

# MEETING THE CHALLENGES OF THE FUTURE

A DISCUSSION BETWEEN 'THE TWO CULTURES'

ORGANIZED BY THE INTERNATIONAL BALZAN FOUNDATION  
AT THE ROYAL SOCIETY, LONDON (13-14 MAY 2002)

PROCEEDINGS EDITED BY  
WALTER RÜEGG

List of Chairmen, Speakers and Invited Discussants • Foreword by Walter Ruegg.  
**Addresses of Welcome:** LORD MAY, President of the Royal Society • VISCOUNT RUNCIMAN, President of the British Academy • Ambassador BRUNO BOTTAI, Chairman of the Council of the Balzan Foundation 'Prize'. **TOPIC 1. THE LIMITS OF HUMAN KNOWLEDGE:** KEITH THOMAS, chairman, Introduction • MARTIN REES, *Our Changing Cosmic Perspective and The Scope and Limits of Physical Laws* • JEAN STAROBINSKI, *Scientific Language and Poetic Language* • ROGER HIGHFIELD, *Where Fears Lurk: The Boundary between Science, Science Fiction, and Magic*. **General Discussion:** Keith Thomas • JOHN ELLIOTT, *Historical Knowledge and its Limitations* • Keith Thomas, Tom Meade, Martin Rees, Keith Thomas, Brian Ridley, Martin Rees, Keith Thomas • MICHEL MAYOR, *The Search for Evidence of Life on Other Planets* • Martin Rees, Keith Thomas • LUIGI LUCA CAVALLI - SFORZA, *Are there Limits to Knowledge?* • Keith Thomas, R. J. P. Williams, Martin Rees, Anne McLaren, Laszlo Solymar, Fiona Fox, Roger Highfield, Keith Thomas, Martin Rees, Keith Thomas, Elliot Leader, Roger Highfield, Keith Thomas, Elliot Leader, Keith Thomas, Luigi Luca Cavalli-Sforza, Keith Thomas, Jean Starobinski, Viscount Runciman, Keith Thomas, Viscount Runciman, John Maddox, Martin Rees, Helga Nowotny, Luigi Luca Cavalli-Sforza, Roger Highfield, Tony Gilland, Claire Fox, Roger Highfield, Keith Thomas. **TOPIC 2. THE IMPACT OF SCIENTIFIC KNOWLEDGE ON HUMANITY:** JOHN KREBS, chairman. Introduction • THOMAS W. MEADE, *Ethical and Social Issues arising from the Science of Medicine* • WALTER BURKERT, *Impacts, Evasions, and Lines of Defence: Some Remarks on Science and the Humanities* • LORD JENKIN, *Science and Society: 'The Public Understanding of Science' is No Longer Enough*. **General Discussion:** John Krebs • STANLEY J. TAMBIAH, *The Stem Cell Research Discussion in the USA* • John Krebs, John Maddox, Stanley J. Tambiah, Lord Jenkin, Ian Lloyd, Lord Jenkin, Tom Meade, Claire Fox, Tom Meade, Helga Nowotny, John Krebs • PHILLIP V. TOBIAS, *Evolutionary Studies and Society* • John Krebs, Tony Gilland, Lord Jenkin, John Krebs • WOLF BERGER, *Humankind as a Major Geological Factor* • John Krebs, R. J. P. Williams, Wolf Berger, Ian Lloyd, Wolf Berger, John Krebs, Giorgio Salvini, Lord Jenkin, John Krebs, Eugen Seibold, Lord Jenkin, John Krebs, Wolfgang Berger, Tom Meade, Stanley Tambiah, Lord Jenkin, John Krebs • **TOPIC 3. WHY SHOULD THE PURSUIT OF SCIENTIFIC KNOWLEDGE BE ENCOURAGED?:** SERGIO ROMANO, chairman. Introduction • LORD MAY, *The Use of Scientific Advice in Making Public Policy* • MICHAEL STOLLEIS, *The Role of the Humanities in Western Industrialized Societies* • LORD SAINSBURY, *Why we need Both Cultures*. **General Discussion:** CLAUDE LORIUS, *Antarctica: Climate Research, Public Policy, and Society* • Sergio Romano • FREDERICK J. VINE, *Policy-making in the Environmental Sciences* • Sergio Romano, Ian Lloyd, Lord Sainsbury, Lord May, Sidney Shipton, Bruno Bottai, Sergio Romano, Lord May, Sergio Romano • SHMUEL N. EISENSTADT, *The Ambivalence toward Ambivalence* • Sergio Romano, John Krebs, Shmuel N. Eisenstadt, Lord May, Lord Sainsbury, Tony Gilland, Lord Sainsbury, Lord May, Michael Stolleis, Lord May, Michael Stolleis, Lord May, Shmuel N. Eisenstadt, Claude Lorius, Giorgio Salvini, Sergio Romano • VITTORIO MATHIEU, *Final Remarks* • Sergio Romano. **Appendix:** The Balzan Prize and its Prize winners. Name index.

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CASA EDITRICE

Casella postale 66 • 50100 Firenze

E-MAIL: [celso@olschki.it](mailto:celso@olschki.it) • [pressoffice@olschki.it](mailto:pressoffice@olschki.it)

Tel. (+39) 055.65.30.684



LEO S. OLSCHKI

P.O. Box 66 • 50100 Firenze Italy

[orders@olschki.it](mailto:orders@olschki.it) • INTERNET: [www.olschki.it](http://www.olschki.it)

Fax (+39) 055.65.30.214