

THE ROYAL COMMISSION ON HISTORICAL MANUSCRIPTS

Report on the papers of
PROFESSOR NEVIL VINCENT SIDGWICK, FRS
(1893-1952)

deposited in the library of Lincoln College, Oxford
and in the Museum of the History of Science, Oxford

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THE ROYAL SOCIETY

THE ROYAL COMMISSION ON HISTORICAL MANUSCRIPTS

Committee on Scientific and Technological Records

CONTEMPORARY SCIENTIFIC ARCHIVES CENTRE

Papers of

PROFESSOR NEVIL VINCENT SIDGWICK, F.R.S.

(1893 - 1952)

Listed by Jeannine Alton

Harriot Weiskittel

Deposited in the Library of Lincoln College, Oxford

1974

Description of the collection

The collection, which covers the years 1892 - 1960, was assembled from various sources. Dr. L.E. Sutton, FRS, and Dr. C.J. Danby passed on various manuscripts and gave valuable advice and information.

A note on p.8 describes other Sidgwick material held in the Museum of the History of Science, Old Ashmolean Building, Oxford. A few letters relating to Sidgwick are in the collection of Sir Henry Tizard's papers in the Imperial War Museum, London (Ref: HTT1, 1953; HTT5, 1955); these may be consulted only with permission.

All items are manuscript except where indicated. Titles or descriptions in inverted commas are those which appear on the manuscripts.

Summary of career

b.1873	Oxford
1886	Entered Rugby School
1892 - 97	Christ Church, Oxford; Natural Sciences Class I Literae Humaniores Class I
1898	Dixon Scholarship, Leipzig
1899 - 1901	D.Sc. Tübingen
1901	Elected to Fellowship, Lincoln College, Oxford
1903 - 07	Lecturer in Chemistry, Magdalen
1906	Demonstrator in Chemistry
1915 - 18	Consultant, Department of Explosive Supplies of Ministry of Munitions
1916	Senior Demonstrator, Organic Chemistry Laboratory
1922	Elected to the Royal Society
1921 - 30	Council of the Chemical Society
1924 - 45	Reader in Chemistry
1932 - 34	President, Faraday Society
1935	Professor (conferred by decree)
1937	Royal Medal
1935 - 37	President, Chemical Society

Contents of the handlist

	<u>Items</u>	<u>Page</u>
I. Biographical	1 - 15	2
II. Material collected by Dr. Sutton	16 - 21	3
III. Diaries and notebooks	22 - 40	4
IV. Lectures	41 - 59	5
V. Correspondence	60 - 87	6
VI. Publications	88 - 95	8
VII. Material held in the Museum of the History of Science		8
VIII. Index to principal correspondents		9

I. Biographical

1. Memoir, by Sir Henry Tizard, Obituary Notices of Fellows of the Royal Society, Vol.9, 1954, pp.236-258.
2. Obituary notice by L.E. Sutton, Proceedings of the Chemical Society, November 1958, pp.310-319.
Obituary notice by Sir Cyril Hinshelwood, The Oxford Magazine, May 1st, 1952, pp.284-286.
Newspaper cuttings, copy of programme for memorial service (22 March 1952)
3. Manuscript journal **kept by Sidgwick's mother** 1885 - 1911
of his academic progress and early career containing extracts from headmaster's report, newspaper cuttings, chronological record. Journal ends in 1911
4. Miscellaneous papers re Sidgwick's stay in Tübingen 1899 - 1901
5. Early days in Lincoln College
2 letters from Rector, W.W. Merry, arranging interview for Sidgwick, dated 20 and 22 March 1901
menu of dinner held at opening of New Library, 20 October 1906
2 letters from F.W. Bussell (one addressed to Sidgwick and the other to 'JARM^{MA}'), copy of letter from Bussell to Rev. E.A. Burroughs 1919, 1920
6. 'Dr. Lee's Readership in Chemistry. Testimonials of N.V. Sidgwick, M.A.': printed booklet with testimonials from F. von Pechmann, W.W. Merry, H. Rashdall, G. Wood and a note by Sidgwick on his work. Typescript (with Ms. corrections) of Rashdall's testimonial. 1902
- 6a. 'Synonymic List of British Lepidoptera' with Sidgwick's annotations
7. Envelope marked 'Compulsory Greek' containing newspaper cuttings and printed copies of arguments promulgated by both factions 1904
8. Greek Controversy: letter from John Simon (later Sir John) who promises to 'do my best to come and vote' against existing regulations, copies of arguments used in 1910-11 controversy 1910 - 11
9. File marked 'Historical and Polemical' containing printed papers re various Oxford controversies 1903 - 31
10. Telluride Association: book describing origin, organisation and aims of association, correspondence from Richard Robinson, L.W. Simmons, E.M. Johnson (Sidgwick lived in the Telluride House during his stays at Cornell University; papers were found in a file marked 'Family') 1931 - 42
11. 'Ad Eundum' (Oxford-Cambridge dining club founded by W.C. Sidgwick and H. Sidgwick, 1864): list of members, correspondence from F. de Zulueta 1932 - 46
12. Certificate of election to Athen^oneum 1933

13. Honours
- | | |
|--|------|
| Certificate of election to Faraday Society | 1902 |
| Harvard Tercentenary Medal | 1936 |
| O.B.E. | 1921 |
| C.B.E. | 1935 |
| Royal Medal of the Royal Society | 1937 |
| Hon.D.Sc. Liverpool | 1935 |
14. Minute of the Delegates of Clarendon Press on occasion of Sidgwick's retirement 1948
15. Miscellaneous photographs n.d.
- II. Material collected by Dr. L.E. Sutton for Sidgwick obituary in 'Proceedings of the Chemical Society'
- (Some of the correspondence was initiated by Professor T.S. Moore who had intended to collaborate with Sutton in the writing of the obituary.)
16. Correspondence and notes re Sidgwick's early life and education
- | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| Edward Thompson (cousin) | |
| Arthur Ford (Headmaster, Rugby) | |
| N.C. Kittermaster (Librarian, Rugby) | |
| Dr. W.H. Mills, F.R.S. | |
| Dr. F.G. Mann, F.R.S. | |
17. Material re Sidgwick's election to Lincoln College and his appointments in Oxford, correspondence 1951 - 55
- | | |
|------------------|--|
| Walter Oakeshott | |
| E.C. Marchant | |
| F.Homes Dudden | |
| Keith A. Murray | |
18. Sidgwick's war work
- | | |
|---|--|
| Letter from R.C. Farmer enclosing list of research performed by Sidgwick for the Department of Explosives Supply, 1914-18 | |
|---|--|
19. Telluride Association and American friends: letters from 1952 - 56
- | | |
|-----------------------|--|
| William vanden Heuvel | |
| Lee G. Davy | |
20. Miscellaneous reminiscences 1951 - 60
- | | |
|---------------|--|
| F.M. Brewer | |
| T.W.J. Taylor | |
21. Correspondence re the various obituary notices to be written for Sidgwick 1951 - 55
- | | |
|----------------------------|--|
| Sir Henry Tizard, F.R.S. | |
| Sir Harold Hartley, F.R.S. | |
| Professor T.S. Moore | |
| Ronald Bell FRS | |

III. Diaries and notebooks

22. 'Looking Backward by Edward Bellamy': notebook containing essay read by Sidgwick at Rugby, May 22 1892
23. 'Chemical Memoranda. N.V.S. 1895. Pseudoforms and Tautomerism see p.40. Molecular cpds. see p.20': miscellaneous notes. Back of notebook contains later chemical notes, bibliographies, and Ms. draft of introduction to paper on 'unsaturated and aromatic compounds' 1895
24. 'Philosophy Essays' (table of contents on p.2) 1895
25. 'Philosophy Essays' (table of contents on p.4) 1896
26. Journal of trip to British Association meeting in Australia, June-November (contains notes of conversation with Rutherford) 1914
27. Journal of trip to Canada (July-September) 1924
- 28.- Journals of trip to South Africa 1929
31. 28. Volume I 26 June - 30 July
29. Volume II 28 July - 23 August
30. Volume III 24 August - 1 October
31. Volume IV 1 October - 11 October
32. Journal of trip through western United States 1931
33. Notebook labelled on spine 'Stereochemistry' and on first page 'Molecular Models. Nov. 12, 1932' containing graphs, charts, calculations (see table of contents pp.1-2) 1932
34. 'Periodic groups': each page labelled with name of an element but only the first few pages (pertaining to 'Group O') have entries. Back of book labelled 'Inorganic lectures' (in Sidgwick's hand) and 'The chemical elements and their compounds' (in another hand) 1936
35. Notes on students' performance, schedules of tutorials etc. 1927 - 49
36. Notes on students' progress, schedules of tutorials, minutes of meetings held in chemistry laboratory. Back of book contains notes on article read by Sidgwick n.d.
37. Notebook of examination marks. Labelled at other end: 'Boiling points and volatility' with contents page labelled 'elements, hydrides, halides': charts and data 1931 - 37
38. Notebook labelled 'Tea' containing daily record of who was in the laboratory for tea 1907 - 10
39. Notebook labelled on cover 'Where Is It?' and on first page 'New Chemical Laboratory, Oxford' containing names and addresses n.d.
40. Address book labelled inside front cover 'Chemical addresses. N.V. Sidgwick. 16-vii-33' 1933

IV. Lectures

41. 'Special Points in Tautomerism. January 1914' with page of contents: Ms. draft of lectures (with bibliographical notes) 1914
42. Notebook with contents page labelled 'Tautomerism'. Contents list is identical to that in Item 41; notebook contains typescript with Ms. corrections of Chapters (Lectures) I-IV and VII-IX. The book is based on the lectures of Item 41 and includes tables and references c1914
43. 'Tautomerism': Chapters V and VI, typescript with Ms. corrections c1914
44. 'Tautomerism': Chapters X and XI, Appendices A, B and C, typescript with Ms. corrections c 1914
45. 'The Distinction between Polymorphism and Tautomerism': typescript with Ms. corrections 1915
46. 'Heterogeneous Equilibrium. Part I Mich. Term 1921. Re-written from course of S.T. 1919 onwards. Again re-written. Mich Term 1923': Ms. copies of lectures to be given during 2 or 3 terms (Includes typescript of 'Volatility in Steam: Benzoic acid and its derivatives' J.Chem.Soc., 117, 396) 1921 - 23
47. 'Heterogeneous Equilibrium. Part II. Hilary Term 1924 (1st ed. 1919 - 2nd 1922)': Ms. copies of lectures. Small 'Science Notebook' is included at the end of the lecture series - contains graphs and experimental results. Second half of the volume is labelled 'Heterogeneous Equilibrium III. 3 and 4 component system. Summer Term 1922. Revised: Summer Term 1924.': Ms. drafts of lectures 1924
48. Looseleaf notebook, first page inscribed 'Valency. Lecture to the Birmingham University Chemical Society, March 1926. Modified as introduction to an 'advanced' 1-term course. T.T. 1926. Also to the Chemical and Physical Society at University College. London. October 19, 1926': Ms. and typescript drafts of series of lectures on valency 1926
49. Notebook containing a series of 14 lectures on atomic structure 1921 - 24 as follows:
- "6. The nature of the non-polar link. Faraday Society, June 23 1923
 - 7. The Bohr atom and the periodic law. September 1923
 - 8. Co-ordination and covalency. Cambridge Chemical Society 1923
 - 9. The constitution of mordant dyes (with covering letter to 'Robinson' asking for critical comments), September 1923
 - 10. Effective atomic number. Alembic, November 1923
 - 11. The Bohr atom and convalency
 - 12. The co-ordinate link in organic chemistry. Manchester Chemical Society, October 13 1924
 - 13. Untitled: lacking pages 1-12, only 13-23 are remaining n.d.
 - 14. The measurement of the vapour pressures of aqueous salt solutions by the freezing point of nitrobenzine (with Elinor K. Ewbank, J.Chem.Soc., 125, p.2268)" 1924

49. continued

- 'My papers': list of 'Misc. lectures on atomic structure' with dates and place of delivery
- | | | |
|----|---|------|
| 1. | Structure of the atom. May | 1921 |
| 2. | Structure of the atom. British Museum, September | 1922 |
| 4. | Structural chemistry and the Bohr atom. S.T., April | 1923 |
| 5. | The nature of nonpolar (covalent) linkage. Faraday Society, May 20" | 1923 |
50. 'Transition between electrovalency and covalency. Alembic, 10 February 1930. Expanded: Univ. Coll. London Chem. Soc. 15 Feb. 1930': Ms. copy 1930
51. 'The relation of physics to chemistry. 1-vii-30': typescript with Ms. revisions 1930
52. 'Atomic Cohesion. Edgar Fahs Smith Lecture. Philadelphia, May 22, 1931': typescript 1931
53. 'Some problems in molecular structure. Glasgow, February 13' 2 typescripts. Second one is annotated 'Swansea Chem. Soc. March 21, 1935. Manchester, 10 October 1935. C.S. S.C.I. I.C. combined meeting' 1935
54. 'The properties of hydrogen fluoride as a solvent': typescript 1938
55. 'Multiple Links. Birkbeck College. Mon. Feb 14, 1938. U of Sheffield Fri. Feb 10, 1938. Edinburgh Chem. Soc. Mar. 14': typescript 1938
56. 'Introduction to a discussion of co-ordination chemistry at the I.C.I. Butterwick Laboratories. Sept 21 and 22, 1950': typescript 1950
57. 'Address at the opening of the extended and re-equipped Chemical Laboratories at Dundee. October 23, 1950': typescript 1950
58. 'The peculiarities of mercury' Alembic Club, Oxford, Jan. 15: typescript with Ms. revisions 1951
59. 'Nitrosol compounds' typescript with Ms. revisions n.d.
- V. Correspondence
60. from Sir James Murray re chemical definitions for dictionary (5 letters) 1902 - 08
61. from William Warde Fowler (4 letters) 1908 - 10
62. from John Morley (later Viscount Morley) 1906
 W.A. Spooner re organisation of the teaching of chemistry 1909
 Sir William Osler on the publication of Organic Chemistry of Nitrogen 1910
 S.P. Thompson re Sidgwick's electromagnetic device 1911

63. from J.C. Cain, Ed. Journal of the Chemical Society, re usage of 'isomeride' and 'isomer' 1911
 J.A.R. Munro re preparations for war (2 letters) 1914
 Mrs. J. Brooke, referring to the death of her son, Rupert Brooke 1915
64. re work for Department of Explosives Supply, Ministry of Munitions of War. File includes typescript of 'Sulphonation of Benzene by Oleum' dated August 14, 1917 1914 - 17
65. with editor of Journal of the Chemical Society 1926
66. Letters of congratulation, comment, and/or criticism on publication of Electronic Theory of Valency (letter from Alan W.C. Menzies includes 2pp. typescript of his review; first page is missing) 1926 - 27
67. from Professor P. Debye re Sidgwick's visit to Leipzig and the proposed topic of Debye's contribution to Faraday Discussion (3 letters) 1928, 1933
68. from Fritz London, scientific correspondence 1928, 1934
69. with F.M. Brewer (mostly letters from Sidgwick describing his travels) 1929, 1950
70. from Eleanor Roosevelt re arrangements for Sidgwick's visit to New York (2 letters) 1931, n.d.
71. with Lord Rutherford (14 letters). Includes typescript of Sidgwick's vote of thanks for Rutherford's Faraday Lecture to the Chemical Society, February 12, 1936 1933 - 37
72. from Sir William H. Bragg, invitation to deliver Friday Evening Discourse at Royal Institution (2 letters) 1933
 Sir Lawrence Bragg, letter of thanks for securing Bragg's invitation to visit Cornell 1934
73. from Professor L.M. Dennis, Cornell, scientific correspondence 1934
74. from Michael Polanyi re visit to Oxford (2 Letters) 1934
 Sir John Lennard-Jones re Faraday Discussion 1934
 Linus Pauling, personal and scientific correspondence (2 letters) 1935 - 36
 J.B. Conant, Harvard, personal correspondence 1935
75. from Sir Henry Tizard re Sidgwick's vote of thanks for Rutherford's Faraday Lecture 1936
 E. Schrödinger re chair in 'Scotch University' 1936
 Harold H. Joachim re procedural matters at Congregation 1937
 Baron Rayleigh, scientific correspondence (1 letter) 1937
76. Miscellaneous correspondence (including typescript copy of Sidgwick letter to Kenner, October 15, 1941, beginning 'my objections to your formulation of the carboryls are these:-', on reverse of lecture(?) notes) 1937 - 46

77. Letters of congratulation and comment on publication of The Chemical Elements and their Compounds 1949 - 51
78. with Dr. Leslie E. Sutton 1928 - 35
79. with Dr. Leslie E. Sutton 1934 - 51
80. testimonials for Dr. Sutton 1928 - 47
- 81.- with Lee G. Davy (who had been Sidgwick's research assistant
86. 81. 1931 at Cornell)
82. 1932
83. 1933
84. 1934
85. 1935 - 36
86. 1937 - 44
87. Miscellaneous correspondence (Christmas cards, telegrams, etc.) 1931 - 51

VI. Publications

88. Bibliography (2 copies) 1904 - 30
1901 - 50
89. Miscellaneous reviews of
Organic Chemistry of Nitrogen, Oxford, Clarendon Press 1910
Electronic Theory of Valency, Oxford, Clarendon Press 1928
(includes list of presentation copies)
Some Physical Properties of the Covalent Link in Chemistry, 1933
Ithaca, N.Y., Cornell University Press
90. Offprints of 3 Sidgwick articles 1901, 1907,
1931
91. Bound volume of offprints 1920 - 25
92. Organic Chemistry of Nitrogen: volume with Ms. annotations 1910
93. The Electronic Theory of Valency: volume with few Ms. annotations 1927
94. The Electronic Theory of Valency: volume with extensive Ms. annotations and corrections interleaved 1927
95. The Covalent Link in Chemistry: volume with extensive Ms. annotations and corrections interleaved 1933

VII. Material held by the History of Science Museum, Broad Street, Oxford

Ms. Museum 122

autographed programme and menu of 100th meeting of Alembic Club, 1899 - 1920
letter from A.W.F. Holroyd re origin of club, typescript of
minute book (1899-1910), misc. notes re club

Ms. Museum 131

Notebook labelled on first page with name and 'Chemical Notes' n.d.
containing notes on lectures by J.E. Marsh and W. Odling; also
contains notes and charts on 'solubility of protein isomers'

Ms. Museum 132

Royal Society memoir of Sidgwick, misc. photographs, Ms. notebook 1902 labelled 'Keto-Enolic Tautomerism. Alembic Club. 10-vi-02' containing draft of lecture(?), Ms. notebook labelled 'Tautomerism' containing draft of lecture

Ms. Museum 133

Ms. notebook labelled 'Chemical Sub-Faculty' containing minutes of meetings, drafts, list of members, misc. notes (in various hands) 1921 - 29

Ms. Museum 139

Ms. notebook labelled 'Sub-Faculty of Chemistry' containing minutes of meetings 1930 - 34

VIII. Index to principal correspondents

ANDREWS, Charles H.	77
ARMSTRONG, Sir Thomas Henry	76
BALDWIN, Kenneth	76
BELL, Ronald Percy FRS	21
BENNETT, George Macdonald	66
BOGERT, M. T.	76
BRAGG, Sir William Henry FRS	72
BRAGG, Sir William Lawrence FRS	72
BREWER, Frederick M.	20, 69
BROOKE, Mary Ruth C.	63
BURKHARD, C. A.	77
BURY, C. R.	65
BUSSELL, Rev. Frederick William	5
CAIN, J. C.	63
CHERWOOD, Henry C.	64
CONANT, James Bryant	74
CORYELL, Charles D.	77
DAVY, Lee G.	19, 81-86
DEBYE, Professor Peter J. W.	67
DENNIS, Professor L. M.	73
de ZULUETA, Francis	11
DUDDEN, F. HOMES	17
FARMER, R. C.	18, 64
FOWLER, William Warde	61

GREGORY, Sir Richard Arman	76
HANTZSCH, A.	66
HARTLEY, Sir Harold FRS	21
HEVESY, G.	66
HOWARD, F.	64
HUME-ROTHERY, Professor William FRS	77
JOACHIM, Harold Henry	75
JOHNSON, E. M.	10
KENNER, James FRS	76
KITTERMASTER, N. C.	16
KOSALAPOFF, G. M.	77
LAPWORTH, Authur FRS	64,66
LAWRENCE, Ernest O.	76
LENNARD-JONES, Sir John FRS	74
LONDON, Fritz	68
MANN, Frederick George FRS	16
MARCHANT, Ernest Cecil	17
MENZIES, Alan W. C.	66
MERRY, William Walter	5
MILLS, William Hobson FRS	16
MOORE, Professor Thomas Sidney	21
MORLEY, John (Viscount Morley of Blackburn)	62
MUNRO, J. A. R.	63
MURRAY, Sir James	60
MURRAY, Keith Anderson Hope (Baron Murray of Newhaven)	17,86
OAKESHOTT, Walter Fraser	17
OSLER, Sir William	62
PAULING, Professor Linus	74
PAUSACHER, K. H.	77
PHILIP, James C.	64
POLANYI, Professor Michael FRS	74

RASHDALL, Hastings	6
RAY, Professor P.	77
RAYLEIGH, Robert John Strutt FRS BARON	75
RICE, F.	77
ROBINSON, Professor Richard FRS	10, 64
ROOSEVELT, Eleanor	70
RUTHERFORD, Ernest (Baron Rutherford of Nelson) FRS	71
SCHRODINGEN, E.	75
SIDGWICK, Eleanor Mildred	66
SIMMONS, L. W.	10
SIMON, Sir John	8
SISAM, Kenneth	66
SMITH, Clarence	65
SPOONER, William Archibald	62
SPRINGALL, Professor Harold Douglas	77
SUTTON, Leslie E. FRS	16, 78-80
TAYLOR, Sir Thomas Weston Johns FRS	20
THOMPSON, S. P.	62
THOMPSON, Sir D'Arcy Wentworth	76
THOMPSON, Edward	16
THORPE, Jocelyn	66
TIZARD, Sir Henry Thomas FRS	21, 75
TRIFFENEAU, Professor	66
vanden HEUVEL, William	19