

As shown by 'Casualty 1906', records such as these bring history to life.

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## Periodicals

*New Scientist*, 50th Anniversary Special, 18 Nov 2006 ([www.newscientist.com/contents/issue/2578.html](http://www.newscientist.com/contents/issue/2578.html)).

The *New Scientist* was 50 years old last year and this was celebrated in a special double issue. At one end of the magazine, well-known scientists and philosophers presented a series of articles that attempted to answer the current 'Big Questions' and to provide 'Predictions' for the next 50 years. Starting from the other end, the reader was treated to a series of 'Classic Stories' from the *New Scientist* archive.

These articles, plus those that can be found at [www.newscientist.com/classic-articles](http://www.newscientist.com/classic-articles), cover a wide range of topics in science, technology and medicine in the last 50 years. These include aviation, computing, particle physics, space travel, genetics, contraception, nuclear power, AIDS, cold fusion and climate change. The choice of topics clearly reflects typical perceptions of history's defining moments and the concerns of the current editors. It thus tells us as much about present attitudes as those of the past. However, the articles remain a useful, accessible, and sometimes surprising, resource for the history of science and science communication.

The 'Predictions' almost certainly tell us of the present and not the future. In 50 years they will be fascinating historical documents, and perhaps also a source of wry amusement.

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## News Darwin discovery

Last November a Darwin manuscript, hidden since 1909, was discovered at Christ's College. The signature that was displayed under a framed photograph of Darwin, after opening, was revealed to be the endorsement on the back of a cheque. The framed photograph and signature were part of the 1909 Darwin centenary exhibition. The c. 1855 photograph was given by Darwin to F. D. Dyster and later passed to his nephew F. H. H. Guillemard who lent, and later gave it to the College.



The Union Bank of London cheque was made out by Darwin 'to self' on 21 March 1872 for 100 pounds. Darwin and his family were just leaving London after five weeks in a rented holiday house. The cheque was probably provided by Francis Darwin in 1909 to accompany the photograph. Both photograph and cheque are now being conserved.

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## Thackray Museum

Thanks to an AHRC Collaborative Doctoral Award, one of the UK's largest medical collections at the Thackray Museum in Leeds is now being studied by Claire Jones, a postgraduate student in the Division of History and Philosophy of Science, University of Leeds. Claire's PhD project on 'The Medical Instrument Trade Catalogue in Britain, 1880-1914: Its Changing Form, Role and Significance in Technologizing Healthcare' will generate both a dedicated exhibit at the Thackray Museum and online outreach materials in 2009. Details at [www.hps.leeds.ac.uk/HPSNews/Technologizing-Healthcare.htm](http://www.hps.leeds.ac.uk/HPSNews/Technologizing-Healthcare.htm).

## Scientists' archives

The latest Progress Report of the UK's National Cataloguing Unit for the Archives of Contemporary Scientists (NCUACS) includes accounts of the latest collections to be processed: those of the geneticist J.H. Renwick and a supplementary collection of papers and correspondence of Sir Richard Southwood. It also reports on the start of two major projects: the archives of Joseph Rotblat and an Arts & Humanities Research Council-funded project on the archives of 11 distinguished British

physicists and mathematicians. The Report is online at [www.bath.ac.uk/ncuacs](http://www.bath.ac.uk/ncuacs).

## Newton's chymistry

The Chymistry of Isaac Newton is pleased to announce the publication of a new transcription of Newton's manuscript "Of Natures obvious laws & processes in vegetation" (Smithsonian MS.Dibner 1031B). The eleven-page tract represents Newton's attempt to provide a synopsis of a physical theory that unifies and accounts for many if not most known natural phenomena. The transcription includes a short text in Latin that follows the English section, a highly significant testament of Newton's chymical philosophy that until now was unedited, un-translated, and virtually unnoticed by scholars.

This release also marks the launch of a full-text search engine built using the California Digital Library program developed eXtensible Text Framework (XTF) - a flexible indexing, querying and delivery tool that supports XML data formats.

Newton wrote and transcribed about a million words on the subject of alchemy. His alchemical manuscripts are rich and diverse, including laboratory notebooks, indices of alchemical substances, and transcriptions from other sources. The Chymistry of Isaac Newton is producing a scholarly online edition as part of an integrated project that includes new research on Newton's "chymistry", a 17th-century term used to describe the sum of alchemical pursuits.

With the support of the National Science Foundation, the current project focus is to build a repository of searchable transcriptions with page images. Our ultimate goal is to provide complete annotations for each manuscript and comprehensive interactive tools for working with the texts. To date, about 700 pages have been transcribed and encoded. The Chymistry of Isaac Newton is hosted by Indiana University's Digital Library Program, and is affiliated with The Newton Project. It can be viewed at: [www.dlib.indiana.edu/collections/newton](http://www.dlib.indiana.edu/collections/newton).

## Education prize

The History of Science Society has awarded its 2006 Joseph H. Hazen Education Prize for 'outstanding contributions to the teaching of history of science' to Graeme Gooday of the Division of History and Philosophy of Science, University of Leeds. For details of the award and access to his on-line papers on educational topics visit [www.hps.leeds.ac.uk/HPSNews/Hazen-Prize.htm](http://www.hps.leeds.ac.uk/HPSNews/Hazen-Prize.htm). Dr Gooday has recently taken over as chair of the BSHS Outreach and Education Committee.