

John Heilbron, in memoriam

I have done my best to give my students what John gave me: scrupulous regard for precision, antipathy to careless thought and expression, reverence for the value of scholarship, a sense of irony, and understanding of the correct use and punctuation of restrictive vs. nonrestrictive relative clauses.

In 2001, a post-colloquium dinner at MIT. I was a newly arrived Dibner postdoc; John had given the colloquium. An older scholar asked a little sniffily who I was and why I had come along to the dinner. A little affronted, John said, "She's my daughter." The memory warms me even now. I am grateful to have had such a Doktorvater.