



Petite Histoire du

French Government Fellowship at Churchill College

Projet de lettre de l'Ambassadeur
de France à Londres

au

Master of Churchill College

Monsieur le Directeur,

Comme suite aux correspondances précédemment échangées j'ai l'honneur de porter à votre connaissance que le Gouvernement français a décidé de faire une donation de 100.000 Frs à Churchill College. Deux versements de 50.000 Frs seront effectués, l'un , l'autre cinq ans plus tard.

Le but de cette donation est de favoriser les séjours de chercheurs scientifiques et littéraires français au sein de l'Université de Cambridge, tout en leur permettant de bénéficier de l'environnement pluridisciplinaire que procure le cadre du College.

Les conditions de l'accord entre Churchill College et la partie française sont définies comme suit :

1) Churchill College réservera une place à des chercheurs français qui pourront s'y succéder pendant une durée de dix ans. Si pendant certaines périodes cette place reste vacante, la ou les durées correspondantes seront reportées à des dates ultérieures.

2) Les chercheurs seront élus "fellows" ou "fellow commoners" du College ; la raison d'être de leur séjour sera un travail de recherche mené en étroite association avec un Département ou une Faculté de l'Université de Cambridge.

.../.

3) L'élection en tant que Fellow Commoner sera prononcée par le College sur recommandation du Comité de Sélection responsable en France du choix des candidats.

La durée minimale des séjours sera de 3 mois.

4) Les disciplines auxquelles devront appartenir les candidats seront déterminées par consultation entre le College et le Comité de Sélection; leur liste pourra être modifiée périodiquement par agrément mutuel.

Cette liste, tout en ayant valeur indicative, ne sera pas automatiquement exclusive d'une candidature dans une discipline qui n'en ferait pas partie.

5) Le College fournira sans autre contrepartie financière l'hébergement (logement et repas) et les avantages normalement attachés à la position de fellow.

Le logement des familles sera également assuré sans contrepartie financière.

Le College n'est pas en mesure de fournir un complément de financement, mais il soutiendra les candidatures auprès d'organismes extérieurs pour l'obtention de bourses.

Je vous prie d'agréer, Monsieur le Directeur, l'assurance de ma considération distinguée./.

I am both proud and delighted to have been invited to attend the special Colloquium arranged by Churchill College and the Scientific Services of the French Embassy as part of the celebrations in connection with the centenary of the *Entente Cordiale*, and in particular to mark the thirty years of the French Fellowship at Churchill.

My father's lifelong love and admiration for France and the French people is well known, and it would certainly have rejoiced his heart to know that this College, of which he was the Founder, and which bears his name, has forged such a strong and fruitful link through the French fellowship with scientific thought and development in France.

Marysoames

CHURCHILL COLLEGE/FRENCH EMBASSY
Entente Cordiale
30th Anniversary of the French Government Fellowship Celebrations

Sunday 20 June 2004

- 1900 Pre-Dinner Drinks in *Senior Combination Room (SCR)*
1930 Welcoming light Buffet Supper in *Dining Hall*

Monday 21 June 2004

- 0800 - 0900 Breakfast in *Fellows' Dining Room*
1100 Assemble in *Jock Colville Hall*
1110 - 1130 Welcoming Speeches from Professor Archie Howie (President of the Senior Combination Room) and Professor Gilbert Balavoine (Scientific Counsellor)
1130 - 1215 Talk: *Churchill and De Gaulle* by Professor François Kersaudy
Chaired by: Professor Tony Kelly
1215 - 1300 Viewing of Exhibition
1230 - 1330 Lunch in *Dining Hall*
1330 - 1430 Coffee in *SCR*
Afternoon events in Jock Colville Hall
Chaired by: Mme Anny King
1430 - 1500 Opening Remarks and Talk: Professor George Steiner: *"Difficult Fraternity"*
Afternoon session chaired by: Mme Anny King
1500 - 1515 Talk: Dr Christian Colliex (first French Government Fellow)
1515 - 1530 Talk: Dr Frédéric Thibault-Starzyk (Current French Government Fellow)
"Laser pumping of chemical reactions for time resolved infrared on catalysts" ou
"Infrarouge Français contre Laser Britannique: football moléculaire sur catalyseur"
1530 - 1600 Talk: Professor Ken Siddle: *"What causes Diabetes? A Biochemist looks at a Modern Epidemic"*
1600 - 1630 Tea
1630 - 1700 Talk: Dr Lyliane Rosetta and Professor Nick Mascie-Taylor: *"From Growth and Reproduction to Parasites and Production"*
1700 - 1730 Talk: Professor Jean Cuisenier: *"L'anthropologie au risque de l'interprétation"*
1730 - 1800 Talk: Sir Hermann Bondi: *"Science and Society"*
followed by Closing Remarks
1845 Group Photograph: French Fellows to meet in front of *Hepworth Statue* or in *Fellows' Dining Room* if wet
1900 Reception on *Master's Lawn* or in *Fellows' Dining Room* if wet
1930 Formal Dinner in *Dining Hall* hosted by the Master and fellows of Churchill College
Speeches: Sir John Boyd, Master, and Son Excellence Monsieur Gérard Errera
Ambassadeur de France au Royaume-Uni

Tuesday 22 June

- 0800 - 0900 Breakfast in *Fellows' Dining Room*

CHURCHILL COLLEGE/FRENCH EMBASSY

Entente Cordiale

30th Anniversary of the French Government Fellowship Celebrations

On Monday 21 June 2004 Churchill College and the Scientific Service of the French Embassy in London celebrated 30 years of the French Government Fellowship at Churchill College as part of the *Entente Cordiale* centenary celebrations.

Guest of honour at the celebrations was the Lady Soames, DBE. Other guests included the French Ambassador, M. Gérard Errera, and the former Ambassador in Paris, Sir Christopher Mallaby, along with fourteen former French Government Fellows. Speakers included Professor George Steiner, Fellow of Churchill College since 1961, Professor of English and Comparative Literature, University of Geneva since 1974, distinguished writer and regular contributor to the *New Yorker*, the *Times Literary Supplement* and *The Guardian*; Sir Hermann Bondi, distinguished cosmologist and former Master of Churchill College, Chief Scientific Adviser, Ministry of Defence 1971-1977 and Chief Scientist, Department of Energy 1977-1980; the first French Government Fellow, Dr Christian Colliex, CNRS Research Director, University of Paris-Sud, and the current French Government Fellow, Dr Frédéric Thibault-Starzyk, Chargé de Recherche au Laboratoire Catalyse & Spectrochimie, Caen.

The celebration started with a talk on Churchill and De Gaulle by Professor François Kersaudy, followed by a special exhibition on Churchill and De Gaulle organised by Allen Packwood, Director of the Churchill Archives Centre. In the afternoon there were contributions from eminent French Scientists and British Churchillians on various topics in the spirit of the *Entente Cordiale*. The celebrations ended with a special anniversary dinner, hosted by the Master and Fellows of Churchill College.

LA VIE SOCIALE

SOUVENIRS D'ANCIENS FRENCH GOVERNMENT FELLOWS

Dr Claude BERGMAN
French Government Overseas Fellow 1976-1977

Je peux donc dire que mon séjour à Cambridge, et au Churchill College notamment, a été déterminant pour ma carrière scientifique. Mais je voudrais ajouter que mon séjour à Churchill a été embelli par la naissance de mon troisième enfant et m'a permis d'apprécier au quotidien une société anglaise admirable, respectueuse du savoir et du passé, associant harmonieusement modernité et tradition, simplicité et formalisme, rigueur et tolérance. Avec le recul des ans, et aujourd'hui en retraite, je regarde ce passage à Cambridge comme l'un des plus heureux moments de ma vie. Merci à tous ceux qui me l'ont offert.

Dr Christian COLLIEX
French Government Overseas Fellow 1976
Directeur de Recherche, CNRS

The very last day of my stay at Churchill, the presiding Fellow at High Table had invited me to sit at his right as a special honour. However when I arrived he came to me and was quite embarrassed to have to tell me that a new guest had just turned up and that he was obliged to have him on his right and transfer me to his left side. The name of his guest was Piotr Kapitza, who was to win the Nobel Prize for Physics a couple of years later, for the work he had performed at Cambridge before the war. My stay at Cambridge came to an end with this encounter with one of the top physicists of the 20th century. Churchill College is definitely the place to be!

Dr Yannick CHAMPION
French Government Overseas Fellow 1999-2000 and 2000-2001
Chargé de Recherche, CNRS, Paris

... I learnt a great deal from contact with colleagues in the Department, but especially at Churchill, where multidisciplinary exchanges are encouraged (in seminars, at High Table or more informally when meeting in the Senior Combination Room)... Experiencing Cambridge is enriching, whatever one's area of research and I can only encourage French researchers and teacher-researchers to try it.

Professor Jean CUISENIER
French Government Overseas Fellow 1984-1985
Directeur de Recherche, CNRS

Fellow à Churchill College : un luxe, en vérité ! ... De mon séjour à Churchill College, de ma collaboration avec les anthropologues de Cambridge, je retiens qu'à travers les aménités d'une vie académique détendue et féconde, l'on tient haute cette exigence : sans faiblesse, nous confronter à notre monde, tel qu'il est, au noble risque de l'interprétation.

Dr Hervé DEXPERT
French Government Overseas Fellow 1978-1979
CEMES-CNRS

C'est une nouvelle vie qui a commencé pour moi au Churchill College : âgé de moins de trente ans, j'ai découvert l'extraordinaire vivacité des échanges scientifiques au sein du

Cavendish, bénéficié de l'accueil formidable du Churchill College et profité du remarquable site de Cambridge. Mon intégration a été facile même si le jeune français formé dans un tout autre système que j'étais alors s'est parfois étonné des comportements et des modes de vie différents de ses collègues britanniques. Je dois beaucoup à ce séjour déterminant au Churchill College, tant sur le plan personnel que sur le plan professionnel.

Dr Jean-Marie DUBOIS

French Government Overseas Fellow 1982-1983

Directeur du Laboratoire de Science et Génie des Matériaux et de Métallurgie

There is no doubt that my time at Cambridge played amply in my favour. At a personal level I had learnt at Churchill how indispensable calm and serenity are to scientific reflection. I had rubbed shoulders with eminent elders, from whom I had acquired some sparks of that wisdom for which the place is renowned, and, which is just as important, gives the youngest of people the virtuous ambition of equalling them.

Dr Francois FEUILLEBOIS

French Government Overseas Fellow 1981-1982

Directeur de Recherche

I think I must draw attention to a convivial aspect which is not automatically obvious to someone who has recently arrived in England. Dinners at High Table, which generate many and varied exchanges, institutions such as morning coffee and afternoon tea at DAMTP in large, comfortable premises, all convinced me that a place that allows us to be in 'permanent conference' is indispensable to the development of scientific relations and that the French still have a great deal to learn in this respect.

Professor Jean-Claude GALEY

French Government Overseas Fellow 1988-1989

Directeur, Centre d'Etudes de l'Inde

If the joys of tennis played their part in our social life when we had free time and the weather was good, my membership of the College Fellows' Cricket Team abides as a both moving and amusing memory. In fact I remember the patient introductions that my young – and not so young – colleagues at Churchill gave me so that I might understand the rules and the subtleties of the game. I remember the efforts that I needed to overcome all my continental resistance to understand the spirit of it and how in order to protect myself I had to revise all those assumptions made during my summers in England as a small boy. Well, one afternoon in June during a match that we were winning against the Fellows of I don't know which College; a couple of lucky catches earned me the title of 'French secret weapon'. I have never achieved this again since ...

Professor Christian JANOT

French Government Overseas Fellow 1981

Professor Solid State Physics, Université de Nancy

I keep looking back at my days at Churchill College with emotion as I remember the flat with a view on the green, the milkman in the early morning, the Sunday walks with the Master, the High Table dinners, the relaxed chatting and the serious discussion in the Senior Combination Room. Cambridge was not my first stay abroad but it was this stay in particular that made me feel like not going back to my lab in Nancy but rather going instead to a place "that would not be too exclusively French!"

Dr Hervé LE BRAS
French Government Overseas Fellow 2001-2002
Directeur de Recherche, EHESS, Paris

La diversité des disciplines représentées dépassait de loin celle de l'EHESS ou de l'INED, presque uniquement peuplés de chercheurs en sciences sociales. Aux lunches, aux social events, aux dîners, dans la salle de lecture du collège, j'ai croisé des astrophysiciens, des spécialistes du pétrole ou des matériaux rares, des historiens de la Grèce ou des Stuart, des mathématiciens-probabilistes, des philosophes qui tous avec humour prenaient du recul sur leur discipline et sur le monde.

Dr Lyliane ROSETTA
French Government Overseas Fellow 1993-1994 and 1995-1996
Directeur de Recherche, CNRS

Mais à côté des aspects de collaborations, publications et formation d'étudiants, il y a également un aspect extrêmement original – et inconnu pour un chercheur français – d'un Fellowship at Churchill College, qui est la richesse de la vie sociale du Collège. On a véritablement conscience de faire partie d'une communauté, en l'occurrence scientifique, lorsqu'on est Fellow du Collège. Il y a un accueil et un suivi attentif des nouveaux arrivants par les principaux responsables du Collège, puis l'ensemble des Fellows prend le relais pour entourer et suivre l'évolution des nouveaux venus pendant leur séjour. Au cours de chaque trimestre universitaire des dîners sont organisés pour permettre de rencontrer les autres Fellows mais aussi les étudiants du Collège et en d'autres occasions, des invités extérieurs au Collège, toujours passionnants et très souvent prestigieux. Il y a des concerts, donnés par les étudiants et les Fellows eux-mêmes, dont certains sont d'excellents musiciens, il y a des expositions de peinture ou sculpture d'artistes invités par le Collège.

Si je peux formuler un vœu, c'est que ce Fellowship puisse encore être soutenu pendant de longues années. Il permettra à nombre de mes collègues français de bénéficier dans le futur de cette expérience unique, qui de toute évidence, participe au renforcement et à l'élargissement des collaborations scientifiques entre la France et la Grande-Bretagne.

Dr Frédéric THIBAUT-STARZYK
French Government Overseas Fellow 2003-2004
Chargé de Recherche, CNRS

The interdisciplinary atmosphere of Churchill College is the ideal setting ... the curiosity and the openness of spirit which exists there allows a permanent exchange of ideas, which presupposes that everyone takes a step back from his personal research, something which is important for a visiting scholar. The College enables rapid integration into a system which can put a continental academic off-track. Having sat on local and national committees concerned with the running of French universities, I have been able to think more deeply about the organisation of research and of universities, living within a College system, and having informal discussions at High Table with academics from all over the world. Churchill College has also been of considerable assistance in establishing effective collaboration of French and British teams, receiving French students and colleagues for short periods of time and developing long-term projects. This Fellowship will have played a major part in making my stay a success.

UNE ENTENTE TRÈS CORDIALE

The French Government Fellowship scheme was established forty years ago. The brainchild of the College's first Master, Sir John Colville, it was created through an initial donation of 100,000 Francs from the French Government. The scheme flourished over the years as support for the Fellowship increased on both sides. In a letter to the College's second Master, Sir William Hawthorne, the French Ambassador at the time, M. de Beaumarchais, defined French support in the following terms: "Le but de cette donation est de favoriser les séjours de chercheurs scientifiques et littéraires français au sein de l'Université de Cambridge, tout en leur permettant de bénéficier de l'environnement pluridisciplinaire que procure le cadre du Collège". Recalling this original intention during the celebration of the thirtieth anniversary of the Fellowship in 2004, the College's fifth Master, Sir John Boyd, declared that it would be hard to improve on that summary.

Looking through the publication that was produced for the thirtieth anniversary it is gratifying to note the views of the French academics who had been the recipients of this prestigious Fellowship. Professor Claude Bergman, (FGF 1976/77) recalled that it was "L'un des plus heureux moments de ma vie", Dr Jean-Marie Dubois (FGF 1982/83) thought it was "the most fantastic" year of his life as a researcher, and Professor Jean-Claude Galey (FGF 1988/89) felt that it represented a turning point in his career. Reflecting on her time as a French Government Fellow Dr Lyliane Rosetta (FGF 1993/96) thought that the Fellowship was a support for collaborative research and an opportunity to set up international programmes. In 2004 she said "I sincerely wish that the French Fellowship will still be supported for many years to allow French scientists to benefit from this rare experience which evidently contributes to improve scientific collaboration between British and French scientists." Dr Yannick Champion (FGF 1999/2001) similarly saw his time as a point de départ for reflecting upon and evaluating his work and Dr Frédéric Thibault-Starzyk (FGF 2003/04) said that "the interdisciplinary atmosphere of Churchill College is the ideal setting ... The curiosity and the openness of spirit which exists (at Churchill) allows a permanent exchange of ideas ... I have been able to think more deeply about the organisation of research and of universities, living within a College system, and having informal discussions at High Table with academics from all over the world".

That the Fellowship continues to thrive today is self-evident in that, thanks to the support and interest of the current Counsellor for Science & Technology at the French Embassy, M. Cyrille van Effenterre, we are able to welcome an unprecedented four new French Government Fellows to Churchill during 2014. They are Dr Daniela Dragomirescu from the Institut National des Sciences Appliquées, Université de Toulouse, Dr Sofiane Guessasma, from the Institut National de la Recherche Agronomique, Nantes, Dr Eric Parent from AgroParisTech, Ministère de l'Agriculture, de l'Alimentation, de la Pêche et des Affaires Rurales, Paris, and Professor Jean-Christophe Thalabard, Professeur des Universités Biostatistiques - Information Médicale, Université Paris Descartes.

On 20 July 2014 the College will be celebrating the fortieth anniversary of the French Government Fellowship at Churchill College. Current and former French Government Fellows will be invited to join the celebrations along with the Fellowship and in particular those Fellows who have worked closely with French Government Fellows over the years. An all day event is being planned culminating in a formal celebration dinner hosted by the Master and the French Ambassador, M. Bernard Emié. French Government Fellows are being asked to contribute a fifteen minute talk on their research work during their time at Churchill and a publication to support the event is being planned.

Vive l'entente (très) cordiale!

Paula Halson, Registrar and Staff By-Fellow
Anny King, Fellow

French Government Fellows and By-Fellows at Churchill College

Bergman, Professor Claude	Physiology	1976
Colliex, Dr Christian	Physics	1976
Crepon, Dr Michel	Oceanography	1978
Dexpert, Dr Herve	Materials Science	1978
Feix, Dr Marc	Theoretical Plasmaphysics	1980
Feuillebois, Dr François	Physics	1981
Janot, Professor Christian	Solid State Physics	1981
Dubois, Dr Jean-Marie	Materials Science	1982
Friedel, Professor Jacques	Solid State Physics	1983
Cuisenier, Professor Jean	Social Anthropology	1984
Galey, Professor Jean-Claude	Social Anthropology (India)	1988
Schnapp, Dr Alain	Anthropology (Ancient Greece)	1989
Andreau, Dr Jean	Social Sciences	1990
Bourguignon, Professor François	Economics	1992
Rosetta, Dr Lyliane	Biological Anthropology	1993
Guiard, Dr Yves	Experimental Psychology	1996
De Bougrenet, Prof Jean-Louis	Optics	1997
Champion, Dr Yannick	Materials Science	1999
Le Bras, Dr Hervé	Social Sciences	2001
Lavery, Dr Richard	Chemistry	2002
Thibault-Starzyk, Dr Frédéric	Chemistry	2003
Jami, Dr Catherine	History of Chinese Mathematics	2004
Cossu, Dr Carlo	Hydrodynamics	2007
Sellier, Prof Antoine	Fluid Mechanics	2007
Gaigeot, Prof Marie-Pierre	Biology	2008
Lesaffre, Dr Pierre	Astrophysics	2008
Génin, Dr Emmanuelle	Genetics	2009
Meyrand, Dr Pierre	Neuroscience	2009
Cohen, Dr Serge	Statistics	2010
Calvo, Dr Florent	Physics	2011
Di Meglio, Prof Jean-Marc	Physics	2011
Thebaud, Professor Christophe	Evolutionary Biology	2011
Delenne, Prof Jean-Yves	Mechanics & Civil Engineering	2012
Charmantier, Dr Anne	Evolutionary Biology	2012
Garnier, Professor Emmanuel	History	2012
Rouquette, Dr Sebastien (By-Fellow)	Mechanical Engineering	2013
Parent, Dr Eric	Statistics	2013
Thalabard, Professor Jean-Christophe	Human Reproductive Ecology	2013
Guessasma, Dr Sofiane (By-Fellow)	Mechanical Engineering	2013
Dragomirescu, Prof Daniela (By-Fellow)	Engineering	2014
Holcman, Dr David	Biology	2015
Pichon, Dr Christophe	Astrophysics	2015
Pier, Dr Benoît (By-Fellow)	Fluid Mechanics	2015
Keller, Dr Julien (By-Fellow)	Mathematics	2015