

I was not aware that they did anything  
of that kind, though I know they grant  
money to pay the cost of scientific  
expeditions, & pay in advance. But  
that is not the same thing. You will  
see that I write in an enquiring spirit,  
and am unable to definitely answer  
your letter till I know more about it,  
though you may perhaps think that I  
ought to ask no questions.

Yours sincerely  
Oliver Heaviside

12(26)

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Paignton Devon  
10th Feb. '94

My dear Fitzgerald. Having been very unwell lately I have delayed replying in order not to put any <sup>of my</sup> physical bitterness on paper. Now Richard is himself again. So let me first of all thank you heartily for your exceeding kindness in this matter. I am afraid that that grave and dignified body the R.S. quâ R.S. has <sup>had</sup> little to do with it, and that it is a friendly conspiracy. You speak of the humiliation of a refusal. I am sure there could be none upon the part of the dignified R.S., which has no soul. There need be none on the part of yourself and colleagues, as your good intentions speak for themselves. No, what I have been thinking of is whether there may not be any humiliation on my part. It depends on how it is done. I am eccentric if you like, & my independence varies inversely as my income. I am not in want, and have managed to pay my way somehow, and do not accept monetary gifts from anybody, and pay off my debts. Now if this

honourarium were of the nature of a subscription I should refuse it pointblank. If again, it came from the R.S. in the form of a dole, whether deserved or not, I should refuse it. And if anything were expected of me in return I should refuse it. But if it be a payment for work done, then I may accept it. Now this is rather a ticklish point. The labourer is worthy of his hire — if he is worth it. And if he is not hired at all, & does work for which there was no demand, he may still be worthy of being paid for it subsequently. Then who should pay for it? Strictly, those who profit by the work. But how is the right horse to be saddled? There is no machinery to meet the case. There are conventional ways of getting paid for one sort of work whilst doing another sort, and eccentric people have to take the consequences of their eccentricity. I have no particular complaint to make; only sometimes a general one, against the nature of things in general. Now perhaps the R.S. quâ R.S. may be fit to take the place of paymaster for these people. But