

1096-01-591 **anthony j. crilly*** (t.crilly@btinternet.com), Dr Anthony J. Crilly, St Albans, Herts. AL1
3PB, United Kingdom. *The launch of invariant theory: seeking and finding.*

Invariant theory made a promising start in the 1840s, first guided by Arthur Cayley acting on a suggestion by George Boole, which then attracted James Joseph Sylvester. It acted as a unifying agent through its connections with the algebraic and geometric problems of the day. What were the immediate objectives of the early pioneers and how were they accomplished? Placing ourselves in the 1840s and 1850s, the period prior to the luxuriant growth of the subject in the second half of the nineteenth century, we survey the aims and methods adopted. (Received September 07, 2013)