Kipling for all to see

Readers of Bulletin may recall an article entitled Kipling coup for Sussex, giving an account of a significant collection of literary typescripts and draft letters of Rudyard Kipling bought at auction in Chichester on 5 November. The collection has now been sorted, catalogued and prepared for use by researchers. To mark the opening of the archive, a selection of the documents are being displayed in the exhibition cases on the first floor of the University Library throughout February. You are invited to come and enjoy undiscovered correspondence by and about Kipling, and see for yourselves evidence of the creative mind at work.

Winter Graduation Ceremonies

Over 300 students, most of them postgraduates, graduated at this year’s Winter Graduation Ceremonies on Thursday 30 January at the Gardner Arts Centre. The ceremonies were captured on video for the first time and students can buy copies for £23.50. Terry Whitney, recently retired senior partner of the University’s Solicitors, Donne Mileham & Haddock, received the Honorary Degree of Doctor of Laws and John Tomlinson, opera singer, the Honorary Degree of Doctor of Music. Guests at the Winter Graduation Lunch were treated to a feast in more ways than one. John Tomlinson chose to abandon the traditional speech and sing, instead, a selection of songs by Gershwin. He was accompanied on the piano by Terry Whitney who, in addition to his legal skills, is a renowned jazz pianist – the Winter Graduation Lunch will never be the same again.

Keys to Perception

Playing the piano is a complex activity: two staves of music must be read, and the two hands operate independently. The challenge is at its most extreme in ‘sight reading’ where the pianist plays a piece of hitherto unseen music without an opportunity to study or practise it beforehand.

Sophie Furneaux, a postgraduate in BIOLS, has been studying this phenomenon in an attempt to learn more about the eyes’ movements and how we use them to obtain information. She has been using a special headset which allows her to record exactly where pianists look when sight reading, and noting the time lag between when a note has been read and when it is actually played.

Results showed that both professional and novice pianists read each stave of music separately, rather than fixating somewhere between the two. Also beginners are inclined to look at every note, while more experienced players tend to look at fewer notes.

The gap between looking at a note on the score and playing it was on average one second for all players; slightly over a second for slow tempos, slightly below for faster tempos. Curiously Sophie found that the number of notes ahead of the music that the eye is looking, remained constant for each pianist, regardless of the tempo: “If you play at a slow tempo then the eye will be further ahead in time than the hand, but it will nevertheless stay the same number of notes ahead.”

The headset, which was developed by Professor Mike Land, has a special CCD camera mounted above one of the pianist’s eyes. This records both what the eye sees and the eye itself, via a split

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Finalists
Interested in a career in journalism? An opportunity exists for a one-year placement in the University Information Office starting in September, salary £12,000.
We are looking for someone who can communicate effectively, can write clearly and succinctly, has some keyboard skills and really wants to be a journalist.

The duties will include finding and developing stories about University activities for internal and external publication, handling enquiries from press and public and setting up interviews and writing press releases.

Further information can be obtained from the Information Office in Sussex House. Call in or ring (67)88384. Closing date for applications: 7 March.

Safety Seminar
A seminar on the management and practical aspects of safety and environmental issues in the workplace will be held at Sussex on Monday 17 March. The seminar, organised by the Sussex Downland Branch of the Institute of Science Technology, will cost £75 and should be of interest to all those concerned with the legal, moral and long-term commitment to safety and environmental policy implementation at the workplace.
The Institute of Science Technology has been accredited to award certificates for seminars and courses which can be used towards the Government NVQs, currently required for career development and training. Closing date for applications: 22 February. Please contact Janet Claydon, Safety Office, Estates, ext 3296.

Robin Lee Poetry Competition
This is an annual competition which is open to all students and staff of the University (except members of faculty). Cash prizes are awarded to the winner and runners-up. Robin Lee was a student here at Sussex in the 1960s and on his death his mother set up and funded this competition.
Entrants may submit up to four poems, totalling not more than 100 lines in all. Entry forms may be obtained from: Joanna Cheetham, EAM, Arts E239, ext 2154.
Closing date: Wednesday 7 May.

Lisa Charman, a third year student in the School of Mathematical Sciences, was recently awarded a prize by the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants (CIMA) for her performance in Management Studies at Sussex. She received a cheque for £200 and a citation at a ceremony held at the London headquarters of CIMA. The prize was jointly sponsored by CIMA and Van den Bergh Foods Ltd. Featured in the photograph (l-r) are Brian Smith, Director of the Science with Management Studies programme at Sussex; Rod Hill, President of CIMA; Lisa Charman, the prize-winner and Nick Candler, representing Van den Bergh Foods. Brian Smith commented: “Lisa richly deserves the award, having narrowly pipped two or three other students in what turned out to be a tough competition. I am delighted that CIMA and Van den Bergh have given the Sussex Management Studies programme a vote of confidence by supporting it in this way.”

Support The Mandela Trust
Dear Bulletin readers
The Mandel Trust came into being as a result of the initiative of Sussex students, supported by faculty and staff. Every year Southern African undergraduates have been supported in their studies: the roll-call of success is a distinguished one. More recently postgraduates have been the beneficiaries: at present we have three on campus. It may be that we will have to reduce the numbers in future years, because of the drying up of past supports. This would be a pity. Those who attended the moving Graduation Ceremony for Thabo Mbeki last year will remember his tribute to the Trust, and what it meant for South Africa, and what it continues to mean. Please contact either of us, or our Honorary Administrator, Bernice Ryan (Falmer House), if you wish to make out a covenant form, or increase an existing one.
Simon Michaelides, (President, Students’ Union, Chair, Mandela Trust) and William Lamont, (Professor of History, Vice-Chair, Mandela Trust)

Brainy snails reveal their complexity

One should never underrate the cognitive capabilities of a snail. “Snails may not look particularly brainy” says Paul Benjamin of BIOLS, who spoke at a recent Sussex workshop on the behaviour of robots, “but their brains are remarkably complex”. Unravelling their complexity will help us to understand brains in general and to develop artificial brains for better robots.

A distinctly positive thing about snails is that their brains have a relatively small number of nerve cells (about 20,000) so it is possible to work with single identified cells and to map their connections. This means that Paul and his colleagues at the Sussex Centre for Neuroscience can work with the networks of neurons which drive particular bits of behaviour and monitor what is happening. A key finding is the sheer multiplicity of interconnections. The actual functional ‘wiring’ is determined by a delicate interaction of chemical transmitters and neuromodulators which, by altering the chemical environment of the cells, change the priorities of the various connections. A neuromodulator can be visualized as acting like a conductor with an orchestra, accentuating some things, diminishing others. Many different permutations and combinations are possible and the same network of neurons can be reprogrammed for different patterns of behaviour - just as a conductor can get the same orchestra to play different music. These networks exhibit learning and it is also possible to study artificial neural networks made of real cells grown in a dish.

Snails are advanced animals, capable of sophisticated behaviour, particularly during mating. So far, Paul and colleagues have concentrated on feeding behaviour because it can be unravelled and is complex enough, for the time being. The neurobiology is exciting and they are finding that brain behaviour is an emergent property of systems which probably form the building blocks of most brains.

Picture by Kevin Storas
The benefit of practice! The sequence (lines) of eye fixations (circles) during a sight reading exercise (left) is greatly simplified after the pianist has 'learnt' the piece (right).

Continued from front page

mirror and a lens (see diagram below). Sophie is then able to determine exactly where the eye was looking at each moment by laboriously tracing the shape of the iris in each frame of the film, and then feeding it into a computer modelling program. "It is very time-consuming. A two minute piece will take me nearly a whole day to analyse," said Sophie.

These findings confirm that there is an unconscious time lag between the eye reading the music and the hand playing it. According to Sophie: "There must be some sort of buffer which is holding on to information from one stave, waiting until the rest of the information has been read from the other stave, and then finally playing it." The same kind of phenomenon can be observed when reading a book: towards the end of the page most readers can turn the page without disrupting their flow.

According to Sophie, these results provide important information about the processes involved in gathering visual information when performing complex tasks. Being able to calculate exactly where someone is looking at a given time has helped to demystify the process of seeing. "It has given us much more information about how we use our eyes practically when performing various tasks, what we do and what we don't do."

Media Service Unit

Audio-visual equipment booking procedures – updated information for faculty and staff

- Bookings can now be sent via email: msu@sussex.ac.uk
- The deadline for all bookings is NOON of the PREVIOUS WORKING DAY. If you are inviting an outside speaker, you should establish their A/V requirements in advance, as equipment will not be available at short notice. Where video or carousel equipment is permanently installed in General Teaching Space (GTS) rooms, you should still book it through MSU to ensure technical back-up in the event of difficulties.
- All GTS seminar rooms and lecture theatres are now equipped with OHPs, so there is no need to book these.
- Flipcharts: paper and pens can no longer be supplied for use on flipchart stands. These should be obtained from the usual stationery outlets.
- Please notify MSU promptly (ext: 2513/8022/2519) of any equipment breakdown.

In brief

RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES

This is a selection of research opportunities. More details of these and other opportunities are available from Mylene Powell in the Research Grants and Contracts Office, ext 3812 (mornings only) or email: M.Powell@sussex.ac.uk. URL http://www.sussex.ac.uk/~msu/REFUND URL http://www.sussex.ac.uk/Units/ research/USIS/HomePage.html For Staff, Research Funding (Live from 11/2/97).

BRITISH ACADEMY'S HUMANITIES FELLOWSHIPS SCHEME: to provide awards to meet the cost of fellowships to support research projects that are linked to institutions' own research schemes and priorities. Closing date: 28 February 1997.

ROYAL SOCIETY AND BRITISH ASSOCIATION MILLENIUM AWARDS: to encourage the public understanding of science in the community. Closing date: 28 February 1997.


ROYAL ACADEMY OF ENGINEERING SENIOR RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS AND PERSONAL CHAIRS: to provide additional funds to support a senior researcher, or professor, working in a higher education institution in a field of particular relevance to the sponsoring industrial company. No closing date.

Research Funding Opportunities on the Web

From the Sussex Home Page, select 'For Staff', then 'Research Funding'

- REFUND - a research funding information service
- Information on how to apply for research funding
- Salary costing
- Sources of Research Funding Opportunities

REFUND is a national service to which we have just started to subscribe – give it a look for research funding opportunities.

These pages are developing and we want to include the information you find helpful; so let us know what you think. For further details contact the Research Grants & Contracts Office, as at the top of this column.
What's on...

Lectures, Seminars, Colloquia

**Monday 10 February**
1pm Laboratory of Experimental Psychology: Gender differences in hemispheric lateralization. John McGowan, Biology Lecture Room.
2pm CultCom - Telling Stories: Photography, anthropology and narrative. Nancy Leys Stepan (Wellcome Unit, Oxford), Gardner Centre Theatre.
2pm Particle Physics Seminar: The good and bad topology change. F. Dowker (Imperial), room PB2A1.
3.40pm Neuroscience Seminar: The economics of neural information. Simon Laughlin (Cambridge), Biology Lecture Room.

**Tuesday 11 February**
9.30am Telling Stories Follow-up Seminar: Essex House Conference Room.
2pm The Idea of European Integration Seminar: A coup d'état by lawyers? The real secret of the EU. Peter Holmes, EDB room 121.
4.15pm Biochemistry and Genetics and Development Seminar: Can you cure diabetes? Dr. Anne Cooke (Cambridge), Biology Lecture Theatre.
5pm German Research Colloquium: Family papers as a source for the study of German-Jewish relations. Lewis Elton (Guildford) and Kenneth Ambrose (London), room A155.
5pm American Studies Open Seminar: H.D. Gertrude Stein and Georgia O'Keefe: icon and index in the modern. Helen McNell (East Anglia), room D730.
5pm MA Language, Arts and Education Open Seminar: Shakespeare as I knew her. Jane Lapotaire, EDB room 302.
5pm Social Anthropology Graduate/Faculty Seminar: Situating reproductive strategies: becoming a parent in Ado-Odo, South-West Nigeria. Dr. Andrea Cornwall, room A71.

**Wednesday 12 February**
12.30pm Environmental Science Seminar: Holocene shoreline evolution in East Sussex. Dr. Simon Jennings (University of North London), CPES room M3.
1pm IDS and Poverty Research Unit Seminar: Globalisation and social exclusion. Gordon White and Raphie Kaplanis, IDS room 221.
5pm English Graduate Colloquium: Conversations with my mother: psychodynamics and the contemporary woman writer. Krystyn Wise, room D640.

**Thursday 13 February**
12.30pm Postgraduate History and Gender Seminar: Gender and famine in Nineteenth-Century North India. Vinita Damodaran, room D730.
2pm Centre for Statistics and Stochastic Modelling: Stochastic models - a functional view. Rudolf Grubel (Hannover), room PB2A2.
5pm History Work-in-Progress Seminar: Foucault's history of the present. Patrick Beatt (Cambridge), room A155.

Monday 10 February - Sunday 16 February

Lectures, Seminars, Colloquia

**Friday 14 February**
2pm SPRU Seminar: Long term strategy: towards an evolutionary theory. Professor John McGee (Warwick Business School), EDB room 121.
4.30pm Philosophy Society Meeting: Mimesis and speech. Rickie Dammann, rooth A155.

**CDU Workshops**

**Your Personality Type & Career**
10-4pm Wednesday 19 February: Use the Myers Briggs Personality Questionnaire to find careers based on your personal preferences. Discover which job search strategies are most appropriate for you. £10 fee covers materials and a copy of An Introduction to Type.

**Editing Skills**
10-4pm Tuesday 25 February: A practical day covering the skills of text editing fundamental to careers involving the written word. The workshop will be run by a professional editor.

**The Gardner Arts Centre**

**Film at the Gardner**
Monday 10 February
6.30pm Performance (18)

Wednesday 12 February
11.30pm The Pillow Book (18)

Sunday 16 February
6pm First Wives Club (18)
9pm Fear (18)

**Miscellaneous**

**Science Master Classes**
Tuesdays 11 - 25 February - BBC2: The Learning Zone. 4.30am Flight in birds and airplanes. Professor John Maynard-Smith.
5am Bernal and the social function of science. Professor Chris Freeman.

**Pub Quiz**
1.15pm Thursday 13 February at the Playing Fields Pavilion. Superb prizes to be won. Maximum 4 players per team. To enter please ring ext. 3950 or 8230.

**Memorial Lecture**
4.15pm Monday 10 February: The Alan Johnson Memorial Lecture: New structural and biosynthetic aspects of the unusual core lipids from archaeabacteria. Professor D. Arigoni (ETH, Zurich), Molecular Sciences Lecture Theatre.

**The Debating Society**
1.30pm Wednesday 12 February: This house holds that gay couples should have the right to adopt. Room A5.

**Continuing Education**

**Refusing the Landscape**
Saturday 22 February: We explore the fascinating changes in nineteenth century European landscape painting. Nicolas Tredell, Course No. 8196.
For further details on this, and many other courses, please contact the Centre for Continuing Education on 6789/26, 678527, or 678040.

**The Language Centre**

**Teacher Training**
17 - 21 March: Initial teacher training in TEFL. From native speakers to bilinguals, 25 hours a week. £110. For further information call the Language Centre on 678006.

**Small Ads**

**FOR SALE**
Beech framed cottage style 2-seater wingback settee with matching armchair, loose cushion upholstery in Autumn Poppy design. Excellent condition, ideal for conservatory, etc. £125. Contact Jerry Mitchell on 4237 or 01444 482346.

**WOMEN BETWEEN 55 AND 75:**
Participate in a study investigating the psychological effects of small doses of hormone replacement therapy and earn £75. For details contact Dr. J. McGowan, Experimental Psychology, ext. 2875.

**HOLIDAY HOUSE**
To rent in a small town near Perignon in the foothills of Pyrenees. Convenient for shops, walking and touring. Sleeps 6 comfortably. Available for two weeks from 13-26 April inclusive. £100 per week. Please contact Gordon White on 697225 or ext. 8736.

**IF YOU ARE a vegan or are allergic to dairy products, you may be interested to know that the CCS common room is now serving soya milk for a trial period. Open from 9-4pm, Essex House.**

**NOTEBOOK COMPUTER:** 386, 2Mb, 40Mb with case, mouse, charger, spare external keyboard and manual. Also included IMB PS/2 Model 30 (no monitor) can be used for dumping data from laptop. £190 the lot. Tel: (01273) 670697.

LARGE, sunny d/room with own wash basin to let in immaculately kept house in Roundhill Crescent, Bn, sharing with two working girls. Long let. £350 p.w. excl. -bills. Refs. and dep. required. Call ext. 8926 (day) or 272809 (eve).

**FRENCH STUDENT** interested in conversation practice with English students. Ext. 8256 or 679436.

**MATHS TUTOR** needed for teenagers sitting GCSEs. Please call ext. 8536.

**WANTED:** House to rent in Brighton for visiting Canadian academic and family (non-smokers). Sept 97 - June 98. At least 2 bedrooms but preferably 3 or more. Email: owen.underhill@stcu.co.uk or Sara ext. 2347 or 8373.

**WANTED:** Maths tuition for 11 year old. Once a week. Contact ext. 8006.

**Bulletin**

The Bulletin appears every Friday of term, with copy deadline the preceding Friday lunchtime. We welcome suggestions for news, events, lectures and small ads. Please contact the Information Office, Sussex House on ext. 8209 or email: Bulletin@sussex.ac.uk