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Brigitte Stenhouse* (brigitte.stenhouse@open.ac.uk). *Mr Mary Somerville, Husband and Secretary.*

As a nineteenth-century British woman, Mary Somerville's engagement with learned academies and polite scientific society was neither consistent nor straightforward. Whilst she was 88 before being elected a full member of any institution (the American Philosophical Institution, 1869), Somerville benefited from the resources and social networks cultivated in such spaces from as early as 1812.

Dr William Somerville, her husband, was a key mediator between herself, her scientific contemporaries, and the institutions of which he was a member. Indeed William provided Somerville with vital access to both actors and knowledge. Using the extensive correspondence held in the Somerville Collection, at the Bodleian Library in Oxford, we will investigate how William took on the roles of chaperone, secretary, and later literary agent for his wife. Moreover, we will consider how Somerville actively used her husband to liberate knowledge from behind the closed doors of learned societies, and to pursue a successful career publishing mathematical and scientific books. (Received September 04, 2019)