

1056-Z1-354

Donna M Pierce* (dpierce@whitworth.edu), Department of Mathematics and Computer Scienc, Whitworth University, 300 W Hawthorne, Spokane, WA 99251. *British Royal Society: A Fraternity of Experimentalists.*

Isaac Newton, John Wallis, Robert Boyle, Robert Hooke, Sir Kenelm Digby, Christian Huygens, Christopher Wren - these are names familiar to us because of their important 17th century discoveries in mathematics and science. But these men were also part of a fraternal scientific society organized for the purpose of promoting "Physico-Mathematical Experimental learning." Their motto was "Nullius in verba" which roughly translates as "Take nobody's word for it." This group of mathematicians, physicians, scientists, theologians and wealthy aristocrats met weekly to view experiments and discuss scientific topics ranging from atmospheric pressure to the effect of mixing the blood of sheep into human veins. The British Royal Society was committed to establishing the truth of scientific matters through experiment rather than through reliance on ancient authorities as was common at the time. Devoted to the promotion of science, the society aspired to be a clearinghouse for scientific knowledge. In this talk we will look at the origins of the British Royal Society, its distinguishing philosophy, its early labors and how it has served as a model for later scientific societies. (Received September 01, 2009)