



BIOGRAPHIES
OF
SCIENTIFIC
OBJECTS

EDITED BY LORRAINE DASTON

Biographies Of Scientific Objects

Christian Forstner, Mark Walker



Biographies Of Scientific Objects:

Biographies of Scientific Objects Lorraine Daston, 2000-06-15 Looks at how whole domains of phenomena come into being and sometimes pass away as objects of scientific study With examples from the natural and social sciences ranging from the 16th to the 20th centuries this book explores the ways in which scientific objects are both real and historical

Biographies of Scientific Objects Lorraine Daston, 2000 **Biographies of Scientific Objects** Lorraine Daston, 2000-06-15 Why does an object or phenomenon become the subject of scientific inquiry Why do some of these objects remain provocative while others fade from center stage And why do objects sometimes return as the focus of research long after they were once abandoned Addressing such questions *Biographies of Scientific Objects* is about how whole domains of phenomena dreams atoms monsters culture society mortality centers of gravity value cytoplasmic particles the self tuberculosis come into being and sometimes pass away as objects of scientific study With examples drawn from both the natural and social sciences and ranging from the sixteenth to the twentieth centuries this book explores the ways in which scientific objects are both real and historical Whether discovered or invented these objects of inquiry broaden and deepen in meaning growing more real as they become entangled in webs of cultural significance material practices and theoretical derivations Thus their biographies will matter to anyone concerned with the formation of scientific knowledge Contributors are Jed Z Buchwald Lorraine Daston Rivka Feldhay Jan Goldstein Gerard Jorland Doris Kauffman Bruno Latour Theodore M Porter Hans J rg Rheinberger Marshall Sahlins and Peter Wagner **Biographies in the History of Physics** Christian Forstner, Mark Walker, 2020-07-22 This book sheds new light on the biographical approach in the history of physics by including the biographies of scientific objects institutions and concepts What is a biography Can biographies also be written for non human subjects like scientific instruments institutions or concepts The respective chapters of this book discuss these controversial questions using examples from the history of physics By approaching biography as metaphor it transcends the boundaries between various perspectives on the history of physics and enriches our grasp of the past **Between Nature And Society: Biographies Of Materials** Bernadette Bensaude-vincent, 2022-04-14 This volume opens the readers eyes to the central role of materials in human societies and in the environment by telling the life stories of fifteen materials In this rich collection of stories materials are found at the complex interface between nature and society They are not just atomic structures with a set of properties and behaviors They capture the attention of nations worldwide because materials have major impacts on our welfare and can affect international peace and security **Handbook for the Historiography of Science** Mauro L. Condé, Marlon Salomon, 2023-09-30 This book aims to perform a critical and broad assessment of the historiography of science produced from the late nineteenth century to the early twenty first century It presents its main authors concepts ideas conceptions and schools It also analyzes the historical circumstances of the rise of the discipline history of science and the relations of the historiography of science with related areas These chapters do not understand the

historiography of science as a mere description or record of the history of science. Instead they understand the historiography of science from the epistemological criteria and choices that guided the writing of the history of science in its different contexts. In other words, more than describing the record of the various possibilities of historiographical approaches to science, the chapters carry out an epistemological reflection to assess the bases, possibilities, scope, and limits of different historiographical conceptions, authors, and traditions that have established the writing of the history of science. This book can be conceived as a reference work not only for professional historians and philosophers but also for academics from different backgrounds who are initiating themselves in the universe of history and philosophy of science, be they scientists from different fields or young researchers from different backgrounds who want to start studying the history and philosophy of science.

Perspectives on Chemical Biography in the 21st Century Isabel Malaquias, Peter J. T. Morris, 2019-01-14

Overlooked even despised by historians of chemistry for many years, the genre of biography has enjoyed a revival since the beginning of this century. The key to its renaissance is the use of the biographical form to provide a contextual analysis of important themes in contrast to the uncritical, almost hagiographic lives of chemists written in the earlier part of the twentieth century. Bringing together the contributions of scholars active in several different countries, *Perspectives on Chemical Biography in the 21st Century* leads the reader through emerging questions around sources and the generic problems faced by authors of biographies before moving on to discuss aspects more related with physical, theoretical, and inorganic chemistry and facets of 19th century chemistry. In contrast to the letters and diaries of earlier chemists, we are now faced with scientists who communicate by telephone and email and compose their documents on computers. Are we facing a modern equivalent of the destruction of the Library of Alexandria where all our sources are wiped out electronically?

Handbook of Material Culture Chris Tilley, Webb Keane, Susanne Kuechler, Mike Rowlands, Patricia Spyer, 2006-01-05

The study of material culture is concerned with the relationship between persons and things in the past and in the present in urban and industrialized and in small scale societies across the globe. The *Handbook of Material Culture* provides a critical survey of the theories, concepts, intellectual debates, substantive domains, and traditions of study characterizing the analysis of things. It is cutting edge rather than simply reviewing the field as it currently exists. It also attempts to chart the future, the manner in which material culture studies may be extended and developed. The *Handbook of Material Culture* is divided into five sections. Section I maps material culture studies as a theoretical and conceptual field. Section II examines the relationship between material forms, the human body, and the senses. Section III focuses on subject-object relations. Section IV considers things in terms of processes and transformations in terms of production, exchange, and consumption, performance, and the significance of things over the long term. Section V considers the contemporary politics and poetics of displaying, representing, and conserving material and the manner in which this impacts on notions of heritage, tradition, and identity. The *Handbook* charts an interdisciplinary field of studies that makes a unique and fundamental contribution to an understanding of what it

means to be human It will be of interest to all who work in the social and historical sciences from anthropologists and archaeologists to human geographers to scholars working in heritage design and cultural studies

The Man Who Crucified Himself Maria Böhmer, 2018-11-01 The Man Who Crucified Himself is the history of a sensational nineteenth century medical case In 1805 a shoemaker called Mattio Lovat attempted to crucify himself in Venice His act raised a furore and the story spread across Europe For the rest of the century Lovat s case fuelled scientific and popular debates on medicine madness suicide and religion Drawing on Italian German English and French sources Maria Böhmer traces the multiple readings of the case and identifies various interpretive communities Her meticulously researched study sheds new light on Lovat s case and offers fresh insights on the case narrative as a genre both epistemic and literary

The scientific dialogue linking America, Asia and Europe between the 12th and the 20th Century. Fabio D'Angelo, 2018-06-11 The first volume of Viaggiatori Curatele series seeks to recreate some scientific dialogues namely meetings exchanges and acquisition of theoretical and practical scientific knowledge thus linking the cultural historical and geographical context of America Asia Europe and Mediterranean Sea between the 16th and the 20th century More specifically the main objective is to consider the role of travellers as passeurs as intermediaries for building and allowing the circulation of knowhow and the practical and theoretical knowledge from one continent to another

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Table of Contents Biographies Of Scientific Objects

1. Understanding the eBook Biographies Of Scientific Objects
 - The Rise of Digital Reading Biographies Of Scientific Objects
 - Advantages of eBooks Over Traditional Books
2. Identifying Biographies Of Scientific Objects
 - Exploring Different Genres
 - Considering Fiction vs. Non-Fiction
 - Determining Your Reading Goals
3. Choosing the Right eBook Platform
 - Popular eBook Platforms
 - Features to Look for in an Biographies Of Scientific Objects
 - User-Friendly Interface
4. Exploring eBook Recommendations from Biographies Of Scientific Objects
 - Personalized Recommendations
 - Biographies Of Scientific Objects User Reviews and Ratings
 - Biographies Of Scientific Objects and Bestseller Lists
5. Accessing Biographies Of Scientific Objects Free and Paid eBooks

- Biographies Of Scientific Objects Public Domain eBooks
 - Biographies Of Scientific Objects eBook Subscription Services
 - Biographies Of Scientific Objects Budget-Friendly Options
6. Navigating Biographies Of Scientific Objects eBook Formats
 - ePub, PDF, MOBI, and More
 - Biographies Of Scientific Objects Compatibility with Devices
 - Biographies Of Scientific Objects Enhanced eBook Features
 7. Enhancing Your Reading Experience
 - Adjustable Fonts and Text Sizes of Biographies Of Scientific Objects
 - Highlighting and Note-Taking Biographies Of Scientific Objects
 - Interactive Elements Biographies Of Scientific Objects
 8. Staying Engaged with Biographies Of Scientific Objects
 - Joining Online Reading Communities
 - Participating in Virtual Book Clubs
 - Following Authors and Publishers Biographies Of Scientific Objects
 9. Balancing eBooks and Physical Books Biographies Of Scientific Objects
 - Benefits of a Digital Library
 - Creating a Diverse Reading Collection Biographies Of Scientific Objects
 10. Overcoming Reading Challenges
 - Dealing with Digital Eye Strain
 - Minimizing Distractions
 - Managing Screen Time
 11. Cultivating a Reading Routine Biographies Of Scientific Objects
 - Setting Reading Goals Biographies Of Scientific Objects
 - Carving Out Dedicated Reading Time
 12. Sourcing Reliable Information of Biographies Of Scientific Objects
 - Fact-Checking eBook Content of Biographies Of Scientific Objects
 - Distinguishing Credible Sources
 13. Promoting Lifelong Learning
 - Utilizing eBooks for Skill Development

- Exploring Educational eBooks

14. Embracing eBook Trends

- Integration of Multimedia Elements
- Interactive and Gamified eBooks

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