

## The Historical Review/La Revue Historique

Vol 13 (2016)



### FOREWORD to Dimaras Lecture 2016

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doi: [10.12681/hr.16310](https://doi.org/10.12681/hr.16310)

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### To cite this article:

Nikolaidis, E. (2019). FOREWORD to Dimaras Lecture 2016. *The Historical Review/La Revue Historique*, 13, 269–270. <https://doi.org/10.12681/hr.16310>

## FOREWORD

John Hedley Brooke studied the natural sciences at Cambridge University, obtaining a first-class honours degree in 1965. Having obtained a distinction in his study of the history and philosophy of science, his Cambridge doctoral thesis was devoted to the development of organic chemistry in the nineteenth century. A research fellow at Fitzwilliam College, Cambridge (1967–68), his first academic appointment was in the school of mathematical and physical sciences at the University of Sussex (1968–69). From 1969–99 he taught in the history department at Lancaster University, becoming a member of the International Academy of the History of Science in 1993. In 1995, with Prof Geoffrey Cantor, he gave the Gifford Lecture at Glasgow University. From 1999 to 2006, he was the first Andreas Idreos Professor of Science and Religion at Oxford University, director of the Ian Ramsey Centre and fellow of Harris Manchester College. Following retirement, he spent time as a distinguished fellow at the Institute of Advanced Study, University of Durham (2007). He has lectured worldwide and in November 2001 gave the distinguished lecture of the History of Science Society. From 2000 to 2003 he directed the European Science Foundation's Science and Human Values network. A former editor of the *British Journal for the History of Science*, he has served as president of the British Society for the History of Science, Historical Section of the British Science Association, UK Forum for Science and Religion and International Society for Science and Religion. Among his books are *Science and Religion: Some Historical Perspectives* (Cambridge, 1991), which won the Watson Davis and Helen Miles Davis Prize of the History of Science Society; *Thinking About Matter* (Ashgate, 1995); and (with Geoffrey Cantor) *Reconstructing Nature: The Engagement of Science and Religion* (Edinburgh 1998). He is coeditor of *Science in Theistic Contexts* (Chicago, 2001), *Heterodoxy in Early Modern Science and Religion* (Oxford, 2005), and *Religious Values and the Rise of Science in Europe* (Istanbul, 2005). His most recent book, coedited with Ronald Numbers, is *Science and Religion around the World* (New York, 2011). The author of more than one hundred journal articles and book chapters, he has contributed to *The Cambridge Companion to Darwin*, *The Cambridge Companion to the "Origin of Species"*, *The Cambridge Companion to Science and Religion*, *The Oxford Handbook of Religion and Science*, *The Oxford Handbook of Nineteenth-Century British Philosophy*, and *The Oxford*

*Handbook of the Reception History of the Bible*. Together with Fraser Watts, he was editorial consultant for *The Oxford Handbook of Natural Theology* (2013). His research interests have embraced the history of organic chemistry, the British natural theology tradition from the seventeenth to the nineteenth centuries, Darwiniana, and the evaluation of the sciences in different religious cultures. He is probably best known for his *Science and Religion: Some Historical Perspectives*, which has recently been reissued in the prestigious *Canto Classics* series of Cambridge University Press. He is currently visiting professor in the School of Philosophy, Religious Studies, and the History of Science at the University of Leeds.

The Science and Orthodox Christianity around the World (SOW) project of the Institute of Historical Research of the National Hellenic Research Foundation aims to chart a previously unknown field: the views and positions on the relations between science and religion in the entire Orthodox Christian world. It is setting the foundations for an organised and advanced dialogue between science and Orthodoxy. The study of these relations is well advanced as far as it concerns Western Christianity and Prof Brooke is a leading specialist in that field. His aforementioned *Science and Religion: Some Historical Perspectives* has been translated in many languages, including Greek, and has opened new paths in science and religion studies; it is a book of reference for all scholars interested in the field. We are very honoured that Prof Brooke has accepted to give the 2016 C. Th. Dimaras Lecture within the framework of his collaboration with the SOW project.

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