We are pleased to publish in the United States Adam Sisman's biography of Asa Briggs as it appeared in the United Kingdom under the title *The Indefatigable Asa Briggs*.

Sisman details Lord Briggs's life and contributions to education, historiography, and many other academic disciplines, as well as to various aspects of society such as nursing and broadcasting. Beyond the scope of this biography are the secondary ramifications of those contributions.

At Royal Fireworks, we owe a great debt to Asa Briggs. From our inception nearly half a century ago, we set out to publish curricula that share his vision of interdisciplinary education. When we established our online school more than a decade ago, his New Map of Learning helped to shape our decisions. In many ways we have conceived our mission as that of recreating and making available to school-age students in America the intellectual excitement and creativity that marked the University of Sussex in the 1960s. Asa Briggs was the prime source who generated that intellectual excitement.

We are proud to be part of the legacy of Asa Briggs.

ASA BRIGGS: A BIOGRAPHY

ADAM SISMAN

Royal Fireworks Press
Unionville, New York

The Keighley Mechanics' Institute had been founded in 1825, one of the first established in England, as 'a society for mutual instruction, and to establish a library for that purpose'. The Reverend Patrick Brontë, father of the Brontë sisters, had been one of its early members. By the 1870s it was considered a model Working Men's Club, with evening classes attended by more than 200 pupils, women as well as men. With the help of the Yorkshire Board of Education, a voluntary association of landowners and manufacturers, they had erected an imposing building in the High Victorian Gothic style; and opened in its annexe a school, the Keighley Trade and Grammar School, one that taught textiles, spinning and weaving, but one which also offered an education rivalling the best and every year sent ten or so poor boys to Oxford or Cambridge. It drew children not just from the town itself, but from surrounding villages such as Haworth and Cowling. Herbert Butterfield, the son of a clerk at a woollen mill at Oxenhope, a moorland village above Haworth, had been a pupil there during the First World War; he had won a scholarship to read history at Cambridge, where he would in time rise to become Sir Herbert Butterfield, Master of Peterhouse, Regius Professor of Modern History and the University's Vice-Chancellor.

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Asa Briggs was born in Keighley on 7 May 1921, the first child of William Briggs (known to his friends as 'Willie') and his wife Jane, who had married two years before. Four years later (with a miscarriage in between), Jane had another child, a girl whom she and Willie named Emma after her grandmother.

It is worth reflecting on what the world seemed like in 1921. Britain was still at the heart of a mighty empire, stretching over one quarter of the world's surface. There was as yet no living adult who had been born in the twentieth century; most had been born in the reign of Queen Victoria, and there were still a few old people dating from King William IV's time. Both of Asa's parents had been born in the early 1890s.

Asa was an extremely small baby, only a few pounds at birth and not expected to survive; he was named after his mother's younger

brother, who himself had died unexpectedly at the age of 21, in the year before his nephew and namesake was born. Asa was the third King of Judah, a descendant of King David: such biblical names were common on both sides of the family; Willie's father was called Abraham. The name Asa was unusual, though not unknown in Nonconformist communities in the North of England. But the surname Briggs, or Brigg (both corruptions of bridge), was a common one in the area; there was a Brigg house at Asa's school, named after the eminent Brigg family, one of whom, Sir John Brigg, had served as Keighley's Liberal MP from 1895 until his death in 1911. In later life Asa would occasionally receive letters from people named Briggs who thought they might be relations, but who turned out to have no traceable connection. More than once he was contacted about a commemorative mug presented to another Asa Briggs in nearby Leeds, some years before he was born.

The baby Asa had been baptized by a Congregationalist lay preacher. Though his father was a lapsed Anglican, his mother was a keen Congregationalist; she sang in the choir at the local Congregationalist Mission on Marlborough Street,* and occasionally pumped the organ, while he enjoyed a bet on the horses or a drink in the pub. Hers was a family that addressed each other as 'thee' and 'thou'. Originally farmers from the marginal lands adjoining the moors near Bradford, they spoke in broad local dialects.

Asa's paternal grandfather, Abraham Briggs, had been born in 1857. He came from Leeds, where he had learned engineering skills. Following his apprenticeship, he had made his way down to London, where he had eaten a tomato for the first time and heard Gladstone speak. After returning to Leeds he met Emma, a weaver, who had started work at the age of 11, sticking labels on bottles of Yorkshire relish. They had married and moved to Ulverston, near Barrow-in-Furness, in search of work. Willie was their only child. In later life Asa would describe his father and grandfather as engineers, which was true up to a point, in that both had been employed in the iron and steel works at Barrow-in-Furness, though as fitters; 'skilled workers' might

* Now a mosque.

have been a more accurate description. There is no record to show that Willie served in the First World War, presumably because he was in a reserved occupation.

By the time Asa was born, his father had moved to Keighley and kept a grocer's shop on the edge of a slum district called Eastwood, which would be cleared in the early 1930s. The shop had been started and built into a successful concern by Asa's maternal grandfather, George Spencer, who like his son had died in 1920, the year before Asa was born. George had made a considerable amount of money from the shop, though he had exhausted his life savings to pay for medical care during a period of prolonged illness in the last few years of his life – especially on surgery carried out by Sir Berkeley Moynihan, Professor of Surgery at Leeds (and later Lord Moynihan, President of the Royal College of Surgeons). Following the death of his father-in-law, Willie Briggs had been persuaded, much against his will, to take over the shop, at first in combination with one of his brothers-in-law and later on his own; though he would always remain a reluctant shopkeeper, uninterested in the business and lacking the necessary skills. His own father, Abraham Briggs, dismissed shopkeeping as an 'absurd' occupation. Asa helped out in the shop, arranging window displays, taking customers' orders and putting the money they paid into the till. (This was the modest beginning of a lifelong interest in retailing.) Much of the business was run on credit; Asa's father relied on credit from his suppliers in the markets, and offered it to his customers, especially the neighbours, which worked so long as they paid in the end. But there was no sense of financial security, and anxiety about money was always in the background.

Twice a week Asa's father drove a horse and cart around the streets of Keighley delivering produce, a task he particularly disliked and perhaps regarded as demeaning. Sometimes he would take Asa with him. Eventually his nephew Jack, son of the uncle after whom Asa was named, would assume responsibility for the horse and cart.

Asa's widowed grandmother would continue to live with them until she too died. To the young Asa she seemed just like Queen Victoria, a rather remote figure in lace cap and widow's black. Seventy years afterwards Asa could recall her funeral, with an elaborate

cortège of motor vehicles making a slow procession south some six miles to the village of Denholme, from which her family originated. What he remembered most distinctly was that at some point on the route they passed a dripping factory, which emitted an 'absolutely appalling' smell.*

According to Asa, his paternal grandparents thought themselves 'superior', and his parents would have been extremely uneasy to be described as working class, perhaps the more so because of their proximity to the slums of Eastwood. 'We were not straight working class but very near to it,' he would say in retrospect.[5] 'Shopkeepers were a very mixed group of people, some of them extremely close to the working classes, going into the retail trade with the minimum of capital and leaving it when times were bad,' Asa would write in *Victorian Cities*.[6] Among the shop's customers were some professional people, such as the local doctor and a lawyer. Like other shopkeepers, the Briggs family were sensitive to indicators of social difference. The way that you spoke, for example, mattered: a Yorkshire accent was acceptable, but broad dialect was embarrassing. Much against his will Asa was made to enter an elocution competition, and his grandfather was furious when he did not win.

The family lived above the shop in a substantial stone house, with three bedrooms, a kitchen, a sitting room (used only on special occasions), another living room, a large attic and cellars. (If Asa misbehaved, he would sometimes be punished by being sent down into a coal cellar, linked to the street outside by a narrow vent.) Asa and Emma shared a room for a while. The house seemed spacious and comfortable by comparison with other houses nearby, though it was still lit with gas lamps until Asa's father installed electricity. There was a piano in the house, and both parents could play; occasionally the family would gather around the piano to sing. On a chest of drawers was a pair of stuffed birds in a glass case. There were few pictures on the walls, and not many books.

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* Asa remembered it as a soap factory, but there was no such place on the road to Denholme; though there was a dripping factory, known to 'smell really bad' at times.

There was no telephone, and of course no television; the main entertainment came from the radio. The Briggs family took various local newspapers, including the *Yorkshire Post* and the *Keighley News*. They were close friends of another family living opposite, who had a daughter born on the very same day as Asa, and as small children the two of them were bathed together.

The shop fronted onto the main Bradford Road, which carried enough traffic to constitute a hazard to a small boy. It had a big window with an elaborate display of fruit and vegetables, and a side window where fish and shellfish were sold on certain days of the week. Asa enjoyed accompanying his father to buy fruit and vegetables at the Keighley wholesale market, where he was entranced by the wooden stalls lit by gas flares. He was especially impressed by the cheese shop, where small boys like himself would be invited to taste slices from their huge cylindrical cheeses; by the fresh fish newly arrived by train from Morecambe Bay; and by the weekend hampers made up by the butchers with whatever meat was available. Occasionally they would venture further afield, to the bigger markets in Bradford or Leeds, which seemed to a child a long way off.

Asa's earliest memory (admittedly a vague one) was as a spectator, perched on his father's shoulders, at the opening of the Keighley War Memorial in 1924. It was a solemn occasion, held in the new Town Hall Square, attended by a crowd of 28,000, more than half the town's population. Another early memory was of collecting coal with his father from heaps left by the Canal during the General Strike of 1926. He also remembered being woken very early one June morning in 1927 to watch a total eclipse, though clouds rather spoiled the spectacle.

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As a small boy Asa suffered 'from every conceivable illness'. No doubt the squalid conditions of the slums of Keighley played their part. Asa knew local children who suffered terribly from familiar diseases; one girl was blinded as a side effect of measles. (It was therefore understandable that as an historian he would take an interest in sanitary reform in Victorian cities.) At the age of four Asa contracted diphthe-

ria, and even late in life he could remember being taken by ambulance to the fever hospital. According to his own account, he entertained the other boys in the ward by reading to them. He could already read by the time he started his education at Eastwood Elementary School in 1926. His school reports, which begin in 1927, were exemplary. Though he was often absent, missing 79 out of 135 days of the spring term 1928, for example, presumably through illness, his teachers nevertheless rated his progress in the 'three Rs' (reading, writing and arithmetic) as 'very good'. This was a co-educational school, with no school uniform. At break time the children would play hopscotch and other such games in the playground; after school they would play in the backstreets, in those days free of cars.

From an early age it was obvious that Asa was a clever child, whose interests increasingly diverged from those of his family. He spent much of his time reading at a house only four or five doors away, where the neighbours had more books, including bound volumes of *The Strand Magazine*. But though different from other children nearby, he did not feel disconnected from them. On the contrary, some of his playmates were children who had no interest in schoolwork. As an adult looking back at his past, Asa would reflect that his had been a happy childhood, quite unlike the one described by his contemporary Richard Hoggart, whose literary interests had isolated him from the other children in the working-class district of Leeds where he was raised. (One reason for this may have been that Hoggart was an orphan, raised by his grandmother.)

At the age of seven Asa progressed from the infant school into the junior school. In September 1928 his class teacher, Miss Barker, described him as 'a very intelligent boy', and a few months later she praised him for 'brilliant work in all subjects', and described him as 'a very clever boy'. Though in general his conduct at school was 'excellent', he was once caned for obstinacy. From the time the school began to rate pupils, he was always top of the class. He had a particular interest in English literature and knew several narrative poems by heart before the age of nine. He also began writing his own poems. His essays were so highly thought of by his teachers that he was instructed to read them aloud to the children in older forms (a requirement

unlikely to have enhanced his popularity with his schoolmates). He earned the nickname 'Composition'. That he was proud of his success nonetheless is obvious from a journal he kept, entitled, somewhat ambitiously, 'My Early Life and Works'. He began this journal with four paragraphs of reflections on the task ahead:

> Before anyone can write his life-story, he must have all the facts laid before him: he must be absolutely sure of his ground: he must see all past events in perfect perspective.

Asa's precociousness seems to have been innate. His parents were unsure what to make of their clever son. Though (according to Asa) his father had been clever enough to win a place at a grammar school, there was little sign of this in the man. If anything, it was his mother who encouraged him in his studies, though not well educated herself. As often the case in working-class families, the father tended to favour the daughter, while the mother favoured the son. Asa's sister felt that their mother 'mollycoddled him a bit'.[7] This may have been an understatement; in later life Asa seemed incapable of even the most basic tasks and relied on women to take care of his needs.

Grandfather Abraham may have been a more important influence. In his retirement Abraham Briggs would move back to Yorkshire and live with his wife in East Morton, a village backing onto the moors on the far bank of the Aire, about three and half miles away from Keighley. He had accumulated enough money to buy several properties locally, and they were able to live comfortably off the rents. When he was a bit older Asa would often walk across the fields to visit his paternal grandparents. Abraham had an active and curious mind and was interested in history; he took Asa to see the cathedrals of Lincoln and York Minster, and other old buildings. Occasionally he would buy second-hand furniture at sales, including a case containing a set of *Encyclopaedia Britannica* which he presented to Asa. In later life Asa would reflect that his grandfather, though uneducated, had been highly intelligent, and might have done very well had he been given the opportunities.

The Briggs family often took holidays in the Lake District, especially while his grandparents were still living in Barrow, a convenient base for exploring the area. In 1928, for example, when Asa was 7, they toured the southern Lakes, visiting Ulverston, Coniston, Ambleside, Rydal, Windermere, Lakeside and Newby Bridge. They spent another holiday at the Yorkshire seaside towns of Whitby and Scarborough; though in general they favoured the Lancashire coast, especially Morecambe and Blackpool. In 1929 Asa was taken by train from Leeds to Liverpool, where he crossed the Mersey to New Brighton, and was given a tour of RMS *Baltic*, an ocean liner of the White Star Line, until 1906 the world's largest ship. At about the age of 10 Asa was taken to the theatre for the first time, to see a performance of Gilbert and Sullivan's *The Mikado* in Denholme. Before that he had been to the Regent cinema to see the first 'talkies' shown in Keighley, a double bill of Alfred Hitchcock's *Blackmail* (a rather adult film for such a small boy) and *The Singing Fool*, starring Al Jolson.*

In 'My Early Life and Works' Asa admitted to ill-tempered outbursts, 'for I would angrily withdraw myself to my room and stamp the floor at the slightest provocation'. This set a pattern: mild-mannered in public, he was prone to outbursts of temper in private, usually from frustration. By the time he was 10 years old, qualities had emerged that became obvious in later life: diligence, reticence, self-reliance. He appeared cheerful even when he was not, because of a curious feature of his physiognomy: he could not frown or raise his eyebrows. If asked to do either, he screwed up his features in a vain attempt, causing his family to laugh at him.

After being born so small and contracting so many illnesses as an infant, Asa had grown into a sturdy child, rather shorter and plumper than average,† whose short sight required him to wear spectacles from the age of nine. Though fiercely competitive, he showed no particular aptitude for sport. He joined the Sunday School 'Cubs',

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* Al Jolson's real name was Asa.

† 4 feet 6 inches (141 cm) high and weighing 4 stone 4 lb (27 kg) on the eve of his eleventh birthday. The equivalent figures for the average 11-year-old boy in the UK today are 143.5 cm and 35.6 kg.

who met once a week for games and handwork, and occasionally put on pantomimes. Asa's greatest success would come in 1931, in the title role of Cinderella.

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Eastwood Elementary School stood on the edge of Victoria Park, formerly the grounds of Eastwood House, a neo-classical mansion built by the mill owner William Sugden in 1819. This had become the home of the Keighley Corporation Museum, which contained a miscellaneous collection of exhibits. Asa was especially fascinated by its Egyptian mummy, and never went through the park without diverting to stare at it.

Newspaper competitions were very popular in the inter-war years. In 1930 Asa had won second prize (£1) in one such competition organized by the *Yorkshire Observer* for his essay 'Why I Believe in the League of Nations'. The prize was presented in the Bradford offices of the newspaper by the former Liberal MP for York, Arnold S. Rowntree, a member of the Quaker chocolate family. (More than thirty years later Asa would write a life of his cousin, the sociological researcher, social reformer and industrialist, Seebohm Rowntree.) The following year he again won second prize ('highly commended') in a reading competition organized by the Keighley & District Sunday School Union; and first prize in another competition, for an essay entitled 'The Greatest Thing the League of Nations has ever done'.

The League of Nations was much in the news at the time. It had been founded after the First World War to settle international disputes and to maintain peace, but its authority had been compromised from the outset by the refusal of the United States to join. The League was further undermined by the Japanese invasion of Manchuria in 1931, a challenge from which it never recovered. Western nations were distracted, struggling to cope with the Slump that had followed the Wall Street Crash in 1929. In Britain, the Labour Government was torn between wanting to alleviate the distress arising from worsening unemployment and its commitment to 'sound finance', embodied in the stern Philip Snowden, Chancellor of the Exchequer. Snowden was a well-known local figure who had

been on the executive committee of the Keighley Independent Labour Party in its early years; he came from Cowling, a village a few miles west of Keighley, and spoke in the local dialect. He proposed budget cuts, including a cut in the rate of unemployment pay, which was unacceptable to many Labour activists; the party split and the government collapsed. While most Labour MPs went into opposition, Snowden and the Prime Minister, Ramsay MacDonald, formed a coalition with the Conservatives and elements of the Liberal Party. The subsequent general election resulted in a landslide victory for the new National Government.

Asa had been following the crisis closely as it developed, but he was nonetheless startled to be stopped in the street by someone he knew, a member of the local Independent Labour Party and a former friend of Snowden's, who denounced the Chancellor as a traitor.

It was impossible to live in Keighley and not be interested in Labour politics, but that did not make the Briggs family Labour supporters. As a small shopkeeper, Willie Briggs was suspicious of Labour, and (so Asa believed) voted Conservative in every election before 1945; while his mother, like so many Nonconformists, was a lifelong Liberal. Willie Briggs enjoyed a good argument, and as Asa became old enough to develop his own ideas, he and his father would often have political disagreements, though not unpleasant ones, debating rather than quarrelling. Asa's grandfather, too, was conservative in his outlook, believing in the doctrine of self-help preached by the Victorian improver Samuel Smiles to the artisans of Leeds, that 'help from without is often enfeebling in its effects, but help from within invariably invigorates'. Poverty was largely the result of irresponsible habits. It was this doctrine that Seebohm Rowntree's research into the causes of poverty in York would do much to refute.

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In 1931 Asa sat an examination and was awarded a 'Drake & Tonson'* scholarship at the Keighley Boys' Grammar School, the one based in

* John Drake and Jonas Tonson, the benefactors who had helped to establish the Grammar school in Keighley.

the imposing Mechanics' Institute building and still sometimes referred to locally as 'the Trade School', the same school where Herbert Butterfield had been a pupil almost twenty years before.

On entering the grammar school, soon after his tenth birthday, Asa was placed in a class of twenty-three other boys, whose average age was almost eighteen months older.* Despite this, he excelled, and was soon promoted to the A stream, where he would remain for the rest of his school career. He was especially strong in English, history and French; he was usually ranked first or second in these subjects, though his results in mathematics and science subjects were more mediocre, and he was bottom of the class for art. His overall ranking varied between fourth and ninth, in classes varying in size between twenty-five and thirty. He was never top of the class until he went into the sixth form. That distinction belonged to the son of a Haworth butcher, who would leave school after taking his School Certificate to work in his father's shop, and would spend his working life there, taking charge of it when his father retired.† Eventually he, too, retired, and enrolled at the Open University, where he would take a first-class degree in mathematics and technology.

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Around the time that Asa started at the grammar school, he began to frequent the Keighley Public Library, on the other side of the Skipton Road. This was a building in the Early Renaissance style, the first in England to be endowed by the multimillionaire Andrew Carnegie, opened in 1904 by the Duke of Devonshire. Here Asa read newspapers in the large newspaper room on the ground floor and enjoyed working after school in the reference library on the first floor. Here, too, he discovered the pleasures of browsing, and the accidental discoveries that can result, often with effects only apparent long afterwards.

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* A contemporary of Asa's at the school would become famous only very late in his life as the fundraiser for charity, Captain Sir Tom Moore.

† In later life Asa tried to make contact with him on several occasions when he visited Haworth in his capacity as President of the Brontë Society, but his old schoolmate kept him at a distance.

2

A Wide Circle of Acquaintance, But Few Intimate Friends

In 1934 Asa made his first visit to London, en route to France as part of a French exchange scheme organized by the school. At 2.15 a.m. he boarded a train from Scotland that stopped at Keighley on its way to the capital. Travelling alone, he had time to glimpse Buckingham Palace, Kensington Gardens and the Thames, before embarking on the boat train at Victoria. He continued by train, via Calais, Lille and Cambrai, to the small town of Caudry, not far from the Belgian border and famous for its lace-making. His hosts were the Cordonnier family; their son Jacques, an only child, was a pupil at the *lycée* in Cambrai, where once or twice Asa accompanied Jacques to lessons.

Caudry had been occupied by the Germans during the First World War and was not far behind the front line; in 1917 Cambrai had been the scene of an important battle, when the British had deployed tanks en masse for the first time. With Jacques, Asa explored the nearby battlefields of the Somme, visiting cemeteries and war memorials. What he remembered best in retrospect was not these so much as the lunch of aperitifs, lobster and champagne with Jacques's family in Cambrai's main square, far more impressive to Asa than its equivalent in Keighley.

Almost from the start Asa loved France, not least its food and wine, which he tasted for the first time on this trip. This was the beginning of a lifelong interest in gastronomy. Even in old age he could recall another long lunch with friends of the Cordonniers, this time in Lille, which had lasted four hours. On this trip Asa tasted foods he had never even seen before. Presented with a globe artichoke, he ate the whole thing, much to the amazement of his hosts.

seemed old-fashioned and out of touch. After Labour duly won the election a year later, Wilson made Snow a peer and appointed him to a post in the newly created Ministry of Technology.

What gave urgency to Snow's case was the Cold War. Matters were very different in the Soviet Union, he maintained, where the authorities had correctly judged the type and number of educated men and women that a nation needed if it was 'to come out top in the scientific revolution'. Snow had evoked a vision of 'new men' in white coats, armed with slide rules. His lecture had concluded with a powerful plea for 'closing the gap between our two cultures'. Otherwise, he suggested, the Communist countries would take over.

This argument may seem remote to us, following the collapse of Communism in the late 1980s. We now know the flaws that ran through the heart of the command economy. But things looked very different in the late 1950s and early 1960s. It was widely believed that the Western nations were in a 'race with Russia'. The Russians seemed to have matched or even overtaken their Western rivals in scientific and technical progress: their success in launching Sputnik, the world's first artificial satellite, in 1957, followed by the first man into space in 1961, seemed proof of their superiority in science and technology. In Britain, the anxiety that the West was falling behind the East was matched by an anxiety that the best brains were headed for America – the so-called 'brain drain'.

Furthermore, Snow argued that even scientists, in America as well as in Britain, were woefully ignorant of productive industry. Asa reviewed Snow's book alongside *Technology and the Academics* by his friend and fellow member of the UGC, Eric Ashby, preferring Ashby's more relaxed, urbane arguments, which bolstered his own view that universities ought not to exclude the applied sciences in favour of 'pure' science.

As well as the gulf between the sciences and the humanities, Asa argued that there was a gulf within these categories: between literature and social studies, for example, and between the biological and physical sciences. There was also a geographical gulf, reflecting class differences:

> When I was a Fellow of an Oxford college for ten years after the end of the war, I used to ask my students how many of them had ever been inside a factory. Only a tiny minority ever had. In Leeds, a large industrial city, I ask my students how many of them have ever been inside a cathedral. There are rather more. The problem in Oxford was how to help history students understand the Industrial Revolution … the problem in Leeds is how to help history students understand the Renaissance.

Asa had reservations about Snow's thesis. He thought that vying humanities against science was 'silly, unprofitable and tedious'. Snow knew the London literary world, Asa felt, but was less familiar with the wider nation. 'The polarity looks less alarming – though it still exists – if academics are substituted for novelists and the provinces are substituted for London.' In recent years, Asa continued, the history of science had been advanced by historians as well as by scientists. Snow's arguments had ignored the social sciences altogether. Social scientists and technologists were building bridges across Snow's gulf – 'some of them precarious, others carrying traffic'. He had in mind such links as those between statisticians and social scientists, or geographers and earth scientists. And in asserting the superiority of Russian education, Snow had not examined how it was shaped (and sometimes distorted) by Marxist theory. Nevertheless, Asa acknowledged the importance of what Snow was saying: 'the note of urgency in his argument still sounds loud and clear.'[25]

In developing the new curriculum at Sussex, Asa was determined to close the gap between the two cultures. He also wanted to encourage the study of the applied sciences, the technologies that would make modern Britain. In doing so, of course, he was preaching the same doctrine as Snow and Wilson.

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The Birth of Broadcasting, the first volume in Asa's history, was published on 26 October 1961.[26] The book took the story of broadcasting in Britain up to 1927 (when the BBC was established as a corporation), rather than continuing up to the outbreak of war, as

Signalman Briggs, aged twenty-one

Recording (with Dr Richard Beeching, Kenneth Allsop and Andrew Shonfield) the BBC television programme *The Nation Tomorrow*, broadcast on 28 July 1963 *[BBC Photo Library]*

With Lord Reith at the reception to mark the publication of *The Birth of Broadcasting*, 24 October 1961 *[BBC Photo Library]*

Sales brochure for 'The Caprons', Lewes

The young Vice-Chancellor relaxes in his office

At 'The Caprons'
on his 90th birthday,
7 May 2011