The Royal Society Journals Archive

1665 – 1996

THE ROYAL SOCIETY

The Royal Society Journals Archive

1,278 volumes

45,883 articles

740,000 pages

Over 330 years of science.

Image:
Illustrations from a letter to Sir Hans Sloane Bt, President of the Royal Society, from Dr Steigertahl FRS, giving an account of a "narhual" or "unicorn fish", published in 1738.

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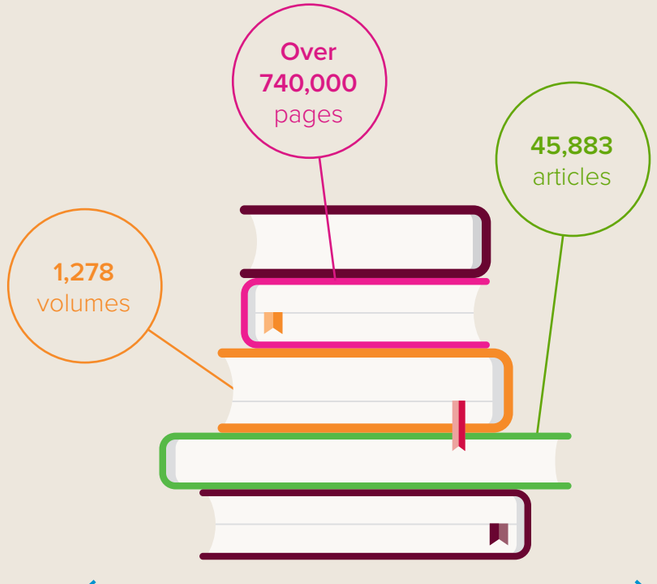
Introduction

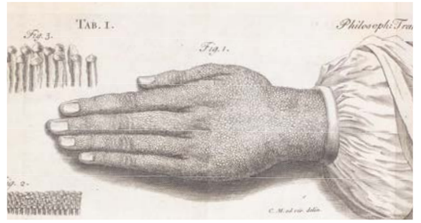
With newly digitised full colour images of original peer reviewed scientific articles from 1665 to 1996 the Royal Society Journals Archive provides a fascinating insight into the development of science. No other archive has material from a scientific journal published continuously for over 330 years.

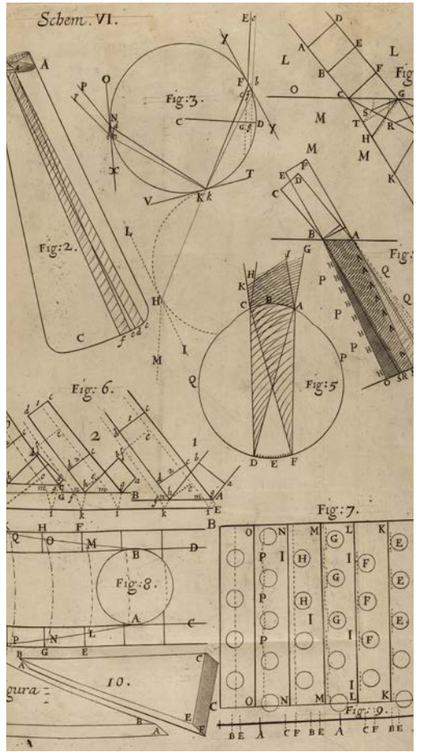
Careful curated digitisation led by our library team has resulted in a high-quality resource with added features.

- Comprehensive metadata for indexing and discoverability.
- Annotations, illustrations and additional material captured from our original collections.
- Image plates, maps, and end matter material.
- Additional content not previously available.
- MathML rendering of mathematical formulae to facilitate search.



The Journals Archive is available as a one-time purchase with no ongoing fees. Please contact **sales@royalsociety.org** for more information.





Images (clockwise from top left):
Illustration from, *An extract from the minutes of the Royal Society, March 16, 1731, containing an uncommon case of a distempered skin*, published in *Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society of London*, in 1731; *Rosa rubra* (red rose), from *Herbarium Blackwellianum*, by Elizabeth Blackwell, 1750; and figures showing how best to improve the microscope, from *Micrographia: or some physiological descriptions of minute bodies made by magnifying glasses with observations and inquiries thereupon*, by Robert Hooke, 1665.

THE ROYAL SOCIETY JOURNALS ARCHIVE 7

A flexible resource

The interests of the Royal Society have always been broad and varied, and the journals have published the work of many people active in different areas of society. This means the archive covers an enormous range of subjects from Egyptian mummies to the diet of the Navy from birds to volcanoes.

The archive has been used as a corpus of early English by linguistics researchers at Universität des Saarlandes to study linguistic densification in the evolution of scientific writing in English from the 17th century to the present. It offers unparalleled opportunities for text mining and machine learning.

Read the theme issues *Celebrating 350 years of Philosophical Transactions: life sciences* and *Celebrating 350 years of Philosophical Transactions: physical sciences* papers for commentary on some key works and themes. For examples of the types of academic work for which the journal archive is a vital resource see the active research projects in the *History of Science* that we support.

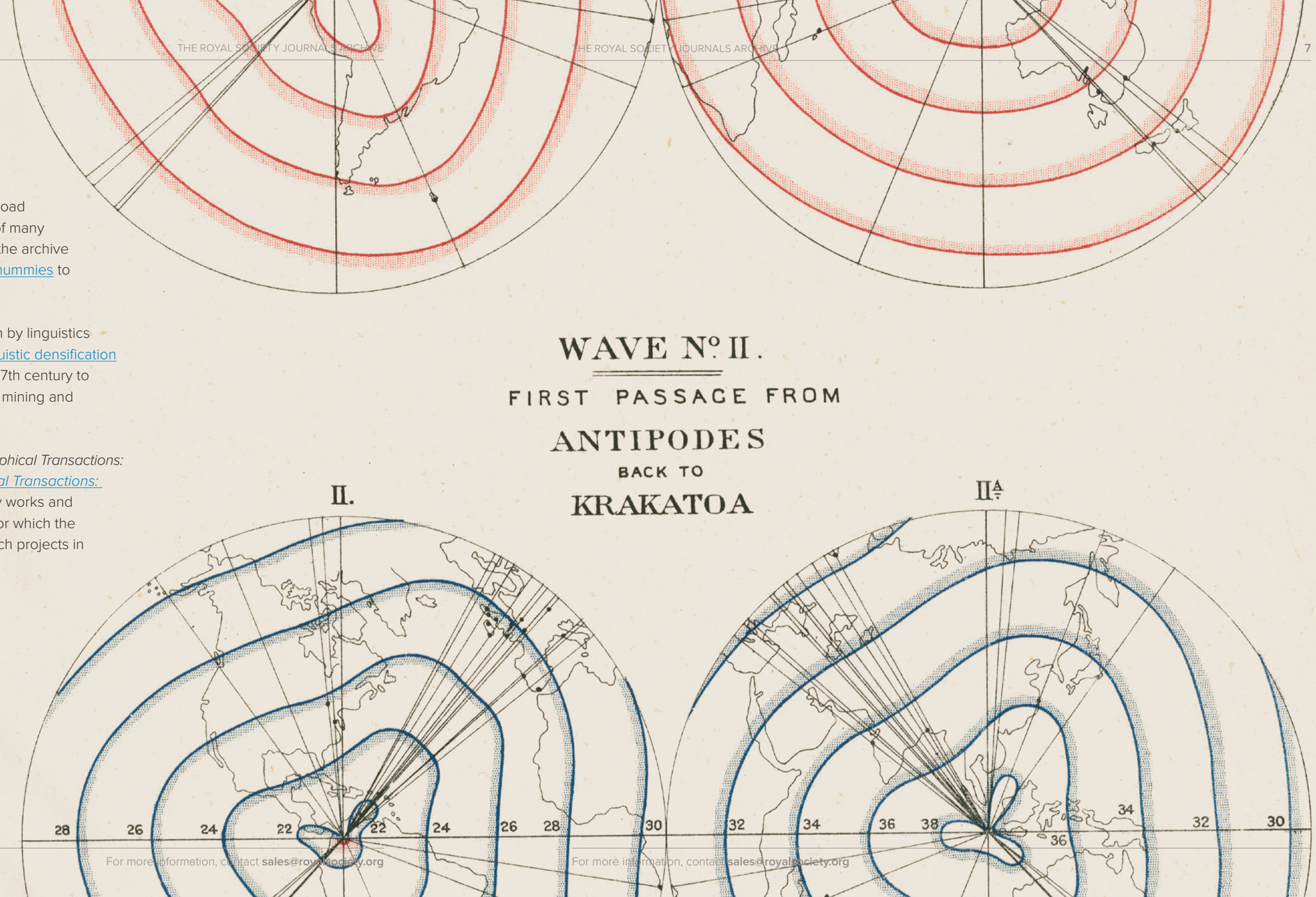


Image:
Four figures showing the ocean tracks of the first and second tsunami waves generated by the eruption of Krakatoa, the island in the Sunda Strait, Indonesia on 27 August 1883. Figures taken from *The eruption of Krakatoa, and subsequent phenomena. Report of the Krakatoa Committee of the Royal Society*, edited by G J Symons and published in 1888..

For more information, contact sales@royalsociety.org

Inside the journals archive

The journals archive contains foundational knowledge for many scientific disciplines, incredible experiments, fascinating (but now debunked) theories, and articles on unexpected topics. We've picked out five themes that illustrate the breadth of material in the archive; measuring the weather; public health and protection for workers; exploration, discovery and colonisation; rebuilding Europe; and colour and light.

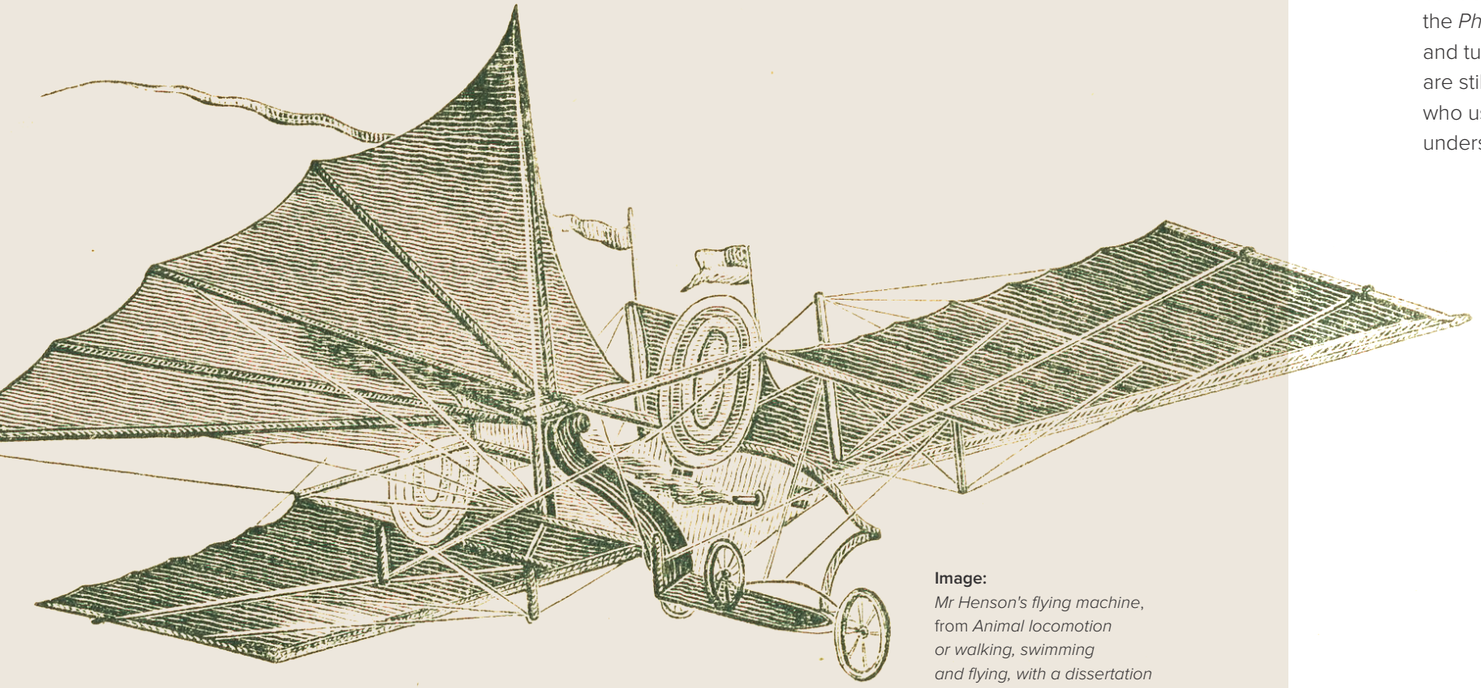
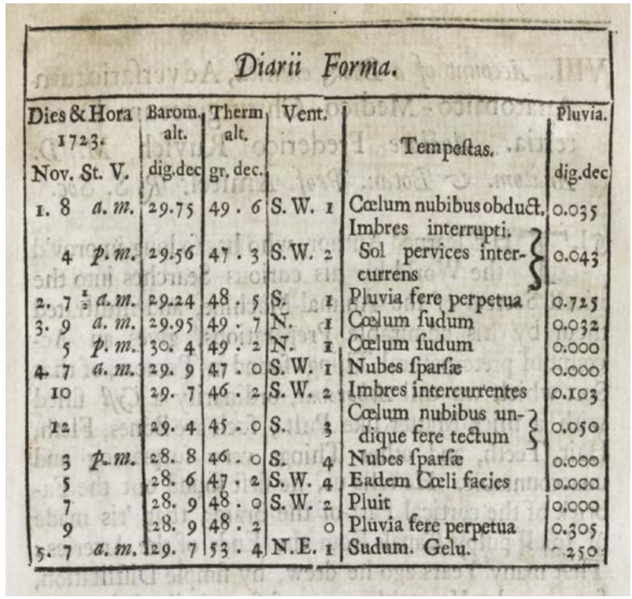


Image:
Mr Henson's flying machine, from *Animal locomotion or walking, swimming and flying, with a dissertation on aeronautics*, by James Bell Pettigrew, 1873.

Measuring the weather

After James Jurin called for submission of meteorological observations in 1722, contributors sent their daily weather observations from all continents. These direct observations were abstracted, condensed and analysed by the editor of the *Philosophical Transactions* for decades and turned into scientific publications which are still useful to modern day climatologists who use such historical records to understand long-term climatic trends.



Diarii Forma.

Dies & Hora 1723. Nov. St. V.		Barom. alt. dig.dec	Therm alt. gr. dec.	Vent.		Tempeſtas.	Pluvia. dig.dec
1. 8	*a. m.*	29.75	49 . 6	S. W.	1	Cœlum nubibus obductt.	0.035
4	*p. m.*	29.56	47 . 3	S. W.	2	Imbres interrupti. Sol pervices intercurrens	0.043
2. 7 ½	*a. m.*	29.24	48 . 5	S.	1	Pluvia fere perpetua	0.725
3. 9	*a. m.*	29.95	49 . 7	N.	1	Cœlum ſudum	0.032
5	*p. m.*	30. 4	49 . 2	N.	1	Cœlum ſudum	0.000
4. 7	*a. m.*	29. 9	47 . 0	S. W.	1	Nubes ſparſæ	0.000
10		29. 7	46 . 2	S. W.	2	Imbres intercurrentes	0.103
12		29. 4	45 . 0	S.	3	Cœlum nubibus undique fere tectum	0.050
3	*p. m.*	28. 8	46 . 0	S.	4	Nubes ſparſæ	0.000
5		28. 6	47 . 2	S. W.	4	Eadem Cœli facies	0.000
7		28. 9	48 . 0	S. W.	2	Pluit	0.000
9		28. 9	48 . 2		0	Pluvia fere perpetua	0.305
5. 7	*a. m.*	29. 7	53 . 4	N.E.	1	Sudum. Gelu.	0.250

Image:
An abstract of the meteorological diaries, communicated to the Royal Society, with remarks upon them, by the Rev. Mr Tho. Consett. Observations were made from 24 November 1724 to 23 June 1725.

Public health and protection for workers

After the Royal Society received official instructions from the Home Office to investigate the effects of glass working on workers' eyes, clinical investigations led to fundamental research in ophthalmology and in the physics of transmission of light and heat. This led to crucial developments in workers' health protection, as glassworkers consequently benefitted from a state pension*.

Follow the links below to read the articles online:

Report of the glass workers' cataract Committee

The preparation of eye-preserving glass for spectacles

The Transmission of Infra-Red Rays by the Media of the Eye and the Transmission of Radiant Energy by Crookes and Other Glasses

Investigation on the Crystalline Lens

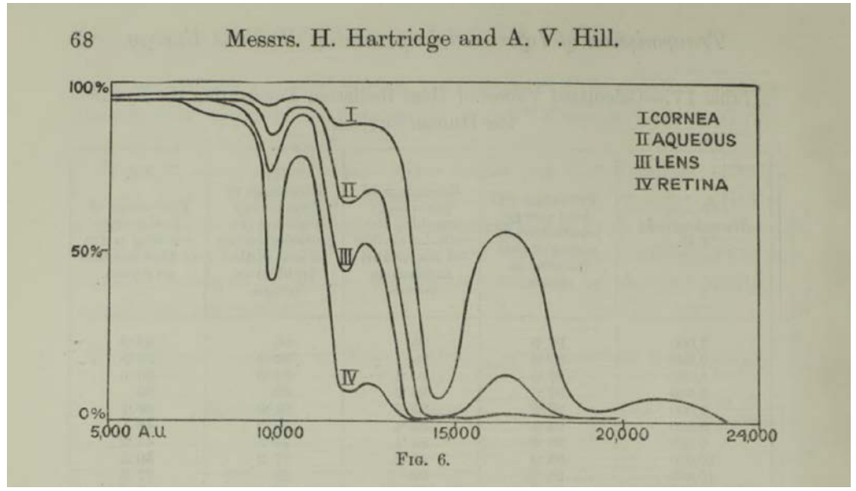


Fig. 6.

Right:
Figure from, *The transmission of infra-red rays by the media of the eye and the transmission of radiant energy by crookes and other glasses*, by Hartridge Hamiliton and Hill Archibald Vivian, 1915.

* See also: *The Royal Society's Glass Workers' Cataract Committee; Sir William Crookes and the development of sunglasses.*

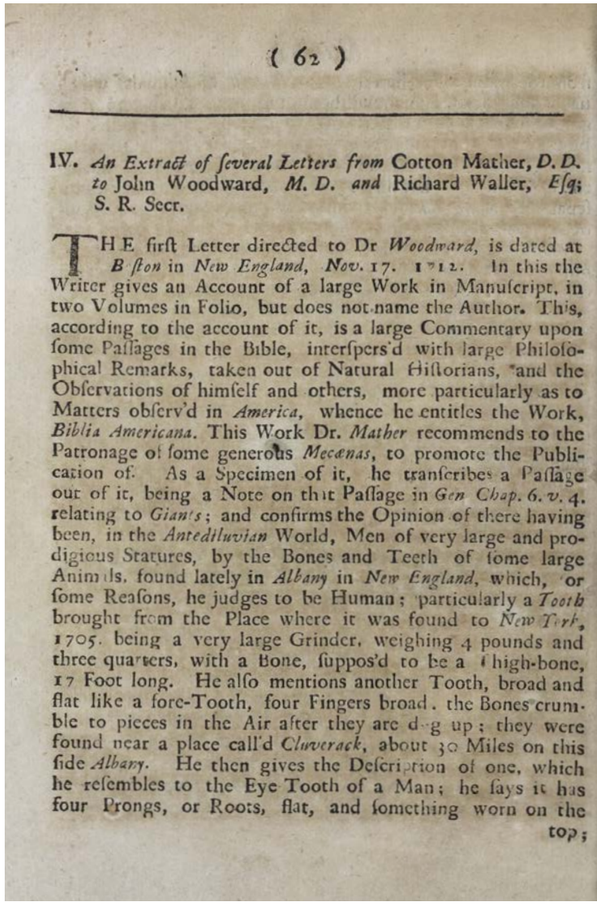
Exploration, discovery and colonisation

From early scientific expeditions to more recent analyses, the pages of the archive provide fascinating insight into scientific discovery achieved through daring adventures and dangerous expeditions.

As the United Kingdom embarked on imperial expansion and colonisation correspondence published in *Philosophical Transactions* reflects many different aspects of Britain's changing relationship with the world and its integral role in the Atlantic slave trade.

As well as collecting specimens, white scientists also collected knowledge from indigenous and enslaved people, who were more familiar with the medicinal properties of properties of plants.

While the vast majority of these people are anonymous, the pages of the archive do name some individuals for example, Onesimus, an African-born enslaved man in New England, introduced the practice of inoculation in 1716. He had been gifted to Cotton Mather, a Puritan Minister in 1706, to whom he described the method.


(62)

IV. *An Extract of ſeveral Letters from* Cotton Mather, *D. D. to* John Woodward, *M. D. and* Richard Waller, *Eſq;* S. R. Secr.

THE firſt Letter directed to Dr *Woodward*, is dated at *Boſton* in *New England*, *Nov.* 17. 1712. In this the Writer gives an Account of a large Work in Manuſcript, in two Volumes in Folio, but does not name the Author. This, according to the account of it, is a large Commentary upon ſome Paſſages in the Bible, interſpers'd with large Philoſophical Remarks, taken out of Natural Hiſtorians, and the Obſervations of himſelf and others, more particularly as to Matters obſerv'd in *America*, whence he entitles the Work, *Biblia Americana*. This Work Dr. *Mather* recommends to the Patronage of ſome generous *Mecænas*, to promote the Publication of. As a Specimen of it, he tranſcribes a Paſſage out of it, being a Note on that Paſſage in *Gen. Chap. 6. v.* 4. relating to *Giants*; and confirms the Opinion of there having been, in the *Antediluvian* World, Men of very large and prodigious Statures, by the Bones and Teeth of ſome large Animals, found lately in *Albany* in *New England*, which, for ſome Reaſons, he judges to be Human; particularly a *Tooth* brought from the Place where it was found to *New York*, 1705. being a very large Grinder, weighing 4 pounds and three quarters, with a Bone, ſuppos'd to be a Thigh-bone, 17 Foot long. He alſo mentions another Tooth, broad and flat like a fore-Tooth, four Fingers broad. the Bones crumble to pieces in the Air after they are dug up: they were found near a place call'd *Cluverack*, about 30 Miles on this ſide *Albany*. He then gives the Deſcription of one, which he reſembles to the Eye-Tooth of a Man; he ſays it has four Prongs, or Roots, flat, and ſomething worn on the top;

Right:
Extract of a letter from Cotton Mather to John Woodward and Richard Waller.

For a more in-depth introduction to the history of black scientists and the Royal Society see the Society's Google arts and culture exhibition: *A celebration of black science*.

Right:
Landscape study of Te Tarata by Arnold Meermann, in 1863, after, Bruno Hamel.

Explorers shared both their scientific results and what they learned about how to carry out expeditions:

The method taken for preserving the health of the crew of his Majesty's ship the Resolution during her late voyage round the World by by Captain James Cook FRS, addressed to Sir John Pringle Bt., President of the Royal Society. Read online.

The Scientific advantages of an Antarctic Expedition. Read online.

Special editions of *Philosophical Transactions* have collected knowledge on particular themes from the Antarctic to the Great Barrier Reef:

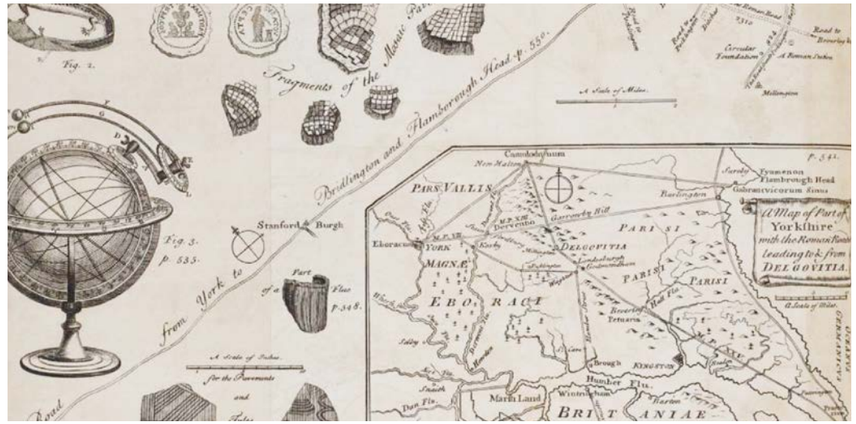
Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society of London. Series B, Biological Sciences: Volume 252, No 777, a special issue on the terrestrial Antarctic ecosystem. Read online.

Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society of London. Series B, Biological Sciences: Volume 284, No 999, on the Great Barrier Reef. Read online.

Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society of London. Series A, Mathematical and Physical Sciences: Volume 291, No 1378, on the Great Barrier Reef. Read online.

"...there is almost certainly a continent at the south pole."

John Murray, 1898, from, *The scientific advantages of an Antarctic expedition.*

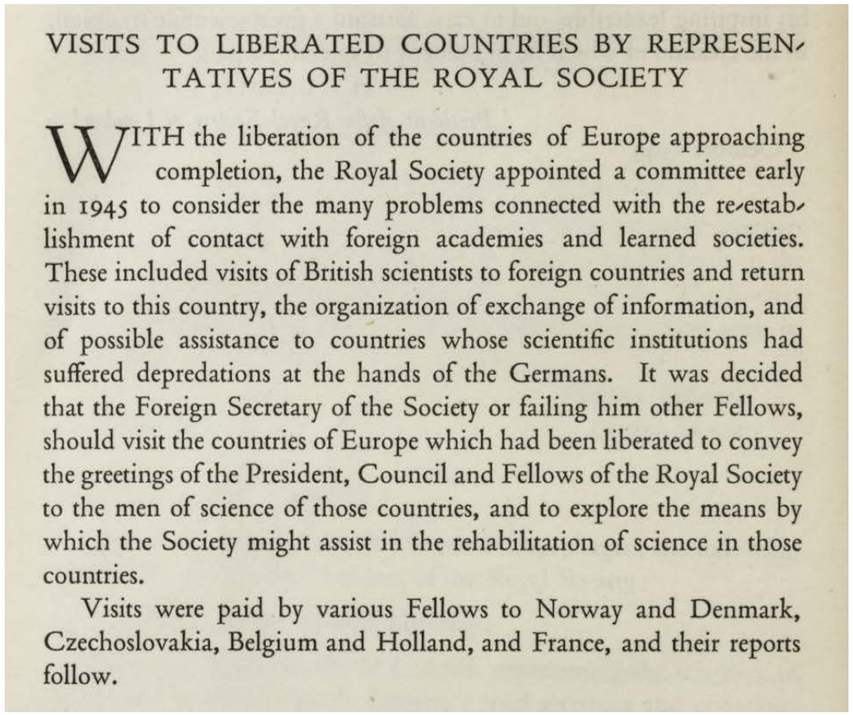


Right:
Illustration from, *A differtation on the situation of the ancient Roman station of Delgovitia in Yorkshire*, by John Burton and Francis Drake, in 1746.

Rebuilding Europe

Much of the work done by the Royal Society during World War I and World War II was not published, (and was highly classified) but this fascinating article reports back on the state of scientific and university laboratories as seen by representatives of the Society assess the damage done to scientific learning during the war.

Visits to liberated countries by representatives of the Royal Society.



VISITS TO LIBERATED COUNTRIES BY REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ROYAL SOCIETY

WITH the liberation of the countries of Europe approaching completion, the Royal Society appointed a committee early in 1945 to consider the many problems connected with the re-establishment of contact with foreign academies and learned societies. These included visits of British scientists to foreign countries and return visits to this country, the organization of exchange of information, and of possible assistance to countries whose scientific institutions had suffered depredations at the hands of the Germans. It was decided that the Foreign Secretary of the Society or failing him other Fellows, should visit the countries of Europe which had been liberated to convey the greetings of the President, Council and Fellows of the Royal Society to the men of science of those countries, and to explore the means by which the Society might assist in the rehabilitation of science in those countries.

Visits were paid by various Fellows to Norway and Denmark, Czechoslovakia, Belgium and Holland, and France, and their reports follow.

Left:
Visits to liberated countries by representatives of the Royal Society, published in *Notes and Records, Volume 4, Issue 1*, in 1946.

Right:
Chart of colours based upon Benson's 'cube of colours': sections at right angles with the primary axes of the cube. This painting is one of a series of 'spot colour charts' produced for the monograph, *Principles of the science of colour concisely stated to aid and promote their useful application in the decorative arts*, by William Benson, 1868.

Colour and light

Newton's papers on the science of colour in the *Philosophical Transactions* between 1672 and 1676 launched a fascinating debate around optics which developed through letters with Christian Huygens and further in the pages of the journal. Light and colours were later the object of Bakerian lectures by William Herschel, Thomas Young and James Clerk Maxwell, the latter two opening their analyses by praising Newton's original contribution. In *Philosophical Transactions* this scientific conversation continued for nearly two hundred years.

Click on the article names to view the article online.

1671

A Letter of Mr Isaac Newton, Professor of the Mathematicks in the University of Cambridge; Containing His New Theory about Light and Colors: Sent by the Author to the Publisher from Cambridge, Febr. 6. 1671/72; In Order to be Communicated to the R. Society.

1672

A Serie's of Quere's Propounded by Mr Isaac Newton, to be Determin'd by Experiments, Positively and Directly Concluding His New Theory of Light and Colours; and Here Recommended to the Industry of the Lovers of Experimental Philosophy, as they Were Generously Imparted to the Publisher in a Letter of the Said Mr Newtons of July 8, 1672.

Mr Isaac Newtons Answer to Some Considerations upon His Doctrine of Light and Colors; Which Doctrine Was Printed in Numb. 80. of These Tract.

Some Experiments Propos'd in Relation to Mr Newtons Theory of Light, Printed in Numb. 80; Together with the Observations Made Thereupon by the Author of That Theory; Communicated in a Letter of His from Cambridge, April 13. 1672.

1673

An Extract of a Letter Lately Written by an Ingenious Person from Paris, Containing Some Considerations upon Mr Newtons Doctrine of Colors, as Also upon the Effects of the Different Refractions of the Rays in Telescopical Glasses.

Mr Newtons Answer to the Foregoing Letter Further Explaining His Theory of Light and Colors, and Particularly That of Whiteness; together with His Continued Hopes of Perfecting Telescopes by Reflections Rather than Refractions.

1674

A Letter of the Learned Franc. Linus, to a Friend of His in London, Animadverting upon Mr Isaac Newton's Theory of Light and Colours, Formerly Printed in These Tracts Phil. Trans. January 1, 1674 9 101-111 217-219.

1675

A Letter of Mr Franc. Linus, Written to the Publisher from Liege the 25th of Febr. 1675. st.n. being a Reply to the Letter Printed in Numb. 110. by Way of Answer to a Former Letter of the Same Mr Linus, Concerning Mr Isaac Newton's Theory of Light and Colours.

1676

A Particular Answer of Mr Isaak Newton to Mr Linus his Letter, Printed in Numb 121. p.499. about an Experiment Relating to the New Doctrine of Light and Colours: This Answer Sent from Cambridge in a Letter to the Publisher Febr. 29. 1675/6.

A Letter from Liege concerning Mr Newton's Experiment of the Coloured Spectrum; together with Some Exceptions against His Theory of Light and Colours.

1686

A Catalogue of Simple and Mixt Colours, with a Specimen of Each Colour Prefixt to Its Proper Name: By R Waller, Fellow of the Royal Society.

1714

A Plain and Easy Experiment to Confirm Sir Isaac Newton's Doctrine of the Different Refrangibility of the Rays of Light. By JT Desaguliers.

1768

An Account of Rings Consisting of All the Prismatic Colours, Made by Electrical Explosions on the Surface of Pieces of Metal, by Joseph Priestley, LL. D. FRS.

For more information, contact **sales@royalsociety.org**

1796	1800	1802	1860
Experiments and Observations on the Inflection, Reflection, and Colours of Light. By Henry Brougham Jun. Esq. Communicated by Sir Charles Blagden, Knt. Sec. R. S.	Investigation of the Powers of the Prismatic Colours to Heat and Illuminate Objects; With Remarks, that Prove the Different Refrangibility of Radiant Heat. To Which is Added, an Inquiry into the Method of Viewing the Sun Advantageously, with Telescopes of Large Apertures and High Magnifying Powers. By William Herschel, LL. D. FRS. Investigation of the Powers of the Prismatic Colours to Heat and Illuminate Objects; With Remarks, that Prove the Different Refrangibility of Radiant Heat. To Which is Added, an Inquiry into the Method of Viewing the Sun Advantageously, with Telescopes of Large Apertures and High Magnifying Powers. By William Herschel, LL. D. FRS. *An Account of Some Cases of the Production of Colours, Not Hitherto Described.*	*The Bakerian Lecture: On the Theory of Light and Colours.*	*On the Theory of Compound Colours, and the Relations of the Colours of the Spectrum.*

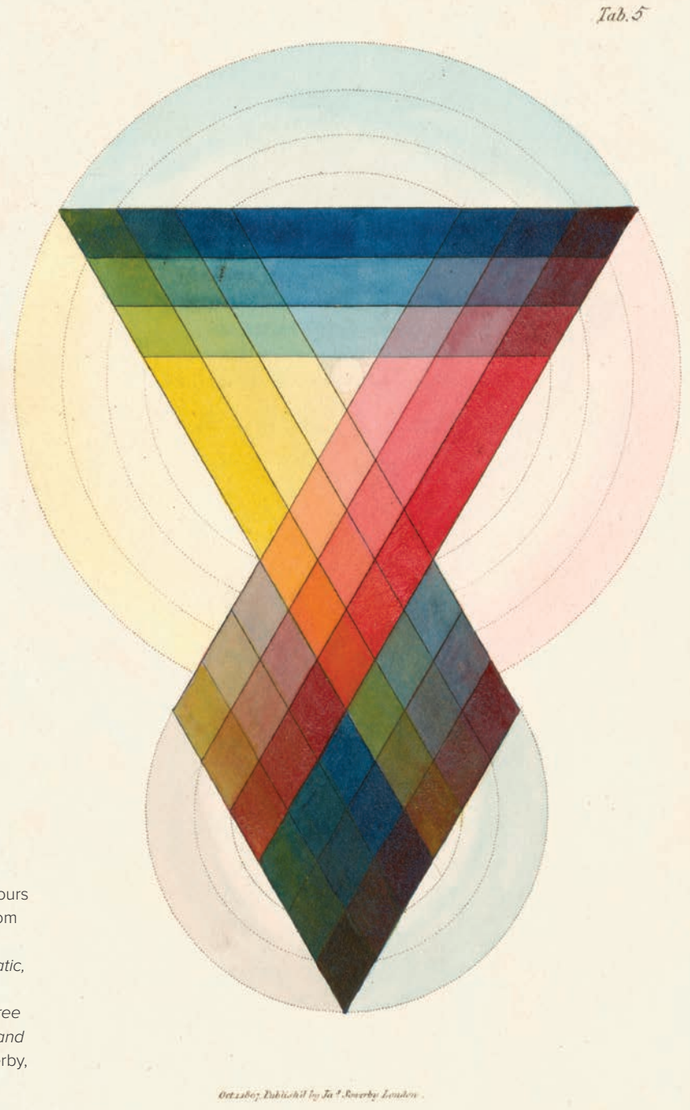
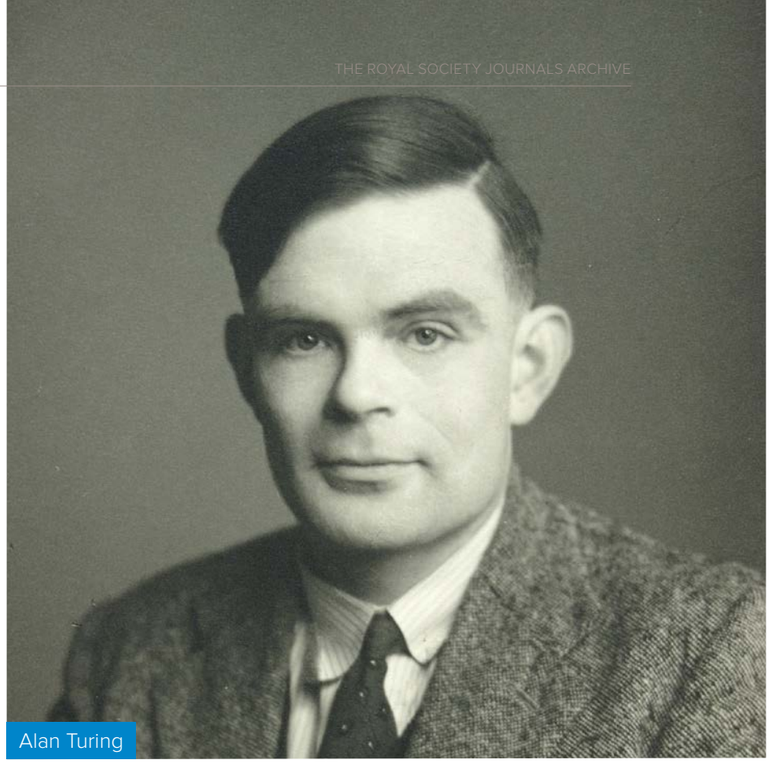


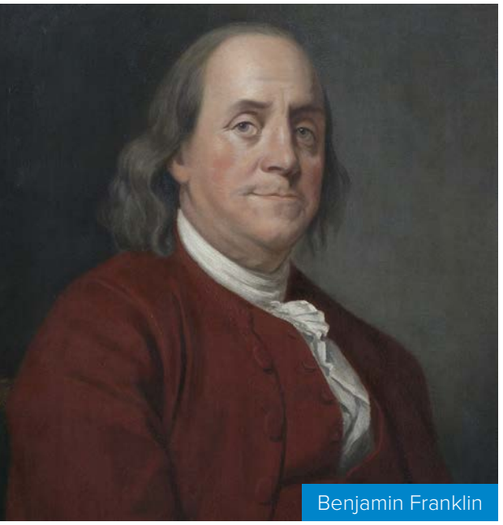
Image:
Chromatic scale of colours arranged as a chart, from *A new elucidation of colours, original prismatic, and material; showing their coincidence in three primitives, yellow, red and blue...*, by James Sowerby, in 1809.

The scientists

Since publishing our first journal in 1665, many eminent scientists have published with the Royal Society.

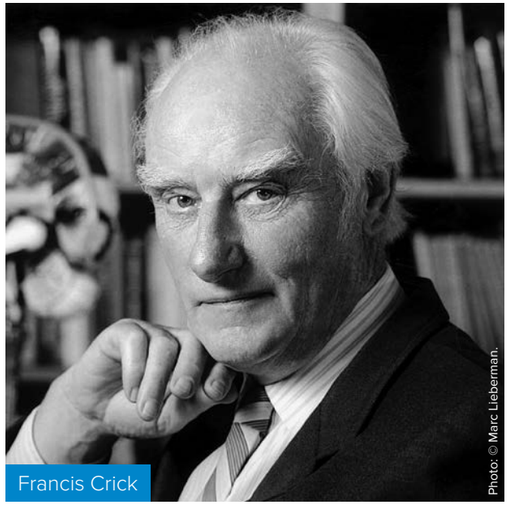
Click on the images to view their papers online.

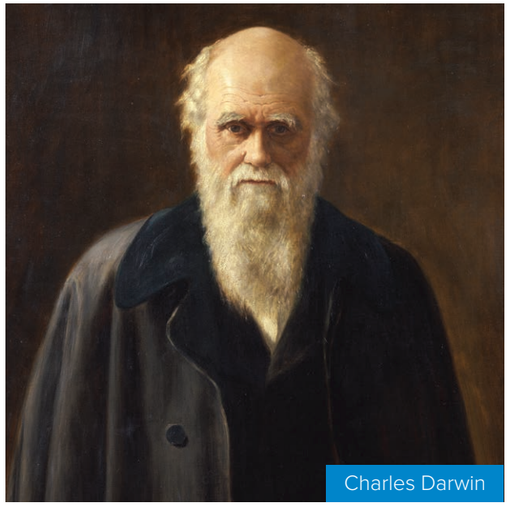

Alan Turing


Benjamin Franklin

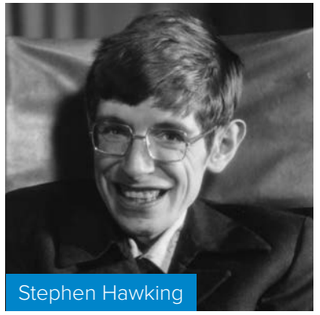

Samuel Pepys


Kathleen Lonsdale


Francis Crick


Charles Darwin


Christopher Wren


Stephen Hawking


Dorothy Hodgkin

Philosophical Collections

Edited by Robert Hooke FRS, *Philosophical Collections* was published between 1679 and 1682, at which point the journal title changed back to *Philosophical Transactions*.

As Curator of Experiments Hooke was authorised by the Royal Society Council to publish correspondence and other material. A distinct and fascinating period in publishing from the Royal Society, *Philosophical Collections* closely reflects the interests and correspondents of its editor; inventions, practical experiments and early observations using microscopes.

Philosophical Collections contains particularly fascinating letters from Antoni van Leeuwenhoek, inventor of the single lens microscope. Hooke and Leeuwenhoek were both working with microscopes, and *Philosophical Collections* includes many articles on new ways to observe the world. Hooke's preoccupations with practical experimentation, inventions and mechanics are evident throughout the journal.

Never before available online as a journal, articles from *Philosophical Collections* are far rarer than those from *Philosophical Transactions*, and it is unlikely that libraries will hold all seven numbers.

Follow the below links to read the abstracts online of:

- mechanical wings;
- an airship;
- astronomical observations from the first Astronomer Royal, John Flamsteed FRS; and
- details of a lamp invented by Robert Boyle FRS.

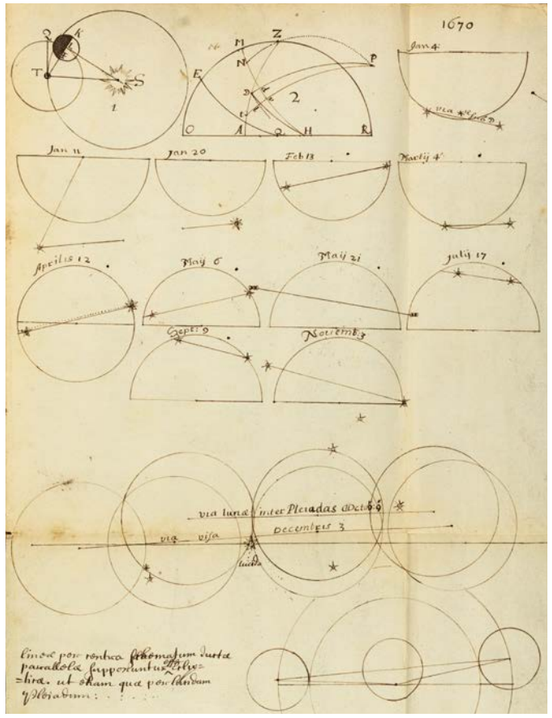


Image:
Figures indicating the predicted appulses (closest apparent separations) of the Moon in relation to the fixed stars and Saturn for the year 1671, calculated by John Flamsteed. His predictions were printed (without the figures) in *Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society, Volume 5, No 66*, in 1679.

Naming history

Over the long history of the Royal Society the journals have changed names many times, often for short periods of time. In the journals archive minor name change are treated as the same journal, making the collection easier for readers to search.

The first issue of *Philosophical Transactions* was published on 6 March 1665, under the visionary editorship of Henry Oldenburg. In 1886, the breadth and scope of scientific discovery had increased to such an extent that it became necessary to divide the journal into two: *Philosophical Transactions A*, covering the physical sciences; and *Philosophical Transactions B*, covering the life sciences.

Image:
Portrait of Henry Oldenburg by Jan Van Cleef, in 1668.

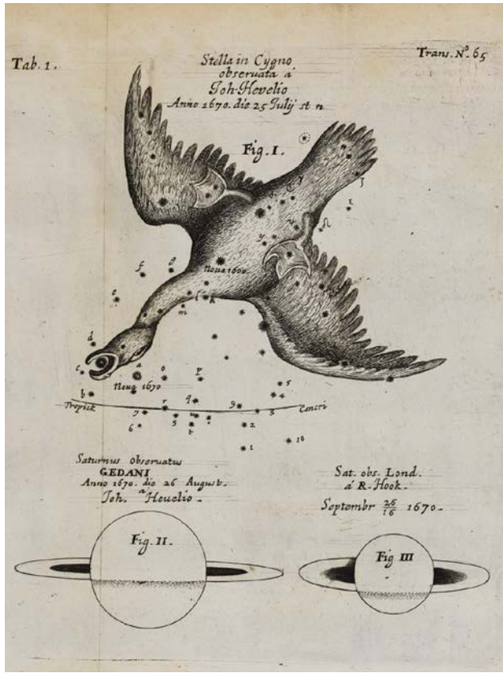
Journal title	Year range	Volume range	Starting date	Title abbreviation for citation
Philosophical Transactions	1665 – 1678	1 – 12	1665	Phil. Trans.
Philosophical Collections	1679 – 1682	1 – 7	1679	Phil. Coll.
Philosophical Transactions	1683 – 1775	13 – 65	1683	Phil. Trans.
Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society of London	1776 – 1886	66 – 177	1776	Phil. Trans. R. Soc. Lond.
Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society of London. (A.)	1887 – 1895	178 – 186	1887	Phil. Trans. R. Soc. Lond. A
Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society of London. Series A, Containing Papers of a Mathematical or Physical Character	1896 – 1934	187 – 233	1896	Phil. Trans. R. Soc. Lond. A
Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society of London. Series A, Mathematical and Physical Sciences	1934 – 1990	234 – 331	Nov 1934	Phil. Trans. R. Soc. Lond. A
Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society of London. Series A: Physical and Engineering Sciences	1990 – 1995	332 – 353	Jul 1990	Phil. Trans. R. Soc. Lond. A
Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society of London. Series A: Mathematical, Physical and Engineering Sciences	1996 – 2004	354 – 362	1996	Phil. Trans. R. Soc. Lond. A
Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society A: Mathematical, Physical and Engineering Sciences	2005 –	363 –	2005	Phil. Trans. R. Soc. A
Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society of London. (B.)	1887 – 1895	178 – 186	1887	Phil. Trans. R. Soc. Lond. B

Journal title	Year range	Volume range	Starting date	Title abbreviation for citation
Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society of London. Series B, Containing Papers of a Biological Character	1896 – 1934	187 – 223	1896	Phil. Trans. R. Soc. Lond. B
Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society of London. Series B, Biological Sciences	1934 – 1969	224 – 255	Oct 1934	Phil. Trans. R. Soc. Lond. B
Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society of London. B, Biological Sciences	1969 – 1990	256 – 328	Sep 1969	Phil. Trans. R. Soc. Lond. B
Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society of London. Series B: Biological Sciences	1990 – 2004	329 – 359	Jul 1990	Phil. Trans. R. Soc. Lond. B
Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society B: Biological Sciences	2005 –	360 –	2005	Phil. Trans. R. Soc. B
Abstracts of the Papers Printed in the Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society of London	1800 – 1843	1 – 4	1800	Proc. R. Soc. Lond.
Abstracts of the Papers Communicated to the Royal Society of London	1843 – 1854	5 – 6	Nov 1843	Proc. R. Soc. Lond.
Proceedings of the Royal Society of London	1854 – 1905	7 – 75	Feb 1854	Proc. R. Soc. Lond.
Proceedings of the Royal Society of London. Series A, Containing Papers of a Mathematical and Physical Character	1905 – 1934	76 – 146	Apr 1905	Proc. R. Soc. Lond. A
Proceedings of the Royal Society of London. Series A – Mathematical and Physical Sciences	1934 – 1938	147 – 164	Nov 1934	Proc. R. Soc. Lond. A
Proceedings of the Royal Society of London. Series A. Mathematical and Physical Sciences	1938 – 1969	165 – 308	Mar 1938	Proc. R. Soc. Lond. A
Proceedings of the Royal Society of London. A. Mathematical and Physical Sciences	1969 – 1990	309 – 429	Feb 1969	Proc. R. Soc. Lond. A
Proceedings of the Royal Society of London. Series A: Mathematical and Physical Sciences	1990 – 1995	430 – 451	Jul 1990	Proc. R. Soc. Lond. A

Journal title	Year range	Volume range	Starting date	Title abbreviation for citation
Proceedings of the Royal Society of London. Series A: Mathematical, Physical and Engineering Sciences	1996 – 2004	452 – 460	Jan 1996	Proc. R. Soc. Lond. A
Proceedings of the Royal Society A: Mathematical, Physical and Engineering Sciences	2005 –	461 –	2005	Proc. R. Soc. A
Proceedings of the Royal Society of London. Series B, Containing Papers of a Biological Character	1905 – 1934	76 – 115	Apr 1905	Proc. R. Soc. Lond. B
Proceedings of the Royal Society of London. Series B – Biological Sciences	1934 – 1959	116 – 150	Sep 1934	Proc. R. Soc. Lond. B
Proceedings of the Royal Society of London. Series B. Biological Sciences	1959 – 1989	151 – 235	Nov 1959	Proc. R. Soc. Lond. B
Proceedings of the Royal Society of London. B. Biological Sciences	1989 – 1990	236 – 240	Feb 1989	Proc. R. Soc. Lond. B
Proceedings of the Royal Society of London. Series B: Biological Sciences	1990 – 2004	241 – 271	Jul 1990	Proc. R. Soc. Lond. B
Proceedings of the Royal Society B: Biological Sciences	2005 –	272 –	2005	Proc. R. Soc. B
Notes and Records of the Royal Society of London	1938 – 2004	1 – 58	1938	Notes Rec. R. Soc. Lond.
Notes and Records of the Royal Society	2005 –	59 – (2008 = 62)	2005	Notes Rec. R. Soc.
Obituary Notices of Fellows of the Royal Society	1932 – 1954	1 – 9	1932	Obit. Not. Fell. R. Soc.
Biographical Memoirs of Fellows of the Royal Society	1955 –	1 – (2008 = 54)	1955	Biogr. Mems Fell. R. Soc.
Journal of The Royal Society Interface	2004 –	1 – (2008 = 5)	2004	J. R. Soc. Interface
Biology Letters	2005 –	1 – (2008 = 4)	2005	Biol. Lett.

Left:
Illustration from, *The description and draught of a machine for reducing fractures of the thigh*, by Henry Ettrick, published in *Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society of London*, in 1740.

Below:
Illustration from a letter by M Hevelius "concerning a new star, lately discover'd in the constellation of the swan, together with the present appearance of the planet Saturn", published in *Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society of London*, in 1670.



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Journals archive structure

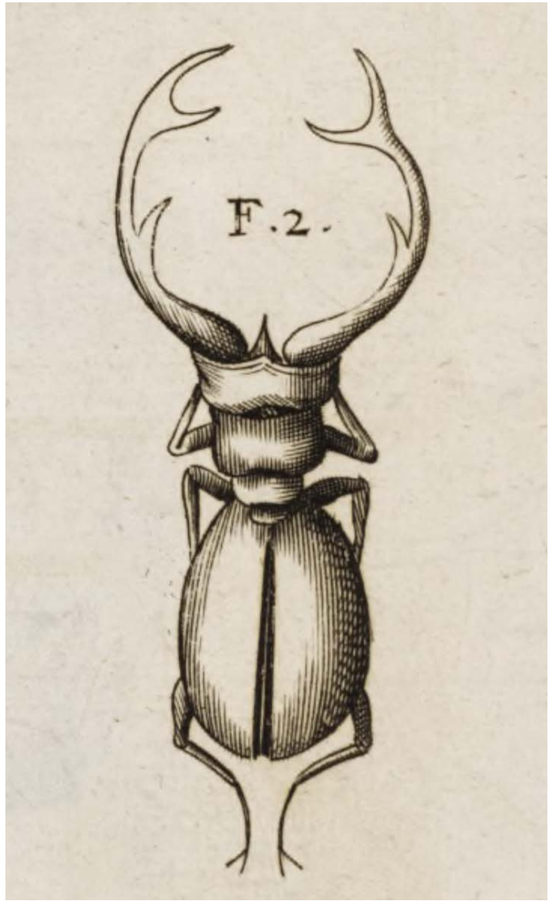
Published over a period of 332 years the journals digitised for the archive changed in their structure over the course of the publications' history, however the following high-level structure remained very consistent:

– Volume
  – Issue
    – Front matter (also called Number for early *Phil. Trans*)
    – Articles
    – Back matter

And in rare cases:

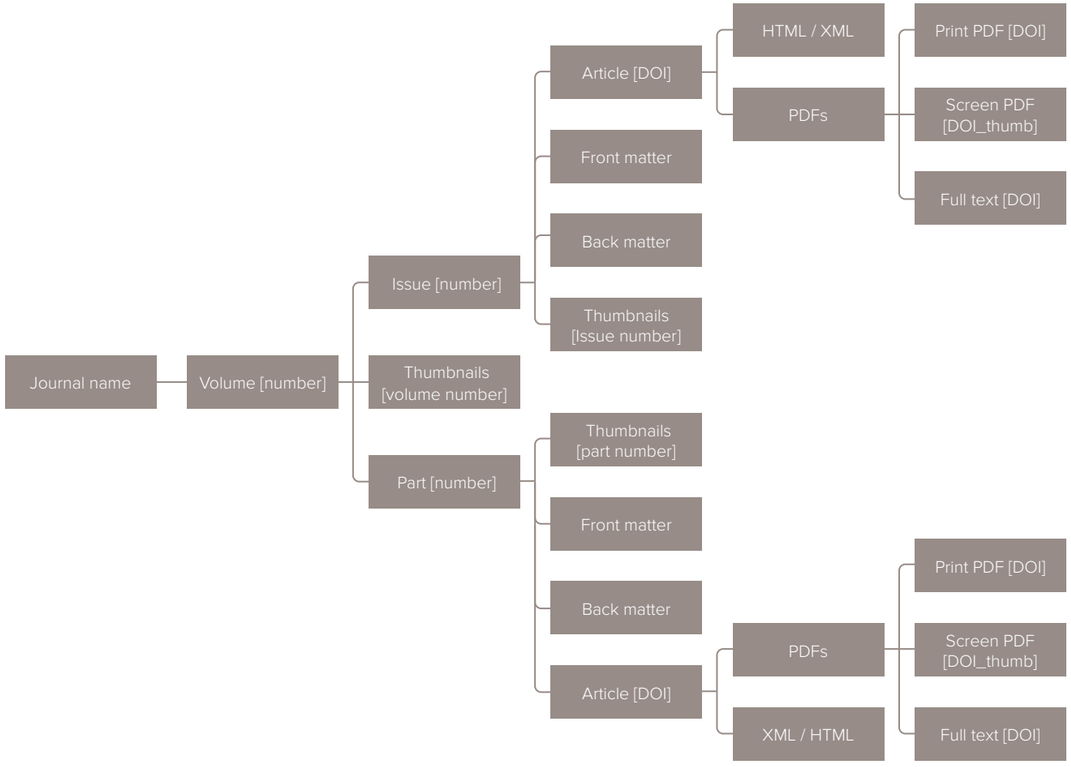
– Volume
  – (Parts)
    – Front matter
    – Articles
    – Back matter

Click here to download a sample of the archive materials.



Right:
Unknown species of flying beetle, referred to as a 'Flying hast', published in issue 127 of *Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society*, in 1837.

Journals archive structure



Article types

The content of the journals was categorised by indexers to facilitate search. The many different content types reflect the breadth of interests of Royal Society members throughout the centuries.

ARTICLE TYPES

Abstract
A summary of a research article, thesis, review, conference proceeding, etc. written by the main organiser/ author. Different from a Review.

Acknowledgement
A piece of writing thanking contributors, organisers, placed separately from any content.

Addendum
A paragraph added after an article to add a specific information to it. Different from an Appendix.

Appendix
Content added to a main article; additional data, maps or information.

Article
Authored content on a specific subject by an author, anonymous or named, reviewed or accepted by the editor or editorial board of the journal.

Astronomical observation
An article which records the position of celestial objects with maps or measures. Sometimes this type of article does not contain any author, as it is the result of a collaborative effort by members of the Royal Society, an observatory, or members of a scientific mission.

Biography
An article which reflects on the scientific life of a Fellow, scientist or contributor to the Royal Society.

Bibliography
A list of books, articles or journals used as references in a discussion, separate article, full issue or full volume.

Bill of mortality
Weekly mortality statistics – we have only attributed this article type when it is explicitly identified as such in the title.

Book review
An article which analyses one or more printed or online books, the author of the review is the 'reviewer' to differentiate them from the authors of the printed or online books.

Catalogue
A structured list of future publications when explicitly identified as such in the title.

Corrigenda
A list of corrected errors appended to an article or published in a subsequent issue of a journal, submitted by the author.

Discussion
Intervention discussing a previously published article or issue.

Editorial
An opinion piece, policy statement, or general commentary, typically written by journal staff.

Errata
A list of corrected errors appended to an article or published in a subsequent issue of a journal, submitted by the publisher.

Experiment
A description of an experiment, not an analysis.

Index
A list of all subjects or authors mentioned in a full issue or full volume.

Lecture
A speech or presentation given at the Royal Society during one of the various named lectures and medals awarded by the Royal Society. Different from Discussion or Symposium.

Letter
All or part of a letter addressed to a contributor; the secretary of the Royal Society or the Royal Society.

List
Articles and series of paragraphs with names of Fellows and medallists.

Magnetical observation
An article which records the local magnetic field, declinations and horizontal forces. Sometimes this type of article does not contain any author, as it is the result of a collaborative effort by members of the Royal Society, an observatory, or members of a scientific mission.

Meteorological observation
Article which records quantity of rainfall, force of wind, temperatures from a weather station, personal or general. Sometimes this type of content does not contain any author, as being a collaborative effort by members of the RS or the observatory or members of a scientific mission.

Obituary
Published after the death of a Fellow relating their scientific life. This includes Biographical Memoirs and Obituaries.

Paper read
The title, author and date a paper was read at a meeting. These do not have abstracts or comments. Different from a Publication announcement.

Preface
Introductory article which precedes a themed issue, a discussion.

Publication announcement
Lists of titles published in another periodical with author, date and journal of publication. These do not have abstracts or comments. Different from a Paper Read.

Report
A formal account of an event, expedition or experiment. It can be attributed to a named author or be produced by the editorial team without an author mentioned.

Speech
A formal address or discourse delivered to an audience. Different from a Lecture or Report.

Symposium
An article presented at a scientific conference organised at the Royal Society.

As pioneers of peer review and scientific discussion the Royal Society has always regarded science as collaborative. To reflect this collaborative nature, indexers have captured as many contributors and their role when describing articles in the metadata.

CONTRIBUTOR TYPES

Author
Primary writer of a given article.

Biographee
Fellow, scientist or contributor who is the subject of a biography.

Communicator
Fellow presenting an article or piece of content to the rest of the committee examining the papers. Explicitly mentioned in articles as 'communicated by...'

Commissioned by
Someone who mandated a specific piece of writing, experiment, expedition, equipment...

Contributor
Someone who contributed to an article but not as an author or any of the defined roles.

Correspondent
Someone who wrote and sent a specific letter to a given recipient or to the Royal Society or the Secretary.

Curator of experiments
The official appointed position at the Royal Society for person in charge of designing experiments including Robert Hooke.

Dedicatee
Someone to whom an article, issue or volume is dedicated.

Discussant
An author responding immediately to an intervention or article presented during a discussion, conference or symposium.

Editor
Someone in charge of determining the contents of the journals, capture when explicitly identified as such.

Experimenter
Someone who conducted the experimentation described in the article.

Guest-editor
Someone invited to determine the contents of a specific issue or volume.

Observer
Someone who conducted a scientific observation, particularly used for astronomers.

Recipient
A person who received a specific letter and transmitted it for publication to the journals.

Referee
Someone who reviewed a paper and accepted or rejected it for publication in the journals. Different from Reviewer.

Reviewee
A person whose work is under review.

Reviewer
An author who analyses one or more books. Different from Referee.

Speaker
Someone identified as giving a speech.

Subject
Someone portrayed on a photograph.

Organiser
The person responsible for the organisation of a discussion, conference or symposium.

Translator
The person translating content into English or Latin for the journal.

Witness
Someone who witnessed the event or experimentation described in the article, cited to confirm the veracity of the fact described.

Right:
Botanical study of seventeen liverworts, from
Kunstformen der natur by Ernst Haeckel, 1899.

THE ROYAL SOCIETY JOURNALS ARCHIVE

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The Royal Society

The Royal Society is a self-governing Fellowship of many of the world's most distinguished scientists drawn from all areas of science, engineering, and medicine. The Society's fundamental purpose, as it has been since its foundation in 1660, is to recognise, promote, and support excellence in science and to encourage the development and use of science for the benefit of humanity.

The Society's strategic priorities emphasise its commitment to the highest quality science, to curiosity-driven research, and to the development and use of science for the benefit of society. These priorities are:

- Promoting excellence in science
- Supporting international collaboration
- Demonstrating the importance of science to everyone

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Founded in 1660, the Royal Society is the independent scientific academy of the UK, dedicated to promoting excellence in science

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Cover image:
A magic circle of circles by Benjamin Franklin, from a letter to John Canton, dated 29 May 1765.