



c/o Scientific Generics Limited

Harston Mill

Harston

Cambridge CB2 5NH

Telephone: +44 (0) 1223 875200

Facsimile: +44 (0) 1223 875201

(Organising Secretary's Home Number: 01799 525 948)

email: rfreeman@scigen.co.uk

CAMBRIDGE SOCIETY FOR THE APPLICATION OF RESEARCH

NOTE CHANGE OF START TIME – ONE HOUR EARLIER THAN LAST YEAR!!

Leonardo da Vinci – Innovative Genius (or was he..... ?)

Dr Dick Parry

Pembroke College, Cambridge

Monday 12th November, 2001, **7.30 p.m. - 9.00 p.m.**¹

The Wolfson Lecture Theatre, Churchill College, Cambridge

Abstract

Leonardo da Vinci is synonymous with the Renaissance. When in 1482 he asked Ludovico Sforza, Duke of Milan, for employment, Leonardo focussed upon his experience and abilities in the field of engineering. The voluminous sketches and notes he left of mechanical devices, military hardware, flying machines and civil engineering works insured that he would not be forgotten as an engineer.

But there are many questions. How many of these ideas were actually his own? How many were actually constructed, and how many were practical.

The lecture will outline the state of technology in the Renaissance, as represented by the sketches and notes of Leonardo and others of the time. Dr Parry will illustrate his talk with the engineering principles used on the plain of Lombardy, (which resulted in the invention of the double-gated lock), Brunelleschi's dome for the Cathedral of Florence, and the Ponte Vecchio of Florence.

About the Speaker

Dick Parry was a member of the Soil Mechanics Group at Cambridge University. The University awarded him with a ScD in 1983. A graduate of Melbourne University, Australia, he took his PhD at Imperial in London, worked with CSIRO, then founded a company for the Costain engineering group, working in SE Asia and Australia.

About the Subject (Organising Secretary's notes):

Dick Parry gave a stunning talk to the CSAR on the pyramids of Egypt a couple of years ago, for which the Wolfson was packed – people sat on the stairs, I recall! Seemingly, Leonardo da Vinci is another of Dick Parry's interests. If Dick's talk on Leonardo is anywhere near as interesting as his one on pyramids, we shall never view Leonardo da Vinci in the same light, ever again; **you have been warned!!**

Richard Freeman
Organising Secretary

¹**Note:** An experimental change of times for Michaelmas Term; we shall review at the end of Term

COUNCIL

President

Prof. Sir Sam Edwards FRS (Cavendish Laboratory)

Vice President

Dr Richard Jennings (Wolfson Industrial Liaison Office)

Finance Secretary

Mr Robin Bligh (*Zeus Technology*)

Dr Neil Bruce (Institute of Biotechnology)

Mr Brian Ford (*Royal Literary Fellow, Open University*)

Prof. Laurie Hall (Herchel Smith Laboratory for Medicinal Chemistry)

Prof. Anthony Kelly CBE FEng FRS (Materials Science & Metallurgy Dept)

Corporate Membership Secretary:

Organising Secretary:

Mr Ian Kent (*Cambridge Drug Discovery; AdPro Tech; Ribotargets*)

Dr Bill Nixon FEng (Peterhouse, Cambridge)

Dr Peter Russell-Eggitt OBE (*Consultant*)

Mr Chris Smart (*IDG Ventures*)

Mrs Sarah Alexandra, FBSMS, Saint John's College

Dr Richard Freeman FRSA

(*Scientific Generics Limited*)