

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-29685-4 - Science and Society in restoration England

Michael Hunter

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

**Science and Society in
Restoration England**

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-29685-4 - Science and Society in restoration England

Michael Hunter

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-29685-4 - Science and Society in restoration England

Michael Hunter

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

Science and Society in Restoration England

MICHAEL HUNTER

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS

CAMBRIDGE

LONDON NEW YORK NEW ROCHELLE

MELBOURNE SYDNEY

Cambridge University Press
978-0-521-29685-4 - Science and Society in restoration England
Michael Hunter
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS

University Printing House, Cambridge CB2 8BS, United Kingdom

Published in the United States of America by Cambridge University Press, New York

Cambridge University Press is part of the University of Cambridge.

It furthers the University's mission by disseminating knowledge in the pursuit of education, learning and research at the highest international levels of excellence.

www.cambridge.org

Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9780521296854

© Cambridge University Press 1981

This publication is in copyright. Subject to statutory exception and to the provisions of relevant collective licensing agreements, no reproduction of any part may take place without the written permission of Cambridge University Press.

First published 1981

Re-issued 2014

A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library

ISBN 978-0-521-22866-4 Hardback

ISBN 978-0-521-29685-4 Paperback

Cambridge University Press has no responsibility for the persistence or accuracy of URLs for external or third-party internet websites referred to in this publication, and does not guarantee that any content on such websites is, or will remain, accurate or appropriate.

Cambridge University Press
978-0-521-29685-4 - Science and Society in restoration England
Michael Hunter
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

For
DAVID

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-29685-4 - Science and Society in restoration England

Michael Hunter

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

Cambridge University Press
 978-0-521-29685-4 - Science and Society in restoration England
 Michael Hunter
 Frontmatter
[More information](#)

Contents

Preface	<i>page</i> ix
List of abbreviations	xi
Introduction	I
1 Restoration science: its character and origins	8
<i>Francis Bacon and the Scientific Revolution</i>	8
<i>The legacy of the Interregnum</i>	21
2 The significance of the Royal Society	32
3 The scientific community	59
4 Utility and its problems	87
5 Politics and reform	113
6 Science, learning and the universities	136
7 Atheism and orthodoxy	162
Conclusion	188
Appendix	194
Bibliographical essay	198
Index	221

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-29685-4 - Science and Society in restoration England

Michael Hunter

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

Preface

This book is based not only on research but on much reflection about science and its role in early modern England. It owes a good deal to a loyal discussion group that met at Birkbeck College, London, during 1977 and 1978, where I was able to ventilate and modify my ideas and prejudices. I must also record my thanks to the seminar audiences at various universities on whom I have tried out preliminary versions of the following chapters: chapter 2 at Oxford in 1974; chapter 3 at University College, London, in 1976 and Birmingham in 1977; chapter 5 at Leeds in 1979; and chapter 6 at Oxford and Sussex in 1978. I am grateful to my hosts on those occasions, namely Lord Dacre, Bill Bynum, David Allen, Paul Wood, Keith Thomas and Peter Burke. I have two further debts: one, for the opportunity to compile and publish a lengthy analysis of the Royal Society's early membership in the Society's *Notes and records* in 1976, in which I was encouraged not least by Sir William Paton; the other, for the stimulus provided by J. R. Jones in asking me to contribute to his recent volume in the 'Problems in focus' series. My chapter in *The restored monarchy* is a preliminary summary of the theme of this book, around which my ideas have formed and developed.

Much of the research for this book was done while I held research fellowships successively at Worcester College, Oxford, and in the History Department at the University of Reading; I am thankful to both institutions for the opportunities thus provided. The research was finished and the book written since I have been at Birkbeck, and I must acknowledge the forbearance and encouragement of my colleagues in the History Department.

The following have read all or part of the book and I am grateful for their comments: David Bebbington, Leslie Clarkson, Estelle Cohen, Eamon Duffy, Moti Feingold, Graham Gibbs, Marie Boas Hall, John Henry, Jim Jacob, Fritz Levy, Joseph Levine, Christine

Cambridge University Press
978-0-521-29685-4 - Science and Society in restoration England
Michael Hunter
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

x

Preface

McLeod, John Miller, Tom O'Malley, Charles Schmitt, Joan Thirsk and Anthony Turner. Some of these have also kindly answered specific queries, as have Alan Gabbey, Fred Lock, Mark Overton, Roy Porter, Charles Webster and Christopher Wright; Annabel Gregory has assisted with my research. I owe a special debt to Sheridan Gilley and – above all – to Paul Wood, who has discussed the book with me innumerable times. Even he disagrees with a few of its arguments and other readers have taken issue with more. It is now for a larger audience to decide who is right.

M.C.W.H.

Hackney
January 1980

List of abbreviations

Add.	British Library Additional Manuscript
Aubrey	Bodleian Library, Oxford, manuscript Aubrey
<i>B.J.H.S.</i>	<i>British Journal for the History of Science</i>
Cl. P.	Royal Society Classified Papers
C.S.P.	<i>Calendar of State Papers</i>
DM	Royal Society Domestic Manuscripts
EL	Royal Society Early Letters
Evelyn, <i>Corr.</i>	Christ Church, Oxford, Evelyn collection: bound volumes of correspondence
Evelyn, <i>Lb.</i>	John Evelyn's Letter-book, Christ Church, Oxford, Evelyn collection manuscript 39 (letters in main numerical series)
<i>H.M.C.</i>	<i>Historical Manuscripts Commission</i>
Hales, <i>Account</i>	[Thomas Hales], <i>An Account of several New Inventions and Improvements Now necessary for England</i> (London, 1691)
JBO	Royal Society Original Journal Book
<i>J.H.I.</i>	<i>Journal of the History of Ideas</i>
LBO	Royal Society Original Letter Book
Lister	Bodleian Library, Oxford, manuscript Lister
<i>N. & R. R. S.</i>	<i>Notes and Records of the Royal Society</i>
Pepysian	Magdalene College, Cambridge, Pepysian Library manuscript
<i>Phil. Trans.</i>	<i>Philosophical Transactions</i>
RBO	Royal Society Original Register Book
Rawlinson	Bodleian Library, Oxford, manuscript Rawlinson
Sloane	British Library manuscript Sloane

Cambridge University Press
 978-0-521-29685-4 - Science and Society in restoration England
 Michael Hunter
 Frontmatter
[More information](#)

xii	<i>List of abbreviations</i>
Smith	Bodleian Library, Oxford, manuscript Smith
Stubbe, <i>Camp.</i>	Henry Stubbe, <i>Campanella Revived</i> (London, 1670)
Stubbe, <i>Censure</i>	Henry Stubbe, <i>A Censure upon Certaine Passages Contained in the History of the Royal Society</i> (Oxford, 1670)
Stubbe, <i>Legends</i>	Henry Stubbe, <i>Legends No Histories</i> (London, 1670)
Stubbe, <i>P.U.</i>	Henry Stubbe, <i>The Plus Ultra Reduced to a Non Plus</i> (London, 1670)
T.R.H.S.	<i>Transactions of the Royal Historical Society</i>
Wood, <i>Life and times</i>	<i>The life and times of Anthony Wood 1632– 1695</i> , ed. Andrew Clark (Oxford Historical Society, vols. XIX, 1891, XXI, 1892, XXVI, 1894, XXX, 1895, and XL, 1900)

Note: authors' names followed by raised numerals in the footnotes refer to entries in the bibliographical essay, pp. 198–219.