea !

Finally, the 'catalogue' records that the collection included 'Many thousands (certainly over 20,000 and maybe 500,000 or more) rainfall documents from all parts of Gt. Britain, everyone giving minute details, quantity, date, height above ground, height above sea level. Each one signed by the person who collected the rainwater'. One can almost feel the concern of the scribe of the 'catalogue' when he finished with this telling comment: 'Here is the actual beginning of the science of the weather'.

The above examples are but a fraction of the thousands of documents so carefully noted in the Eaton catalogue. It must have taken a great deal of time and effort to sort and list the papers and type the catalogue. There seems little doubt that the vast majority, if not all, of these Royal Meteorological Society papers were dispersed to either individuals or other organisations through the services of Messrs Eaton, Booksellers.

When in the 1970s, the Society actually moved from London into its new headquarters building at the top of the High Street in Bracknell, Berkshire, about 300

metres from the UK Met Office HQ, all these papers were 'missing'. There was very little storage in the modern office that RMetS occupied. It was also at that point that virtually all the Society's printed book collection and original weather and climate records gathered through the bulk of the nineteenth century were deposited, by agreement with the Met Office, in the National Meteorological Library & Archive (NMLA). Later the Society moved its HQ again, this time to its present site in Oxford Road, Reading where it occupies a fine but older building with virtually no storage space. Consequently, the vast bulk of the Society's books and scientific records remain in the NMLA, now itself removed with the Met Office HQ to Exeter in Devon where the Society's collections can now be accessed.

I am sure that amongst many 'learned societies' the Royal Meteorological Society is not unique in having been forced to dispose of early correspondence and records etc., for lack of storage but in the case of the RMetS, this 'catalogue' may still provide a tangible link to those early days of the Society.

Do you still have your copy?

Howard Oliver, Swanage

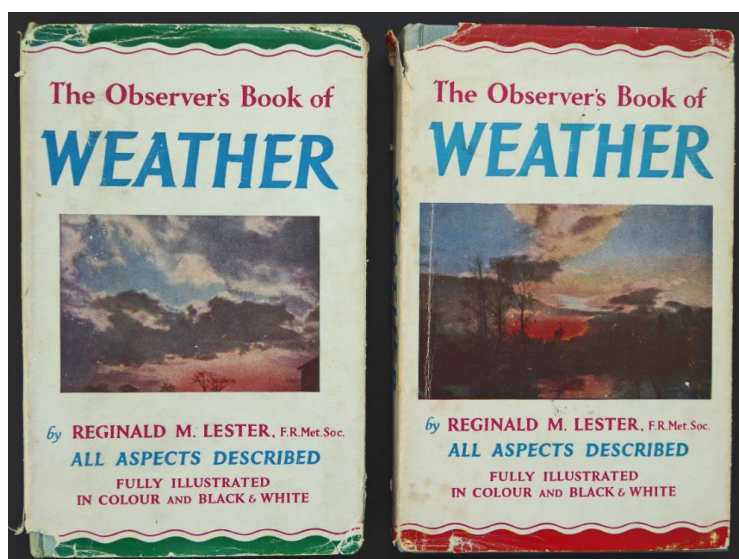
The year 1955 saw the publication of an important publication in popular meteorology – ***The Observer's Book of WEATHER***. It subsequently played a major role in introducing both young and old to the interesting and exciting world of meteorology, in some cases being a first step into a career. Both my wife and I still have our original early editions. Do you, or anyone you gave a copy

to, still have theirs I wonder? *Observer's Books* began to be published by Frederick Warne and Co. in 1937 with volumes on birds and flowers. In 1982 their last title, on opera, had reached numbered volume 98. In addition, during the war a special edition, *Airplanes*, was produced in limited quantities to aid aircraft identification but this was not included in the numbering system.

After a gap of 11 years the ultimate collectors' volume, 99, was published by Peregrine books – *The Observer's Book of Observer's Books*. In 2003 the century was completed with number 100, *Wayside and Woodland*. Their pocket size, relatively low price and well-illustrated, accessible approach made them consistently very popular in the pre-digital age.

The author of the weather volume was Reginald M. Lester who had served with distinction in both world wars, achieving the

rank of Lt-Colonel. He was a journalist and author with a lifelong interest in the weather who also published weather calendars, posters and visual aid film strips for schools. He was elected Fellow of the Royal Meteorological Society in 1925 and was President of the Institute of Journalists in the mid 1950s. The original 1955 edition was slightly revised and updated in 1964, but much of the content of the book remained the same for its impressive run of 25 years.



The paper covers of the original 1955 edition have green edges which were changed to red in the 1960 reprint.

It was written in a clear and friendly didactic style. There are a large number of colour as well as monochrome images including some of the best available cloud photographs. Originally scattered throughout the book, they were consolidated into blocks for the 1964 version.

After an introduction, giving a summary of the wide range of the uses for weather information, the first chapter of the original edition is obviously trying to bring the reader in to the excitement of the science and is called 'Exploring into Space'. It gives a necessarily rather sketchy account of the layers in the atmosphere up to the limits of V2 rocket exploration and includes an atmospheric profile up to 500,000ft. It was possible to include in the revised edition a

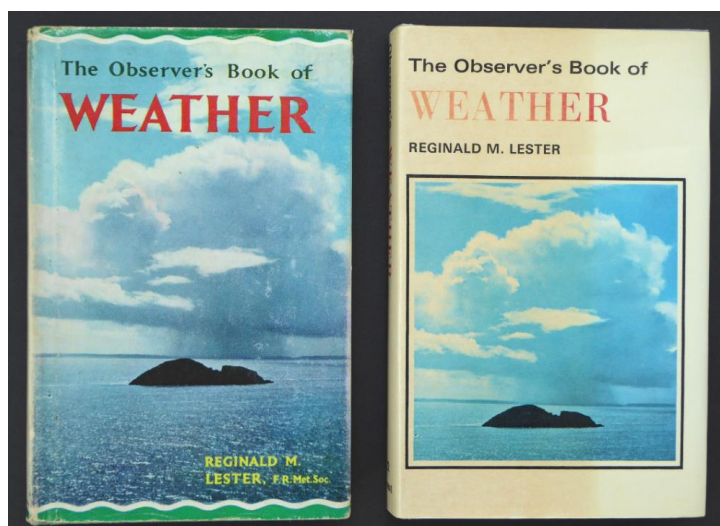
brief mention of the American *Nimbus* and *Tiros* weather satellites, but by the end of the 25-year run some facts and ideas in this chapter had become out of date.

The next two chapters are effectively a very brief course in synoptic meteorology covering air masses, isobars, weather systems, winds and so on. It of course includes Buys Ballot's rule [back to wind, low pressure on your left in the Northern hemisphere] and a table of the Beaufort Scale. These are followed by chapters on clouds, rain, storms, dew, fog, frost and other weather phenomena.

The book then turns to practical meteorology such as instruments for weather observation, phenology, making a weather map, plus a log book for amateur observers. Being of its time,

the photographs showing people at work are very male-orientated but at least the image of forecasters preparing flight forecasts shows a woman in the foreground! In the discussion of weather forecasting problems there is a concentration on the importance of weather

cycles such of those proposed by Buchan and Bruckner. Again, this area became in obvious need of updating. The final sections are on climates of the world, weather lore followed by unit conversion tables.



The 1964 edition paper cover carries a full-page image of cumulonimbus clouds over St Bride's Bay, which was changed in the 1970s to a smaller image on a more durable paper cover with a glossy protective coating.

The whole book stresses the excitement and relevance of the subject as expressed in the last paragraph of the introduction: *'The importance of weather research cannot be over-estimated, and in this respect not only the official meteorologist but the amateur observer has a big part to play.'* Anyone wishing to take their interest further could consider joining the *Observer's Pocket Series Collectors Society*.

In 1980 a completely new book by Robert Pearce was finally introduced which brought

the content thoroughly up to date for the computer and space age. However, it is good to note that the importance of historical records for the understanding of climate change is still emphasized by the inclusion on the front endpapers of a reproduction of an Oundle weather log for January 1728. If you can find your copy of the original little classic why not enjoy having a look at it again? If not, and you want to refresh your memory, all the editions are readily available for a very few pounds.

Victorian cloud slides donated to Met Office Archive

The Group was recently contacted by Mr. Paul Godfrey of Lowestoft wishing to donate a set of Victorian glass lantern slides. They were accepted by the Met Office Archive in Exeter on behalf of the society. Paul explained *"These photographs were taken by Lt Col Harloven Morley Saunders. He was elected as a member of your society on the 15th May 1895 and remained a member until his death in Austria on 8th November 1901"*.



Malcolm Walker Prize winner, 2020 – Dr Simon Lee

Following on from the news item on p.1, here is the citation written for Simon's nomination (slightly shortened). The final line of the citation refers to Malcolm, comparing their enthusiasm for science communication. It is therefore appropriate to acknowledge the award here. The original text, and Simon's response, can be seen at <https://www.rmets.org/prize-original-contributions-early-career-scientists-2020>

Often the best meteorologists are able to combine the rigour and scientific understanding of a physical scientist with the wonder and joy of a true enthusiast. There can be few early career meteorologists who can demonstrate these qualities better than Simon Lee.

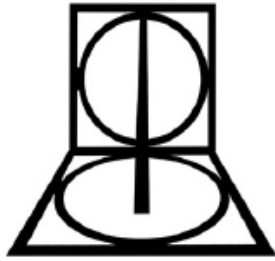
His masters project, published in Nature in 2019, produced the novel result that climate change was already having a large effect on upper tropospheric and lower stratospheric vertical wind shear, consistent with the increased pole-to-equator temperature gradient between the tropical upper troposphere and polar lower stratosphere. This result has broad implications, particularly for the generation and intensification of clear-air turbulence.



Simon Lee's PhD has focussed on understanding climate variability in the extra-tropical winter stratosphere. The first work from his PhD, provided the first evidence of a link between wintertime tropospheric variability in the North Atlantic and the Sudden Stratospheric Warming (SSW) in February 2018.

[His] work on coupling between the stratosphere and troposphere also includes understanding how the stratosphere is a source of predictability for sub-seasonal and seasonal climate in the troposphere.

The breadth and quality of his publications reflect his enduring and irreplaceable love for atmospheric science. This aspect of his character is also central to his role as a major public meteorologist in his own right through his prolific twitter profile, personal blog and co-editorship of the Royal Meteorological Society's journal, Weather. He tweets often about all aspects of meteorology and can always be relied upon to have something useful and interesting to say about the current weather situation or a recent forecast. He has been hugely successful in explaining complex ideas to a wide audience, something that Malcolm Walker would have recognised and appreciated.



SCIENTIFIC INSTRUMENTS SOCIETY: Research Grants 2022

The Scientific Instrument Society (SIS) awards small grants, of up to £750 each, for research on the history of scientific instruments. Applications for the 2022 SIS Grants Scheme are now open; the deadline for applications is 1200 GMT on Friday 7 January 2022.

To learn more of the Society, or to join, visit <http://www.scientificinstrumentsociety.org/>
The short application form may be found at
<http://www.scientificinstrumentsociety.org/grant-application-form>

Applicants do not need to have any institutional affiliation and applications that are for less than the maximum grant are just as welcome — a properly costed proposal with a clear relevance to the Society's interests in historic scientific instruments, a realistic timetable and a clear tangible result or question to be answered are the most important factors that the committee will be considering.

Successful grant holders will have 18 months from the date of award to complete their research and claim the funds. Grants are open to applicants from any country, and both members and non-members of the Scientific Instrument Society may apply. Previous applicants are also welcome to apply, provided that an article based on their first research grant has already been submitted to the SIS Bulletin.

Please note that the grant awarded will be paid against actual receipted expenditure and funds cannot be paid in advance. The grant is intended to cover items such as travel, accommodation (excluding meals) and photocopying costs. We are unable to fund attendance at or travel to conferences, or contribute to the cost of outreach projects such as events and exhibitions.

Further information on what the Society can support and the terms and conditions of the grants can be found at <http://www.scientificinstrumentsociety.org/grants/>
Examples of previously successful applicants may be found at
<http://www.scientificinstrumentsociety.org/previously-supported-projects/>
Questions? For any questions regarding SIS grants, please e-mail grants@sis.org.uk

Stephen Burt

Grants Officer Scientific Instruments Society



Outreach and feedback

We are keen to keep in touch with members – with that aim in mind we are preparing a short member’s survey to gather views on future activities. Do please let us know your thoughts when you receive it. There will also be an article on the Group in a forthcoming issue of *Weather*.

As mentioned on this page in the last newsletter, Twitter and Facebook are becoming potentially more important avenues for communication. They have the attribute that you can interact with us!

If you are already on Twitter, please follow us at #RMetS_HistGroup. If you are not yet on Twitter, you can view tweets at https://twitter.com/RMetS_HistGroup but I do recommend signing-up; there is some good material there amidst the dross – it all depends on who you follow. It is easy and quick – we are thinking of running a **members’ evening** next year as a virtual event in which we could demonstrate how to join Twitter. If you would be interested in this, do let me know.



For Facebook members, our Facebook site is now up and running, maintained by committee member Richard Griffith. This can be found at <https://www.facebook.com/RMetSHistoryGroup/>

Julian Mayes

Committee members

Chairman	Vladimir Jankovic	
Secretary	Julian Mayes	(Newsletter editor)
	Chris Folland	
	John Gould	
	Richard Griffith	
	Norman Lynagh	
	Howard Oliver	(Occasional Papers editor)
	Sarah Pankiewicz	(Nat Met Library & Archive)
	Catherine Ross	(Nat Met Library & Archive)
	Peter Rowntree	
	Andrew Russ-Turner	