

THE ROYAL COMMISSION ON HISTORICAL MANUSCRIPTS

Report on the papers of
EDMUND CLIFTON STONER, FRS
(1899-1968)
deposited in
The Brotherton Library, University of Leeds

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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

Edmund Clifton Stoner, FRS

(1899 - 1968)

Listed by: Jeannine Alton

Harriot Weiskittel

Description of the collection.

The papers cover the years 1909 - 1966.

During the course of his retirement, Professor Stoner organised, selected and dated his papers, perhaps intending to write an autobiography. Many of the files bear dates between 1965 and 1968, with descriptions, lists of contents, or indexes. With the exception of the segregated material mentioned below, the order of the papers has been preserved; Stoner's date of compilation is shown in brackets when known. The folder listed as Item 2 contains a full account of the material retained or discarded by Stoner, autobiographical notes and some longer narratives, and a copy of his impressions of life at Cambridge 1918 - 1924 deposited with the Royal Society (see Royal Society Memoir, p.203, n). Other guides or notes appear as Items 66, 99, 105, 190, 191, 212, 254, 274, 276, 277, 278, 297.

There are no laboratory notebooks or working papers as such; but many scientific matters are discussed in the diaries, and in the files listed as 'University and scientific correspondence'. Stoner's own careful notes of lectures he attended at Cambridge by Rutherford, Appleton, C.G. Darwin, Bohr, J.J. Thomson and others are of interest.

The regular letters to Stoner from his relatives in the London area during the Second World War form an interesting record of the period.

The correspondence files carry annual, monthly and sometimes daily indexes by Stoner. Some of the items indexed do not appear in the files and may have been removed by Stoner for personal and confidential reasons.

An index has been compiled and confidential material segregated (see 81, 90, 354). Some numbers are left vacant in case missing items among the diaries and correspondence are recovered.

Summary of the career of Professor Stoner.

b. 1899

- 1910 - 18 Bolton Grammar School.
- 1918 - 21 Emmanuel College, Cambridge. (Exhibitioner in Natural Sciences).
- 1919 Developed diabetes, entailing restricted diet and varying periods of hospitalisation before a regular insulin régime became possible in 1927.
- 1921 - 24 Research at Cavendish Laboratory, Cambridge.
- 1924 Lecturer in Physics, Leeds University.
- 1927 Reader in Physics, Leeds.
- 1928 - 31 Research Fellow, Emmanuel College, Cambridge.
- 1937 Fellow of the Royal Society.
- 1938 Sc.D., Cambridge.
- 1939 - 51 Professor of Theoretical Physics, Leeds.
- 1951 - 63 Cavendish Professor of Physics, Leeds.
- 1951 married Heather Crawford.
- 1952 - 56 Member, Board of Visitors, Royal Observatory.
- 1955 - 58 D.S.I.R. Visitor, Wool Industries Research Association.
- 1957 - 62 D.S.I.R. Postgraduate Training Awards Committee; Chairman, Physics Sub-Committee.
- 1958 - 64 U.G.C. Panel of Equipment Assessors for Physics.

Contents of the handlist.

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I. Biographical.

1. Memoir, by L.F. Bates. (Biographical Memoirs of Fellows of the Royal Society, Vol. 15, 1969)
2. Folder of manuscript and typescript notes compiled by Stoner listing biographical material, especially notebooks, retained or discarded, with accounts of his life at Bolton School and Cambridge University, 1909 - 1924. Some notes referring to later period at Leeds. (1965 - 66) 1909 - 24
- 2A. Folder, 'Cambridge Period'; College bills, 1918 - 24; 'A New Method for the Study of X-ray Absorption', 1923; 'Low Voltage Thermionic Discharge Tubes', 1924; 'The Absorption of High Frequency Radiation', 1924. (1968) 1918 - 24
3. Tin box of juvenilia, 'Small notebooks etc. 1909 - 1918, 14 items. List inside.' (1965) 1909 - 18

Bolton School and earlier.

4. 'The Boltonian' magazine, 3 issues 1917 - 18
5. 'Bolton School'. (1965) 1911 - 18
6. '1911 - 18 Bolton (Grammar) School period'. Examination papers (1965) 1911 - 18
7. Vacant
8. Exercise book. 'Mortimer Road School, South Shields 1909 - 1910' 1909 - 10
9. 2 Exercise books, 'Tonge Moor' 1911
10. Exercise book. Plato's Apology. (translated by Stoner) n.d.
11. Exercise book, 'Chemistry notes'. 1916 - 17

12. Folder, 'Essays written by E.C.Stoner when at Bolton(Grammar) School 1911 - 1918' 57 essays listed and dated. (1965) 1911 - 18

Cambridge notebooks.

13. Michaelmas Term, 1918, Mr. A.Wood, 'Mechanics and Properties of Matter.' 1918
14. Michaelmas Term, 1918, Professor Seward, 'Elementary Botany I' 1918
15. Lent Term, 1919, Professor Seward, 'Elementary Botany II' 1919
16. Michaelmas, Lent and Easter 1918 - 1919, 'Botanical drawings made in practical classes' (1965) 1918 - 19
17. 1918 - 1920, 'Accounts of experiments on mechanics and properties of matter, heat'. (1965) 1918 - 20
18. 1918 - 1920, 'Accounts of experiments on light; sound; electricity and magnetism'. (1965) 1918 - 20
19. 1919 Long Vacation Term, Dr. Willis, 'Classification of Flowering Plants and Geographical Botany'. 1919
Michaelmas Term, Professor Punnett, 'Genetics'.
20. 1919 Michaelmas Term, Professor McTaggart, 'Introduction to the study of Philosophy'. 1919
21. 1919 Michaelmas Term, Dr. Fenton, 'General and Physical Chemistry (more advanced)' 1919
22. 1919 Michaelmas Term, Professor Sir Ernest Rutherford, 'Properties of Matter'. 1919
23. 1920 Lent Term, Professor Sir Ernest Rutherford, 'Electricity and Magnetism'. 1920
24. 1920 Michaelmas Term, 1921 Lent Term, C.T.R.Wilson, 'Atmospheric Electricity' 1920 - 21
1921 Lent Term, Professor Sir Ernest Rutherford, 'Electrical Oscillation'
1921 Lent Term, E.V.Appleton, 'Radiotelegraphy'
1921 Lent Term, G.Stead, 'Photoelectricity'
1921 Easter Term, Professor Sir Ernest Rutherford, 'Ionisation'
25. 1921 Lent and Easter Terms, G.F.C.Searle, 'Electricity' 1921
26. 1921 - 1922, Professor Sir Ernest Rutherford, 'Problems of Radioactivity'; C.G.Darwin, 'Spectrum Theory' 1921 - 22
27. March 1922, Professor Niels Bohr, 'The Quantum Theory and Atomic Structure' 1922
1921 J.J.Thomson, 'Positive Rays'; 'The Structure of the Molecule and chemical combinations' 1921

Diaries

28. October - December 1919
29. 1920 (1965)

- 30. 1921
- 31. Cambridge Pocket Diary, 1922 - 23
- 32 - 35 Vacant
- 36. 1926, 1927
- 37. 1928, 1929
- 38. 1930, 1931
- 39. 1932, 1933
- 40. 1934, 1935
- 41. 1936, 1937
- 42. 1938, 1939
- 43. 1940, 1941, 1942, 1943
- 44. 1944, 1945, 1946, 1947, 1948, 1949
- 45 - 50 Vacant
- 51. 1967, 1968

Personal notebooks

- 52. 1918, 1919, 'Book Lists etc.' (1965) 1918 - 19
- 53. 1924 - 1927, 'Books read, plays seen' 1924 - 27
- 54. 'The House, Penylan, 10, Winston Mount, Leeds 6'; plans of house and garden, furnishings, expenses, etc., some correspondence re house (indexed by Stoner).
- 55. '12, St. Chad's Drive, Leeds 6'; plans of house. From July, 1963 1963
- 56. Notebook 1931, 1932. Notes on history of ideas, and on books read. (indexed by Stoner) 1931 - 32
- 57. Notebook 1932 - 1934. Notes on books read. (indexed by Stoner) 1932 - 34

Non-scientific writings

- 58. 'Cracklebury Terrace and Primrose Avenue', with a note 'Written at 1916 - 18 Bolton, 1916 - 18 or earlier' and additional information by Stoner. (1965) 1916 - 18
- 59. Folder, '1915 - 1930. Stories, sketches, essays, poems etc.' (indexed) (1965) 1915 - 30
- 60. Ms. story, 'Some boys and a school', with letter from agent and reader's report. August, 1921 1921

II. University of Leeds.

- 61. 'Department of Physics, Lists of lectures etc.' 1940 - 46
- 62. 'Physics courses. Memoranda and Discussions' 1945 - 46

63. Memoranda, discussion and comments on draft H.S.C. syllabus for Physics, Joint Matriculation Board. 1945 - 47
64. Memoranda, correspondence and papers on Mathematics and Physics 1954 - 58
65. Memoranda, notes and lists covering Physics Department. 1951 - 55
66. Stoner's guide to University letters and papers 1947 - 62. (Refers to items 67 - 80) (1966)
67. Misc. letters, drafts of speeches, memoranda. 1947 - 49
68. Misc. drafts, financial estimates, memoranda. 1950
69. Applications for grants, financial memoranda, press cuttings referring to members of Dept. of Physics. 1951
70. Misc. notes re Dept. of Physics. 1952
71. Documents, letters, speeches re Dept. of Physics, General and Special Studies, Age of retirement. 1953
72. Notes, memoranda, letters on Extension to Physics Building, staff meetings, degree courses, service on committees. 1954
73. Memoranda and letters on planning, staffing, examining. 1955
74. Memoranda and letters on Physics Prize, Physics Extension, Academic Planning and Welfare Committees, research grant etc. 1956
75. Memoranda and letters on Physics Extension, examining methods, degree courses, finance, Science Masters' Conference. 1957
76. Memoranda, letters and reports on research Fellowships, DSIR grants, staff salaries, departmental organisation. 1958
77. Memoranda and letters on staff promotions, admissions, buildings and equipment, retirement notices, Annual Report. 1959
78. Memoranda and letters on staff salaries, equipment, Annual Report. 1960
79. Memoranda and letters on staff and space requirements, Academic Planning Committee, DSIR grant, Quinquennial estimates, Annual Report, press cuttings. 1961
80. Memoranda and letters on staff promotion, new Physics building, salaries, grants, Annual Report. 1962
81. 'The Appointment of a Professor Sept. 1950 - Nov. 1951' (to be consulted only with the permission of the Librarian) 1950 - 51

III. Publications.

82. Letter to 'Manchester Guardian' on 'University Entrance', with ensuing correspondence. 1948 - 49
83. 'The Balance of Teaching and Research in Universities', (Univ. Leeds Rev. 3, 325 - 341, Dec. 1952), with associated correspondence and articles. 1952 - 53

84. 'The New Degree Scheme at the University of Leeds.' (Univ. Leeds Review, 2, 46 - 47, June 1950.) 1946 - 50
Degrees in General Studies and Special Studies; with drafts of talks, correspondence and annotated committee Minutes.
85. 'Entries into, and graduations from, courses for a degree with honours in physics.' (Bull. Inst. Physics and Phys. Soc. pp 148 - 155, June 1963), with related correspondence. 1962 - 63
86. Stoner's lists of his own, and associated, publications. (1964)
(A complete set of Stoner's publications is deposited in the Library of the Royal Society, London.)
87. Vacant.

IV. Committees.

88. Board of Visitors of the Royal Observatory, correspondence and notes. 1951 - 55
89. Wool Industries Research Association. Reports 1956, 1960; correspondence. 1955 - 61
90. Advisory Council on Scientific Research and Technical Development, correspondence, agenda. 1955 - 59
(to be consulted only with the permission of the Librarian)
- 91 - 94. Department of Scientific and Industrial Research. 1957 - 63
Postgraduate Training Awards Committee, Physics Sub-Committee.
91. Correspondence 1961 - 62
92. Correspondence 1959 - 60
93. Correspondence 1957 - 58
94. 'Summaries of information from Research Studentship Applications' 1957 - 62

V. Correspondence.

Professor Stoner indexed his correspondence very fully. His headings have been preserved and his indexes to a sequence of items indicated.

- 95 - 98. Letters from home. 1920 - 24
- 99 - 103. Letters to parents. (includes Stoner's index) 1918 - 24
104. Vacant.
105. 'Cambridge period 1918 - 1924' and 'Pre-Cambridge period.' (Index to 106 - 116)
106. 'Letters (various) Misc.' 1918 - 24
107. from 'Lipscombe et al (Bolton School)'. 1918 - 24
108. from W.B. McKelvie 1918 - 23
109. from Ronald Freer Sheppard 1920 - 24

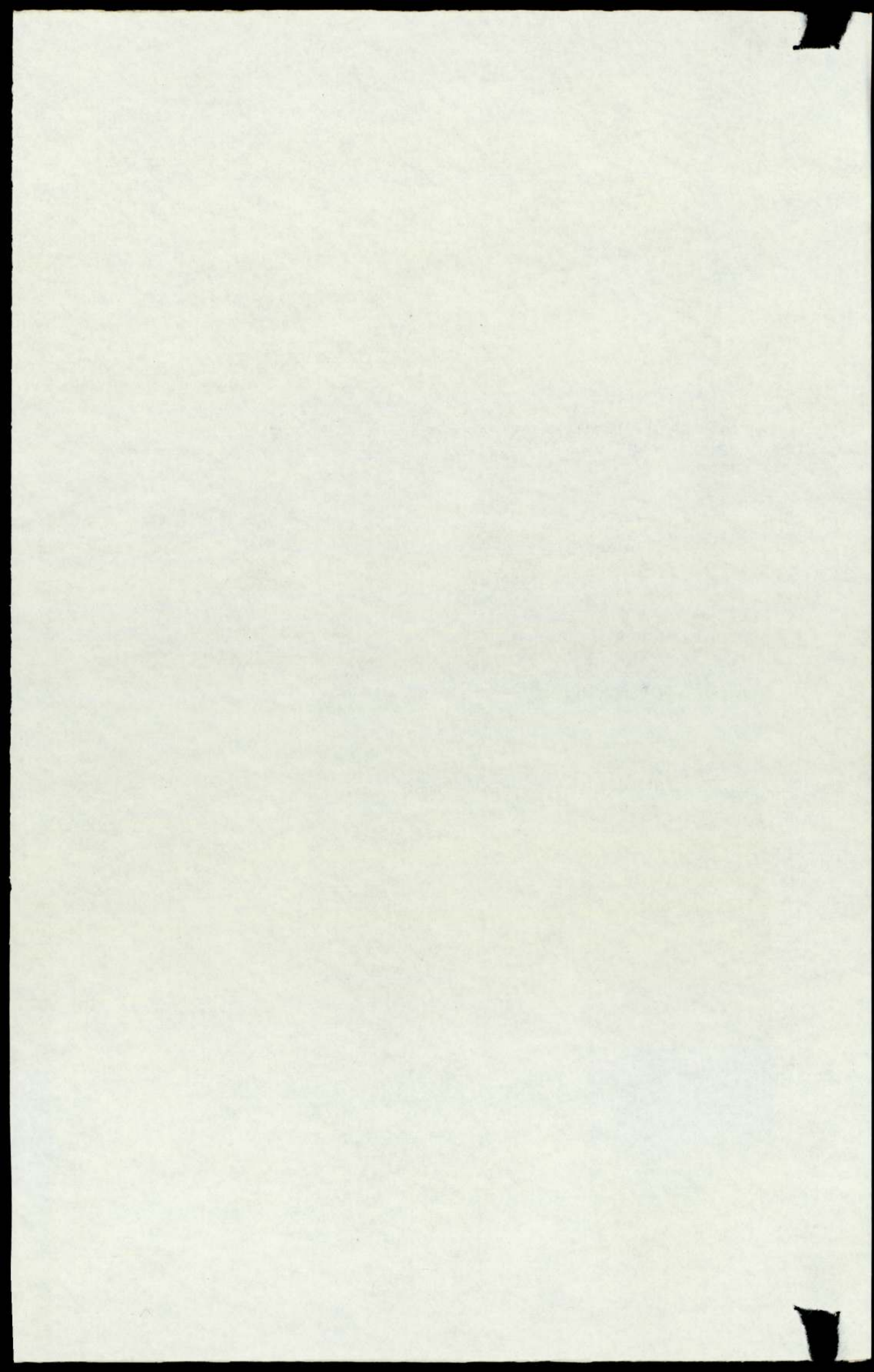
- 110. from Nazir Ahmed	1922 - 24
111. from Robert (Robin) Hill	1920 - 24
112. from A.C.G.(Alec) Menzies	1921 - 24
113. from Eric C.Mobbs	1920 - 24
114. from Ted,Alice and Carrie Fleet	1921 - 24
115. 'Bolton. Letters and other papers' (some attributed and dated by Stoner.)	1910 - 18
116. 'South Shields. Letters to E.C.S. etc.'	1909 - 10
117. 'Sept. - Dec. 24. Letters to home.'	1924
118. 'Sept. - Dec. 24. Letters from home.'	1924
119. 'Oct. - Dec. 24. L's from Carrie,Uncle,Aunt'	1924
- 120. 'Oct. - Dec. 24. L's from close friends... Ahmed,Hill,Lipscombe, McKelvie,Mobbs,Sheppard.'	1924
121. 'Oct. - Dec. 24. Letters misc.'	1924
122. 'Letters to home.'	1925
123. 'Letters from home.'	1925
124,125. Letters from relatives and friends	1925
126. 'Letters misc.'	1925
127. 'Letters to home.'	1926
128. 'Letters from home.'	1926
129,130. Letters from relatives,and misc.	1926
131. 'Letters from Methuen (E.V.Rieu)'	1926
132. 'Letters to home.'	1927
133. 'Letters from home.'	1927
134,135. Letters from relatives,and misc. (includes blood-sugar reports 12 July - 15 Sept.1927)	1927
136. 'Letters from Methuen (E.V.Rieu)'	1927
137. 'Letters to home.'	1928
138. 'Letters from home.'	1928
139 - 141. Letters from relatives,friends,misc.	1928
142. 'Letters to home.'	1929
143. 'Letters from home.'	1929

144 - 147. letters from relatives, friends, misc.	1929
148. 'Letters from Methuen.'	1929
149. 'Letters to home.'	1930
150. 'Letters from home.'	1930
151 - 154. Letters from relatives, friends, misc.	1930
155. 'Letters to home.'	1931
156. 'Letters from home.'	1931
157 - 160. letters from relatives, friends, misc. (160 includes explanatory note by Stoner).	1931
161. 'Letters to home (Jan.).'	1932
162. 'Letters from home (Jan.).'	1932
163 - 165. Letters from relatives, misc.	1932
166. 'Purchase of house.' (22, Winston Mount, Headingley, Leeds)	1932
167. 'Letters Carrie.'	1933
168. 'Letters general.'	1933
169. 'Letters Methuen.'	1933
170. 'Letters University.'	1933
171. 'Correspondence on Gilbert: De Magnete...'	1933
172, 173. Letters from relatives, misc.	1934
174. 'Letters Methuen.'	1934
175. 'Letters Ahmed.'	1934
176. 'Letters University.'	1934
177, 178. letters from relatives, friends.	1935
179. 'Letters general (i.e. more personal letters mostly received at home.)'	1935
180. 'Letters University (i.e. mainly professional and 181. at University.)'	1935
182. 'Thermodynamics of Magnetisation. Guggenheim. 14 March - 12 July 1935.'	1935
183, 184. letters from relatives, general.	1936
185. 'Letters University.'	1936
186, 187. Letters from relatives, general.	1937

188,189. 'Letters University.'	1937
190. 'Letters of congratulation.F.R.S.' (Stoner indexed these letters himself in 1966. The names have not been incorporated in the general Index to principal correspondents.)	1937
191. 'General. (Letters on the death of my father on 25/9/38 are in another file).'	1938
Note: these letters were subsequently removed and destroyed by Mrs. Stoner.	
192. 'General.'	1938
193,194. 'Letters University.'	1938
195,196. Vacant.	
197 - 199. General personal and scientific correspondence.	1939
200. Scientific and University correspondence.	1939
201 - 203. General personal and scientific correspondence.	1940
204 - 207. Scientific and University correspondence.	1940
208. General personal correspondence	1941
209 - 211. Scientific and University correspondence.	1941
212. General personal correspondence. Includes Stoner's explanation (dated 1966) for the increase in the number of 'University letters' and the decrease in 'General letters'.	1942
213 - 215. Scientific and University correspondence (with monthly index Sept.-Dec.)	1942
216. General personal correspondence.	1943
217 - 218A. Scientific and University correspondence.(with monthly indexes.)	1943
219.General Personal correspondence.	1944
219A. Correspondence with Min.Lab.& Nat.Service on placing of Leeds students.	1944
220 - 222. Scientific and University correspondence.(with monthly indexes.)	1944
223. General personal correspondence.	1945
224. Correspondence with Min.Lab.& Nat.Service on placing of Leeds students.	1945
225 - 28. Scientific and University correspondence.(lacks indexes for January, August - December.)	1945

229. General correspondence. (includes several letters on scientific matters from Robin Hill.)	1946
230 - 232. Scientific and University correspondence. (lacks monthly index for January).	1946
233. General correspondence.	1947
234 - 236. Scientific and University correspondence. (with monthly indexes.)	1947
237. General correspondence.	1948
238 - 240. Scientific and University correspondence. (with monthly indexes and note on number of letters per cm. and per inch.)	1948
241, 242. Vacant.	
243. General correspondence.	1949
244 - 247. Scientific and University correspondence. (lacks index for May, July, August.)	1949
248. General correspondence.	1950
249, 250. Scientific and University correspondence. Jan-June	1950
251. Letters and other papers relating to conference at Grenoble, 3 - 6 July, 1950.	1950
252, 253. Scientific and University correspondence. July - Dec.	1950
254. Letters of congratulation on appointment to Cavendish Chair of Physics, Leeds. Stoner's index to these letters is included; the names are not incorporated in the Index to principal correspondents. Note on Whiddington's retirement and Stoner's appointment in 'News and Views', Nature.	1951
255, 256. General correspondence.	1951
257. Scientific and University correspondence. Jan-April	1951
258. Visit of M.le Professeur Louis Néel, 2-3 May, 1951. Extracts from correspondence etc. 3 April-28 May, 1951.	1951
259 - 261. Scientific and University correspondence. May-Dec.	1951
262. Correspondence with E.P. Wohlfarth.	1951
264. 'Letters and papers connected with the ONR Conference on Magnetism, Maryland, U.S.A., 2-6 Sept. 1952. (see list on file cover)	1952
266. Correspondence with E.P. Wohlfarth.	1952
267. Correspondence with A. Teviotdale.	1952
268. Correspondence relating to Dr. M.M. Nicholson.	1951 - 52

- 269 - 273. Scientific and University correspondence. (lacks index for September.) 1952
274. General personal correspondence; (includes note by Stoner dated 1966). 1953
275. Correspondence with E.P.Wohlfarth. 1953
276. Correspondence relating to A.Teviotdale; (includes explanatory note by Stoner). 1953
277. Correspondence relating to Dr. K.L.Hunt; (includes explanatory note by Stoner). 1950 - 53
- 278 - 283. Scientific and University correspondence; (includes explanatory note by Stoner dated 1966). 1953
- 284 - 289. Vacant.
290. General correspondence. 1954
291. Scientific and University correspondence. (Jan-March) 1954
292. 'Correspondence with Professor N.Siegbahn, resulting in gift of ruled concave grating for use with soft X-rays.' 1952 - 54
'Correspondence with Miss Varley, Headmistress of Bolton School (Girls' Div.) on women teachers of physics.' 1954
- 293 - 295. Scientific and University correspondence. 1954
296. Correspondence with E.P.Wohlfarth. 1954
Correspondence re A.Teviotdale.
297. General correspondence. 'Letters on the death of my mother on 8/10/55 are in another file. 15/4/66.' 1955
Note: these letters were subsequently removed and destroyed by Mrs.Stoner.
- 298 - 301. Scientific and University correspondence. 1955
302. Correspondence with E.P.Wohlfarth. 1955
Correspondence re visit of Professor Bethe 31/10/55
303. Vacant.
- 304, 305. General correspondence. 1956
306. Correspondence re Report of Japan Science Council; re memorandum by Professor N.Kemmer on physics students. 1956
- 307 - 309. Scientific and University correspondence. 1956
310. Correspondence with E.P.Wohlfarth; 'with Professor Sucksmith about transfer of apparatus to Sheffield from Leeds.' 1956
311. General correspondence. 1957
- 312 - 315. Scientific and University correspondence. 1957



316. Correspondence with E.P.Wohlfarth	1957
317. Correspondence with and relating to A.L.Parson	1958 - 59
318 - 321. Scientific and University correspondence.	1958
322. General personal correspondence.	1958
323. " " " " "	1959
324,325. Scientific and University correspondence.	1959
326,327. General personal correspondence.	1960
328 - 330. Scientific and University correspondence.	1960
331. Vacant.	
332. General personal correspondence.	1961
333. Correspondence <u>re</u> Khalid Ahmed	1961
334 - 336. Scientific and University correspondence.	1961
337. General personal correspondence.	1962
338 - 340. Scientific and University correspondence.	1962
341,342. General personal correspondence.	1963
343. Retirement letters.	1963
344 - 347. Scientific and University correspondence.	1963
348,349. General and scientific correspondence.	1964
350,351. General and scientific correspondence;(includes note on Stoner's diabetic history).	1965
352,353. Correspondence.	1966
354. Royal Society Correspondence. (To be consulted only with the permission of the Librarian.)	1938 - 1965
355. Miscellaneous photographs. Listed and described by Stoner 1965.	1910 - 63

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(Nos. refer to items.)

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