

Chairman's Chat

Despite a shocking start to this year with Paolo's untimely exit, it's something of a relief to note what a resilient bunch we are, despite all we're operating a full programme of events and issuing grants with gusto which yield excellent articles for this organ. By the time this is published, the day's seminar to his memory with no less than sixteen speakers will have occurred in Paris – we look forward to hearing all about it – he left plenty of material to talk about. In my last Chat I initiated a published welcome to new members and I'm pleased to now introduce the latest intake of nine, all of whom joined via our www site and of whom all are ordinary members with the exception of two students whom we're always pleased to see of course: Jean Davoineau, Paris, France; Marcus Reid, York University, Toronto, Canada (Student); Paul Laidlaw (a brother auctioneer), Cumbria; Dr Maurice van Stiphout, Brussels, Belgium; Phil Taylor, Berkshire; Mat-

thew McMahon, Armagh Observatory, N Ireland, (Student); Dr John Moyle, Warwickshire; Alan Williams, London and lastly Alan Sliski, from Lincoln, Massachusetts, USA. I believe Alan is the President of the Antique Telescope Society in the USA, so hopefully we'll be able to meet face-to-face next Spring when our study trip to North America comes together, and moreover we hope to meet all the above mentioned at an event soon – be it in person or via Zoom at one of the members fireside chats, anyway – a warm welcome to you all!

In early November Alison Morrison-Low gave us an excellent Gerard Turner Medal Lecture at the Society for Antiquaries in Burlington House (Figs 1 and 2), despite the Zoom not being as good as it should have been (we couldn't see the delegates and, I don't think they could see us), I understand about forty joined the twenty or so in the room and most of the latter went for a pleasant meal after our sherry and nibbles (see the

photo on p. 9); a very pleasant way to pass an evening so do please come in person if you can to these.

As we were going to press some sad news filtered through and I have to report the death of Peter Delehar – a distinguished dealer of long standing, operating mainly from the Portobello Road, a founder of this Society and was also heavily involved in the Instrument Fair. A full appreciation will be included in the March edition. Before the year closes, we have one last Fireside Chat on 10th December at 5pm GMT, make yourself a cup of tea and tune in for forty minutes or so as Sara Schechner (Harvard) explains how an artificial waterfall, the microscope of a literary legend; a philosopher's bathing suit; stolen chemicals; and the nose cone of a missile given as a Valentine's Day gift, are all connected – well I'm curious at any rate! For those who don't look in this time, see you next and... Happy Christmas!

Charles Miller



Fig. 1 Alison Morrison-Low delivering her 'Turner Lecture' at the lectern of the Society of Antiquaries on 4 November 2022. Photo courtesy Louise Devoy.



Fig. 2 Wearing her Turner Medal Lecture flanked by our Chairman Charles Miller and our President Gloria Clifton. Photo courtesy Louise Devoy.

The Cover Picture

One of the authors, Wolfgang Engels re-enacting George Simon Ohm's crucial experimental operation that finally led to the discovery of the law named after him. A voltage has built up between the two sides of the Seebeck element submerged in ice water and boiling water, causing magnetic repulsion of the needle. The circuit through the wire under test and through the conductor inside the torsion balance is to be compensated by winding back the adjusting screw of the balance. After the initial position has become visible through the magnifying glass, the index of the angle of rotation corresponding to the specific wire can be read on the upper scale at the adjusting screw. If the resistance is low, several full turns may be required to generate the necessary counter-tension, as can be clearly identified on the picture by the visible three constrictions in the tape-like spring.

Wolfgang Engels & Falk Riess



Editor's Note

I am especially pleased to present the article by Wolfgang Engels & Falk Riess on replicating Ohm's classical experiment on electrical resistance, having been interested in such replication experiments from the beginning of my career which started in the late sixties. Since then the subject has almost become a sub-discipline in the history of science as attested by the book edited by Elizabeth Cavicchi and Peter Heering which is rather too briefly reviewed on page 43 because of running out of space in this issue. I promise to give this interesting topic much more prominence in future issues!

WDH