Autobiographical notes

Since 1932 the Society’s Biographical Memoirs have ensured the publication for posterity of biographical information about Fellows and Foreign Members and their research achievements. These Memoirs have become an important record of developments in the world of science and an invaluable resource for historians of science. Their value depends on the amount of information available to the biographer. You are therefore asked to prepare for the Society as complete an account as possible of your family background, your life and work and to suggest the names of possible biographers.

Some possible headings are suggested and laid out on the attached form. You may prefer to arrange your notes in some other way.

These autobiographical notes will be held kept strictly confidential during your lifetime, with access granted only to you, or to a person having your written authorisation. After your death they will become available, with Council’s approval, for purposes of biography and scientific history. Should you wish to update these details at any time please contact Keith Moore, the Head of Library and Information Services. It would be helpful if you would also regularly update and send in a copy of your curriculum vitae and list of publications. Supplementary material is welcomed, particularly in the form of imagery. This might include, for example, favourite portrait photographs. If there are particular discoveries, places (for example a laboratory), organisations or events with which you have been associated, some visual record (with a note of the copyright holder, if known) would be invaluable resource for your eventual biographer.
Personal Records of Fellows of the Royal Society

**Surname**: followed by forename(s)

**Birth**: date and place

**Parentage**: number of brothers and sisters, and your place in the series; places of residence

**Ancestry and relatives**: with special reference to any who have been noteworthy in science, learning, public service, or other ways

**Marriage**: date and place, spouse’s full name and parentage, with relatives of scientific or public interest; offspring, name and sex of each with brief details of careers.

**Childhood**: circumstances, influences and relevant memories; any special features of the locality or facilities near you.

**Schools**: primary and secondary, with dates. Entrances or leaving scholarships; scientific education and opportunities, if any; teachers of influence; introduction to science; encouragement to a career in science; extra curricular activities.

**University and other higher education**: scholarships; subjects of study; prizes and distinctions; degrees, with dates; undergraduate researches, if any. Development of interest in your subject and in your particular research field; senior scientists who may have influenced your ideas; key discoveries that impressed you.
**Postgraduate studies**: at home or abroad; higher degrees; research fields to date; details of any major engineering works; travels; scientific expeditions, etc. Research collaborations and interactions with other scientists; key scientific meetings; major career decisions; how your research field developed.

**Appointments held**: with dates; research, teaching, administrative; publications and activities, other than scientific. Pupils and their achievements.

**Public honours**: honorary degrees; fellowships; medals; lectures and awards; membership of, and office in, British and foreign scientific societies, academies, etc.; membership of official advisory bodies; scientific editorships.

**Views** on science including your field of expertise; education and science policy.

**General interests**

**Suggestions for possible biographers**: The biographer need not be a Fellow of the Society, but should have considerable knowledge of your life and work.
**Location of personal papers.** Your biographer will be assisted by knowing the location of any useful personal papers or archives (for example, deposited in your University archive or library. This includes any oral history recordings/transcriptions you may have made. If you have not placed your personal archives in a repository, the Royal Society’s Librarian would be happy to advise you.

Please return these details to Keith Moore at keith.moore@royalsociety.org or by post to:

Keith Moore  
Head of Library and Information Services  
The Royal Society  
6-9 Carlton House Terrace  
London SW1Y 5AG

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