

John Heslop-Harrison
Curriculum vitae

Personal:

- Birth, death:** 10th February, 1920; Abington Rd, Middlesbrough, Yorkshire; third child of John William Heslop-Harrison and Christian (née Henderson); died 7 May 1998; buried at St Leonard's Church, Hatfield, Herefordshire
- Learned relatives:** Father, Professor J .W. Heslop-Harrison F.R.S. (Genetics, cytology, plant geography and field natural history)
Brother, George Heslop-Harrison D.Sc. (entomology, pest control)
Sister, Helena Clark M.Sc. (agricultural botany)
Great uncle, Rev. J.E. Hull D.Sc. (arachnology; field natural history; folk-lore)
- Wife:** Yolande Massey PhD (later DSc), daughter of Capt J.H Massey, married 23rd September, 1950, Gosforth, Newcastle upon Tyne.
- Son:** John Seymour Heslop-Harrison, born 14th March, 1959
- Places of residence:** Middlesbrough, 1920
Birtley, Co. Durham, 1920-1946
Belfast, 1946-1950
London, 1950-1954
Belfast, 1954-1960
Birmingham, 1961-1968
Madison, Wisconsin USA, 1968-1970
Richmond, Surrey, 1971-1976
Leominster, Herefordshire, 1976-78
Aberystwyth, 1978-1990
Leominster, 1990-1998

Education

- Schools:** Elizabethville Infants' and Elementary Schools, Birtley, Co. Durham, 1925-1931
Chester-Le-Street Secondary School, 1931-1938; School Certificate: English, History, Geography, French, Latin, Chemistry, Physics, Mathematics; Higher Certificate: Chemistry, Physics and Mathematics as principal subjects; German as an additional option

- Primary Degree:** 1938: Open Entrance Scholarship, University of Durham, King's College (Newcastle upon Tyne campus), reading Botany, Zoology and Chemistry, with an elective short course in Archaeology. Field experience during the summer of 1940 assisting in a research project on potato yields and disease on diverse soils in Northumberland, Cumberland and Durham
- 1941: First Class Honours in Botany, with Zoology and Chemistry subsidiaries. Honours thesis on cytology and anatomy of two genera of Compositae
- Higher Degrees:** MSc (Dunelm), 1946. Thesis on ecology and plant succession on the Island of Scarp, Outer Hebrides (no supervisor)
- PhD (Belfast), 1949. Thesis on intersexuality in *Salix* and experimental control of sex expression in various other genera (no supervisor)
- DSc (Dunelm), 1959. Published work, 1951-59

Career

- War service:** 1941-1945
- Appointments:** 1945, Class B Release from the army to join the Research and Development Division at the Glaxo factory under construction at Barnard Castle, Co. Durham (£650 p.a.)
- 1945, Withdrew, and accepted a lectureship in the Agricultural Botany Department, King's College, Newcastle upon Tyne (£400 p.a.)
- 1946-1950, Lecturer in Botany, Queen's University, Belfast
- 1950-1953, Lecturer in Botany, University College, London
- 1953-1954, Reader in Taxonomy, University College, London
- 1954-1960, Professor of Botany, Queen's University, Belfast
- 1960-1967, Mason Professor of Botany, University of Birmingham. (Chairman, School of Biological Sciences from 1962)
- 1967-1970, Professor, Institute of Plant Development, University of Wisconsin, Madison, USA
- 1971-1976, Director, Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew

1977-1985, Royal Society Research Professor, University College of Wales, Aberystwyth (held at the Welsh Plant Breeding Station)

1985-1993, Honorary Research Worker, Welsh Plant Breeding Station (later Institute of Grassland and Environmental Research), Aberystwyth

- Visiting Professorships:**
- 1965, Brittingham Visiting Professor, Department of Botany, University of Wisconsin, Madison, USA
 - 1968, US Department of Agriculture Forest Genetics Research Station, Rhinelander, Wisconsin
 - 1971-77, University of Reading, Honorary Visiting Professor
 - 1976-77 and 1978-79, University of Massachusetts, Amherst
 - Visiting research worker for periods in 1980, 1983 and 1985, US Department of Agriculture, Russell Research Laboratories, University of Georgia, Athens, Georgia

Awards, Fellowships and Lectureships

- Honorary doctorates:**
- Queen's University, Belfast, 1971 (surrendered 1995)
 - University of Bath, 1982
 - University of Edinburgh, 1984
 - University of Hull, 1986

- Medals:**
- Trail-Crisp, Linnean Society, 1967
 - University of Liege, 1968
 - Erdtman International Medal for Palynology (India), 1971
 - Cooke Award, American Academy of Allergy, 1974
 - Darwin Medal, Royal Society, 1983
 - Keith Medal, Royal Society of Edinburgh, 1984
 - Navashin Medal, Komarov Institute, Academy of Sciences USSR, 1991
 - Royal Medal, Royal Society, 1996
 - Gold Medal, Linnean Society of London, 1996

Fellowships etc. (elective): Royal Society, 1970 (Council, 1975-76; 1982-83)
Royal Society of Edinburgh, 1952
Member of the Royal Irish Academy, 1956
Fellow, Institute of Biology, 1972
Fellow, Royal Society of Arts, 1972
Corresponding Member, Royal Netherlands Botanical Society, 1968
Foreign Fellow, Indian National Science Academy,
1974 Foreign Member, American Botanical Society, 1973
Member, German Academy of Science Leopoldina, 1975
Foreign Honorary Member, American Academy of Arts and Sciences, 1982
Foreign Associate, National Academy of Sciences U.S.A., 1983
Foreign Member, Acad. Royale de Belgique (Science Div.), 1985
Lemberg Travelling Fellow, Australian National Academy, 1983

Named Lectures: Sigma Xi, Geneva, New York 1969
William Wright Smith, Edinburgh 1972
George Bidder, Soc. Exptl. Biology, Leeds 1973
Ghosh, University of Calcutta 1973
Kennedy Orton Memorial, University. College of Wales, Bangor 1974
Cooke Memorial, Miami 1974
Croonian, Royal Society 1974
Amos Memorial, East Malling 1975
Holden, University of Nottingham 1976
Shaw Memorial, University of Winnipeg 1977
Bewley Memorial, Glasshouse Crops Res. Inst. 1978
Bateson, John Innes Institute 1979
Hooker, Linnean Society, 1979
Royal Swedish Academy, Stockholm, Lund, Uppsala 1979
Waller Memorial, University of Ohio 1980
Blackman, University of Oxford 1980

Lemberg Travelling Fellowship, Australian Acad. Science: Canberra, Sydney, Melbourne, Adelaide, Perth 1983

Darwin, Royal Society of Edinburgh 1984

Bicentennial, Royal Irish Academy 1985

3rd Paul Allen Memorial Lecture, Madison 1989

Scientific Service

Offices in Scientific Societies:

Linnean Society of London, 1951, Council 1972-4; Vice-President 1973-1975

Royal Society, Council 1975-76, 1982-1983; Southern Zone Research Committee 1975-6: Taxonomy *ad hoc* Group 1979: Chair Committee 6, 1982; Int. Exchanges Committee, Chair 1982-5; Expeditions Committee, 1980-82; British National Committee for Biology, 1979-82; Scientific Information Committee, Chair, 1978-83; Royal Society–British Academy Committee on Learned Societies, 1979-84

Botanical Society of the British Isles, 1946 (Vice-President 1973-1974)

British Association for the Advancement of Science, President, Section K, 1974; Council 1972- 1976; sometime Joint Secretary

Royal Horticultural Society, Council 1971-1979, Scientific Committee, Vice-Chair 1977

Institute of Biology, Vice-President 1973, President 1974, 1975

International Society of Plant Morphologists, President 1983-4

Society for Experimental Biology, Hon. Life Member, 1985

Int'l Botanical Congresses: Contributions at Stockholm, 1950, Montreal, 1959, Edinburgh, Planning Committee, 1964; Seattle, 1969; Leningrad, 1975, Vice-President; Sydney, 1981, Vice-President (no attendance), Berlin 1987

UK Government Bodies:

DSIR Grants Committee (Biology), 1963-67

Frazer Advisory Committee to the Minister of Agriculture, Member, 1962-63

Council of Scientific and Technical Institutes, 1974-1975

British Council Scientific Advisory Panel, 1974-76

British Library Advisory Council, 1974-76

Science Research Council, Biology Committee, 1976-77

Advisory Board of the UK Research Councils 1974-6

Member, Agricultural Research Council (ARC; AFRC), 1977-82

Agricultural Research Council Plants and Soils Research Grants Board 1974-86

University Grants Commission, Biology Sub-Committee, 1978-1983

UK Institutes:

National Vegetable Research Station, Wellesbourne (Chairman), 1961-67

University of Reading, Member of Plant Sciences Joint Committee 1971-76

University College London, Board of Studies, 1971-1976

Plant Breeding Institute, Cambridge, Board of Governors 1972-86

Sports Turf Research Institute, Honorary Scientific Advisor 1972-75

John Innes Institute, Norwich, Board of Governors, 1973-1982

Academic Advisory Council for the New University of Ulster, Coleraine, 1973-75

Chelsea Physics Garden, Management Committee 1973-76

Annals of Botany Company, Company Member 1956-85, Joint Editor 1961-3, Sole Editor 1963-6, Chairman 1972-85, Honorary Life Member 1985-98

Long Ashton Research Station, Bristol University (Chairman), 1977-82

British Museum (Natural History), Botany Section Review Committee Chair 1978

Agricultural Committee, Bristol University, Chair, 1981-82

Glasshouse Crops Research Institute and Weed Research Organisation, Chair Visiting Group 1979-80

The Company of Biologists, Board 1979-84

Rothamsted Experimental Station, Chair of Visiting Group, 1981

- International Bodies:**
- International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN), Morges, Switzerland (Chairman, Threatened Plants Committee) 1973-76
 - NATO Science Committee, Biology Sub-Committee, Member, 1973-1976
 - Indian UGC: Centre of Excellence Appraisal, 1973; Flora of India Planning Appraisal, 1973
 - Commission of the European Communities, Consultant on Community Programme on Biotechnology (later the Biomolecular Engineering Programme), 1974-76
 - Commonwealth Agricultural Bureau; Chairman of Review Committee for the Mycological, Helminthological and Entomological Laboratories and abstracting policy, 1975-?
 - Australian National University, Research School of Biological Sciences Review Panel, Canberra, Chair, 1979
 - Overseas Development Agency, Advisory Group for Tropical Development and research Organisation, 1982-6
 - NASA Advisory Panel for Space Flight Experiments, 1984

- Editorial Boards:**
- Annals of Botany, UK
 - Planta (Germany)
 - Protoplasma (Austria)
 - Journal of Cell Science (UK)
 - Excerpta Botanica (Germany)
 - Micron (UK)
 - Gamete Research (USA)
 - Plant Systematics and Evolution (USA)
 - Phytomorphology (India)
 - Canadian Journal of Botany (Canada)
 - Irish Naturalists' Journal
 - Endeavour (ICI)