

From Brian's shelves

Mike Hales : 13-20jan13

This list itemises the material - in total, 28 documents (or bundles of documents) - that I selected from Brian's shelves at 34 Brunswick Road on January 10th 2013, with the agreement of Brian's brother, Chris Easlea, who was clearing out the flat. Some books had been taken earlier by a local bookseller (mainly witchcraft?); the remainder were to be collected and disposed of by Book Harvest <www.bookharvest.co.uk>; papers were being bagged for the skip by Chris. Several dozen movie DVDs in foreign languages (mostly Russian and Brazilian Portugese) were also likely to go in the skip; Brian's DVD episodes of the Danish-language TV crime thriller *The Killing* had been claimed.

My aim was to meet the wishes of John McEvoy in Cincinnati, Ohio, and David Biggins in Perth, Western Australia, to have a memento of Brian. I collected published material (both clean and annotated), printed ephemera and handwritten/typewritten material; and material from the worlds of both academia and birdwatching. The list is organised under six headings:

- 1 Published books & articles 1974-1988
- 2 Ephemera - Sussex course prospectuses 1997-1985
- 3 Notes relating to a seminar at UWE (given on May 4th, 1994)
- 4 Book draft - Divinity and Nature, 1997
- 5 Birdwatching books (no date/post-1998/post-2000)
- 6 Foreign language translations and vocabulary lists (post-1995/post-2009)

1 Published books & articles 1974-1988 (in date order)

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| 1.1 | Review of Horton & Finnegan (eds), <i>Modes of thought: essays on thinking in Western and non-Western societies</i> | In <i>Radical Science Journal</i> (1: Jan 1974), pp 73-80. Paperback, unused condition. Cover design: Mike Hales. Editorial collective as listed within: David Albury, Derek Burns, Jonathan Cooke, Ann Cooke, David Dickson, Brian Easlea, Chris Green, George Gross, John Goodman, Mike Hales, Peter Harper, Max Henrion, Luke Hodgkin, Catherine Levine, Simon Pickvance, Krzysz Rajkowski, Jonathan Rosenhead, Chris Ryan, Margot Waddell, Gary Werskey, Sue Wolff, Bob Young, Rosalind Zalin. Note: An obituary for Simon Pickvance appeared in <i>The Guardian</i> 'Other Lives', Dec 20 2012 and in <i>The Guardian</i> , Jan 19 2013. |
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| 1.2 | <i>Witch-hunting, magic and the new philosophy</i> | Harvester, 1980. Paperback. This is Brian's own dog-eared copy, marked up for a second edition, mostly additional footnotes & references (esp. p 44). |
| 1.3 | Einstein's political struggle | In Maurice Goldsmith, Alan Mackay & James Woudhuysen (eds) (1980), <i>Einstein: the first hundred years</i>, Pergamon Press, pp 117-125. Hardback, unused condition. |
| 1.4 | <i>Science and sexual oppression</i> | Weidenfeld & Nicholson, 1981. Paperback, virgin copy. |
| 1.5 | Tribute to Keith Roby: Developing a philosophy of persons, nature and society | In Ian Barns (ed) (1984), <i>Challenges for Einstein's children: Keith Roby's vision of science in community life</i>, Keith Roby Memorial Fund, Murdoch University: Perth, pp 18-21. Paperback, slightly dog-eared. Inscribed: <i>August 10 1984 To Brian, Thank you for being part of the vision that inspired Keith's life. Love, Patsy.</i> |
| 1.6 | <i>Conflict, science & the Garden of Eden</i> | Murdoch University, 1984, pp 16. Reprint, two virgin copies. |
| 1.7 | <i>Fathering the unthinkable</i> | German edition, 1986 (<i>Väter der Vernichtung: Männlichkeit, Naturwissenschaftler und der nukleare Rüstungswettlauf</i>), Rowohlt Taschenbücher. Paperback, virgin copy. |
| 1.8 | <i>Fathering the unthinkable</i> | Japanese edition, 1988, Shinhyoron. Hardback, virgin copy (hb). |

2 Ephemera - Sussex course prospectuses 1997-1985 (in date order)

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| 2.1 | Principles and perspectives of science - Three scientific revolutions | A5 flyer, 4pp , Division of History and Social Studies of Science, University of Sussex, Autumn term 1977. Prospectus for a series of 18 lectures, one half of the two-term PPS course. Lecturer: Dr B Easlea. Two copies. |
| 2.2 | Principles and perspectives of science - The origins and development of the scientific world-view | A5 flyer, 4pp , Science Studies subject group, University of Sussex, Autumn term 1982. Prospectus for a series of lectures "available to all first-year science students". "The lectures of the Spring term will explore the obvious and very great significance that present-day science has for all humanity, scientists and non-scientists alike." Lecturer: Dr B Easlea. One copy. |
| 2.3 | Principles and perspectives of science - Scientists, technologies and human needs | A4 flyer, 2pp , Science Studies subject group, University of Sussex, Spring term 1983. Prospectus for a series of lectures "available to all first-year science students". "Students wishing to take this course for credit should contact Dr Brian Easlea, room 3B10, Mantell Building." Lecturers: Brian Easlea, Erik Millstone, Chris Freeman, Ian Miles, John Maynard-Smith. Two copies. |
| 2.4 | Principles and perspectives of science - Society, technology and science | A5 flyer, 4pp , Science Studies subject group, University of Sussex, Autumn term 1983. Prospectus for a series of lectures "available to all first-year science students". "Students wishing to take this course for credit will be allocated seminar tutors after the first lecture." Lecturers: see 2.3 above. Three copies. |
| 2.5 | Principles and perspectives of science - The development and implications of the scientific world-view | A5 flyer, 4pp , Science Studies subject group, University of Sussex, Spring term 1984. Prospectus for a series of lectures "available to all first-year science students". Lecturer: Dr B Easlea. Four copies. |

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| 2.6 Degree in Physics with the social dimensions of science - An introduction to the social dimensions of science component of the degree | A5 flyer, 4pp , Science Studies subject group, University of Sussex. Prospectus for a minor course running over three years, first intake, Summer term 1985. Includes introductory reading list. Conveners: Dr Brian Easlea, Dr Erik Millstone. Three copies. |
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3 Notes relating to a seminar at UWE (given on May 4th, 1994)

- 3.1 Popularisation of biology and the Emperor's newest clothes
- A4 folder**
Containing material related to a seminar with this title, to be given at the School of Interdisciplinary Sciences, University of the West of England, Bristol, May 4th 1994.
Lecturer: Dr Brian Easlea, formerly Sussex University, now writing on Science and Culture.
Extract from the synopsis: "I shall contrast [the] siege mentality of biologists with the mentality of physicists who not only seem to have announced a permanent open-day to 'mystics' of all persuasions but who also appear very critical of the ultra-conservative stance of their scientific colleagues. Bearing in mind... that the clash between biology and physics at the end of the 19th century resulted in the total rout of physics, I shall support discuss what I see as the adverse cultural implications of the unecessarily defensive mentality of biologists."

Folder contents

Folder 3.1 contains the following items 3.2 to 3.6

- 3.2 The popularisation of biology and the Emperor's newest clothes
- Handwritten lecture notes, A4, 10pp.**
Assumed date: After May 1994 (see 3.3 below).
Structure:
1 Bird migration and the West Pier Peregrine
2 The Descartes syndrome
3 Helmholtzian physicalism / Darwinian biology vs classical mechanics
4 Quantum mechanics & the Romantic programme
5 Crickian physicalism
6 Biology & mystery
7 Physics & mystery
8 Molecular biology & quantum mechanics
9 Consciousness, evolution & natural selection
10 Adaptive complexity & quantum mechanics
11 Is the Romantic programme still alive?
12 Bird migration & the future of wonder
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| 3.3 | The popularisation of biology and the Emperor's newest clothes | Handwritten lecture notes, A4, 8pp. Date: Earlier than May 1994 (see below). Same structure as 3.2 above but different headings (eg 'Mystery in Biology as anathema!'). An earlier version than 3.2? (Eg the title 'Biology & mystery' is pencilled alongside the above heading.) Includes a University of the West of England claim form for fee and expenses, stapled to the notes. Presumably these are the notes actually used in the Bristol seminar. Thus 3.3 seems to pre-date and 3.2 to post-date the May 1994 seminar at UWE. |
| 3.4 | Untitled | Bundle of handwritten notes on used paper (the date 1989 appears in two of the used documents). Seems to deal with topics within the above framework of 3.2 / 3.3. Eg "A farewell to the red-backed shrike: On the world scale of things, it is a matter of almost total insignificance. Yet I grieve. A bird that was once fairly common in southern England.... Each May the male red-backed shrike would arrive from South Africa to exactly the same locality where it had bred the year before - the same hedgerow, the same clump of bushes - and a week or so later would be joined by the female." Eg "Creation of the Willow Warbler: God, Gaia & The Scientific Cosmos". Also, numerous references to "The Scientific Men's House" (see 3.5 below). Assumed date: 1989-1994? |
| 3.5 | Untitled | Typescript in nine sections, 53pp , open at p 5-4. Date: unknown 1 Mechanical and Female Imagery in the Investigation of Nature 2 Christianity, Sexuality and the Cosmos 3 Female Nature and the Machine of Nature in the Scientific Revolution 4 Subversive Darwinism, Victorian Sexual Repression and the Heyday of the Mechanical Philosophy 5 The New Physics, Beautiful Woman, and Dangerous Female Sexuality 6 Mechanical Imagery and the New Biology 7 Gender and Sexuality in the Scientific Men's House 8 Female Scientists and Non-Patriarchal Science 9 From the Moral Equivalent of War to the Sensibility of Peace |

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| 3.6 | Untitled | <p>Handwritten notes, A4 on used paper, 15-20pp (one piece of correspondence on reverse side is dated 12/7/95). Date: at least part of the material is later than July 1995. Topics seem to relate to the book draft of <i>Divinity and Nature</i> (see Section 4 below). For example the titles of Ch1 and Ch2 of the book draft appear in these notes: “Ch 1 The Devil & Nature”, “Ch2 The Status of the Earth”.</p> |
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4 Book draft - Divinity and Nature, 1997

- 4.1 Divinity and Nature - A perspective on the history of modern science
- Typescript, A4, in a lever-arch file.**
Date (stated on Contents page): August 1997.
Ten chapters in two Parts, as follows:
- Part One*
- 1 The Devil and Nature - 24pp
 - 2 The Status of the Earth - 26pp
 - 3 Magical Nature - 33pp
 - 4 The Mechanical Philosophy - 33pp
 - 5 God's Great Creation - 35pp
- Part Two*
- 6 The Magical Clockwork - 35pp
 - 7 Darwinian Evolution - 47pp
 - 8 Quantum Physics - 32pp
 - 9 Life's Secrets - 33pp
 - 10 The New Cosmology (general relativity, Hawking) - 35pp
- Epilogue* - Humanity and Nature - **Note: this chapter is absent.**

Total pages: 333pp

Note: footnotes and bibliography are absent.

From page 1 of the typescript (a draft blurb for the book):

In the space of just four centuries the God-fearing, Satan-obsessed geocentric worldview of early modern Europe was transformed by modern science into today's secular, enormously sophisticated vision of a vast, expanding universe, described by general relativity and quantum mechanics, in which an insignificant planet in the Milky Way has supposedly given rise through a process of cumulative natural selection to complex, sentient beings, one of whom has written this book! Very ambitiously, the author's intention is not only to explain in detail how such a remarkable transformation of worldview has come about but [also? missing from text] to assess the validity of each principal step in the process....

Brian Easlea has a PhD in Mathematical Physics and was formerly Lecturer in History and Social Studies of Science at Sussex University. He is the author of four books and has had a life-long love of birds.

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- 4.2 Ch1 'The Devil & Nature' Notes
- Folder containing handwritten notes (on the back of used paper), A4, 11pp.**
Seem to be notes on sources for Ch1 of the book. The reverse of some pages show dates in the early 1990s.
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| 4.3 | Ch1 The Devil & Nature | Folder containing handwritten notes, A4, 26pp. At first glance these look like footnotes for Ch1 of the book. But there is one note - and one only - for each page of the typescript. So perhaps it's a commentary? |
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5 Birdwatching books (no date/post-1998/post-2000)

- 5.1 Birds of Colombia **A5 book, 56 colour plates** with notes on each facing page. No date.
Stripped of publisher's binding, between clear plastic covers for use in the field. Handwritten "Brian E." on the front page.
Every plate (in fact, almost every one of the 750 pictures of individual birds in the book) has been annotated in Brian's handwriting with codes taken from the descriptive text (eg E for 'occurring East of the Andes) and often also with the bird's name.
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- 5.2 A birdwatcher's guide to Nepal **A5 paperback booklet, 115pp, 1988.**
Red-underlined entries (50 or more) in the list of birds at the back of the book presumably indicate birds spotted by Brian.
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- 5.3 Guide to the birds of Thailand **A5 hardcover book, 457pp.** Inscription dated 2000 (see below).
Facing the title page - a dedication handwritten by one of the book's illustrators:
To Brian
A pleasure meeting you. Enjoy your birding.
Cheers
(signed) Kamol Komolphalin
12 Feb 00.
Also, inside the front cover:
Fifteen index cards bearing handwritten summaries of the notes on the birds in each of the classes illustrated in the book. Red-underlined entries presumably indicate birds spotted by Brian.
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6 Foreign language translations/vocabulary lists (post-1995/post-2009)

- 6.1 Thai language notes and translation **Handwritten notes, A4, 12pp.**
Translation from Thai to English of “Story man with bird” by Paiwarin Khao-Ngam, 1995.
Includes several pages of names of birds in Thai and English; also notes on pronunciation (low/med/high sounds, ‘live’ and ‘dead’ syllables).
First stanza:
*Bird little fled cold from Khao Yai
came to rest its head face listless quiet perch branch/ twig
brick hut near field of man old*
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- 6.2 Russian language notes **Publisher’s catalogue, A5, Grant & Cutler Ltd, Russian, 2008-2009.**
Inserted within the catalogue: handwritten notes, A4, 5pp, nine sides of writing in two columns.
The notes provide, in Russian with English translation, section-by-section vocabulary for a text in six parts plus Introduction and Conclusion, apparently called “The Queen of Spades”. Some items are highlighted within ruled boxes, some words are red-underlined.
A random sample of terms (first and last entries in each section):
*Playing card, to play for small stakes.
Ill-will, to disperse.
To surround, fate.
To take off, wheel, on one’s back, immovable.
Sleepy, to unlock.
To carry out funeral rites, to get/obtain/achieve.
Motionless/fixed, to exist, moral/ethical/spiritual, fat-bellied, to take its normal course.
To murmur/mumble, captain in cavalry (archaic).*
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