



The Origins of Pelican Books: A University on a Bookshelf

February 23rd, 2pm- 3.30pm UK time, ZOOM

Join Zoom Meeting:

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Meeting ID: 936 3768 0103. Passcode: 620230

Pelican books were launched in 1937, just two years after the successful publication of the first Penguin books. Pelicans rapidly became a leading source of cheap books on a wide range of intellectual interests in fields such as philosophy, psychology, history, and science. This talk gives a brief introduction to the circumstances, people and books that led to the success of this influential series.

Professor Paul D. Lickiss, Department of Chemistry, Imperial College London

Paul obtained both his BSc. and DPhil from the University of Sussex. He then worked as a postdoctoral fellow with Professor A. G. Brook in Toronto and prepared some of the first compounds to contain Si=C double bonds. He returned to Sussex and was awarded one of the new Royal Society 1983 University Research Fellowships. He then took up a lectureship at the University of Salford in 1989 and four years later moved to London to take up a lectureship at Imperial College where he is currently Professor of Organometallic Chemistry and a Senior Research Investigator.

As well as his extensive experience of many aspects of silicon chemistry, including the chemistry of silanols (the silicon equivalent of alcohols), silicones, siloxanes and bulky silicon compounds with unusual properties, Paul has been collecting Pelican and Penguin books for over ten years and has written numerous articles in *The Penguin Collector*. He curated the *Pelican Books by Design* exhibition at the University of Reading to help launch the Centre for Book Cultures and Publishing and also gave the introductory lecture at the launch in November 2019. To celebrate the 80th anniversary of Pelicans Paul wrote *Pelicans at Eighty* and has recently completed a much more substantial volume covering all aspects of Pelican books which is currently being edited. More recently Paul has turned his attention to the role of Penguin in education, in particular the Penguin Education series.



Any questions, contact Samantha Rayner: s.rayner@ucl.ac.uk