

Photographs of *Strachey* 100

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Chair, BCS-FACS Specialist Group

Strachey 100 Centenary Conference

Department of Computer Science, University of Oxford
18–19 November 2016

Christopher Strachey (1916–1975) was a pioneering computer scientist and the founder of the Programming Research Group, now part of the Department of Computer Science at Oxford University. Although Strachey was keenly interested in the practical aspects of computing, it is in the theoretical side that he most indelibly left his mark, notably by creating with Dana Scott the denotational (or as he called it, ‘mathematical’) approach to defining the semantics of programming languages. Strachey also spent time writing complex programs and puzzles for various computers, such as a draughts playing program for the Alan Turing’s Pilot ACE in 1951. He developed some fundamental concepts of machine-independent operating systems, including an early suggestion for time-sharing, and was a prime mover in the influential CPL programming language. Strachey came from a notable family of intellectuals and artists, perhaps most famous for Christopher’s uncle Lytton, a writer and member of the Bloomsbury group.

The occasion of a hundred years since Christopher Strachey’s birth on 16 November 1916, was marked three days after his birthday, with a symposium of invited speakers. The morning looked back at Strachey’s life and works from a historical and technical perspective and the afternoon concerned continuing research themes in computer science inspired by Strachey, at Oxford and elsewhere. There was also be a display of related archival material at the Weston Library, part of the Bodleian Library, Oxford University’s main library, on the afternoon before the conference and a dinner was held at Hertford College during the evening. The following is a selection of photographs taken during the event.

The above is adapted from the Strachey 100 website under
<https://www.cs.ox.ac.uk/strachey100/>

The event was organized by Cliff Jones and Troy Astarte (Newcastle University) and Samson Abramsky, Bernard Sufrin, Alex Kavvos, and Karen Barnes (Oxford University).

Note: Peter Landin (1930–2009), after whom the BCS-FACS Annual Peter Landin Semantics Seminar is named, was Strachey’s assistant from 1960 to 1964, when Strachey was an independent computer consultant in London.

Friday, 18 November 2016

Strachey papers, Weston Library,
Bodleian Library, University of Oxford



*Peter Mosses, Joe Stoy, Cliff Jones, Samson
Abramsky, and Martin Campbell-Kelly*





Samson Abramsky and Joe Stoy

Saturday, 19 November 2016

Department of Computer Science,
University of Oxford

Morning: Historical Talks



*Martin Cambell-Kelly, Cliff Jones,
Samson Abramsky, and Troy Astarte*

Chair: Cliff Jones



Michael Wooldridge: Introduction



*Michael Wooldridge (Head of Department,
Department of Computer Science,
University of Oxford)*

Martin Campbell-Kelly: "Strachey: the
Bloomsbury Years"



Martin Campbell-Kelly (historian of computing)

Joe Stoy: "Strachey and the Oxford Programming Research Group"



Joe Stoy (Oxford colleague of Strachey)

Peter Mosses: "SIS, a semantics implementation system"



Peter Mosses (doctoral student of Strachey)

Martin Richards: "Strachey and the development of CPL"



*Martin Richards
(Cambridge colleague of Strachey)*

Robert Milne: "Semantic relationships: reducing the separation between practice and theory"



Robert Milne (colleague of Strachey)

Break



Panel: Roger Penrose, David Hartley, Michael Jackson. Chair: Bernard Sufrin.



Bernard Sufrin (chair)



Penrose, Hartley, Sufrin, and Jackson



Jill and Tony Hoare (who took over as head of the Programming Research Group at Oxford from Strachey in 1975) with others in the audience

Afternoon: Forward-Looking Session



Bernard Sufrin (chair) and Michael Jackson (taught by Strachey at Harrow School)



Philip Wadler, Samson Abramsky, Alex Kavvos, Troy Astarte, and Jane Hillston

Chair: Samson Abramsky



Roger Penrose (Strachey family friend) and David Hartley (Cambridge colleague of Strachey)



Dana Scott (address read by Joe Stoy)



Hongseok Yang: "Probabilistic Programming"



Jane Hillston: "A modelling language approach to defining mathematical structures via semantics"



Uday Reddy: "Parametric Polymorphism and models of storage"



Philip Wadler: "Christopher Strachey, First-Class Citizen"



David Turner (doctoral student of Strachey) and others in the audience

Jeremy Gibbons: "What are types for?"



Robert Milne, Joe Stoy, Samson Abramsky,
and Christopher Wadsworth
(doctoral student of Strachey)

End

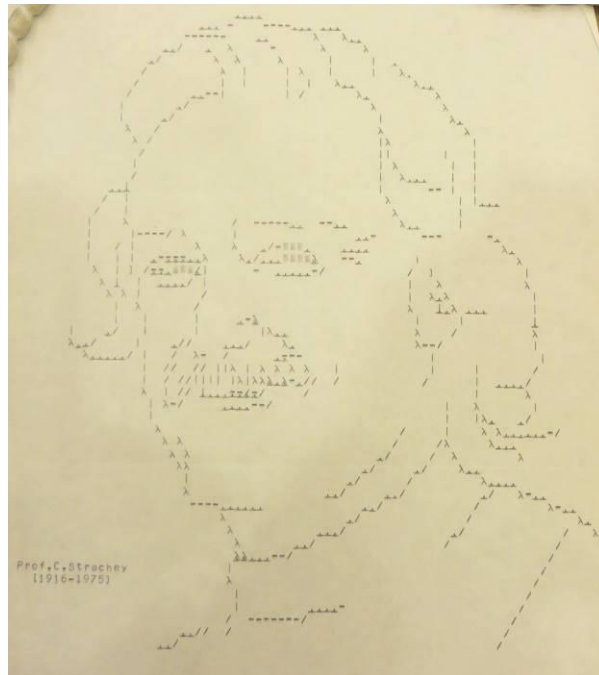
For further *Strachey 100* information, see: <https://www.cs.ox.ac.uk/strachey100/>

For information on Strachey himself, see: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Christopher_Strachey

For Strachey's doctoral students, see: <http://www.genealogy.ams.org/id.php?id=75007>

See also:

Campbell-Kelly, M. (1985) "Christopher Strachey, 1916–1975: A Biographical Note". *IEEE Annals of the History of Computing*, 7(1):19–42. DOI: [10.1109/MAHC.1985.10001](https://doi.org/10.1109/MAHC.1985.10001)



Computer printout of Christopher Strachey,
including "λ" symbols