

THE ROYAL COMMISSION ON HISTORICAL MANUSCRIPTS

Report on the papers of
PROFESSOR RICHARD WHIDDINGTON, CBE, FRS
(1885-1970)
deposited in the University Library, 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

Professor Richard Whiddington, C.B.E., F.R.S.

(1885 - 1970)

Listed by: Harriot Weiskittel

Deposited in the University Library, Leeds

1974

Description of the collection

The papers cover the years 1907 - 1963.

Professor Whiddington discarded most of his papers on his move to Norfolk following his retirement from the University of Leeds in 1951. The material received from his widow Mrs. Katherine Whiddington consists largely of manuscript notes for lectures - those which Professor Whiddington delivered at Leeds, as well as those he attended as an undergraduate at Cambridge (see Items 3 - 6 for notes on lectures by G.F.C. Searle and C.T.R. Wilson). The only correspondence which remains is that pertaining to Science at War and to Whiddington's memoir of J.W. Ryde for the Royal Society.

A complete set of Professor Whiddington's offprints was deposited in the Library of the Royal Society, as was the set of J.W. Ryde's offprints which was found in the collection (Item 44). Two theses were returned - one to the University of Durham and one to Queen's University, Belfast.

Summary of the career of Professor Whiddington

1885	Born in London
1905	Entered St. John's College, Cambridge
1911	D.Sc. London
1911 - 19	Fellow of St. John's College
1914 - 19	Radio Telegraphy and Telephony Research and Design, Royal Aircraft Establishment, Farnborough
1919	Married Katherine Reoch Grant
1919 - 51	Cavendish Professor of Physics, University of Leeds
1925 - 48	Hon. Editor, Leeds Philosophical and Literary Society Proceedings
1926	Fellow of the Royal Society
1940 - 42	Department of Scientific Research, Admiralty
1942 - 45	Deputy Director Scientific Research, Ministry of Supply
1946	C.B.E.
1949 - 51	Pro Vice-Chancellor, University of Leeds
1952 - 54	President, the Physical Society
1959 - 62	Scientific Advisor to Central Treaty Organisation

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I. Biographical

1. Memoir by Norman Feather (Biographical Memoirs of Fellows of the Royal Society, Vol. 17, 1971, pp. 741 - 756)
2. 'Emeritus Professor Richard Whiddington, C.B.E.' by E.C. Stoner
The University of Leeds Review, Vol. II, No. 4, December 1951,
pp. 342 - 351

II. Cambridge notebooks

3. Ms. notebook inscribed 'Mr. G.F.C. Searle, Heat. pt II.
Mich Term '07': notes on lectures 1907
4. Ms. notebook inscribed 'Lent Term '08. Summation of Series
of Electrical Measurements Vol. II. G.F.C. Searle': notes on
lectures 1908
5. Ms. notebook inscribed 'Light (Wilson, C.T.R.) Mich Term. 1907': 1907
23 lectures
6. Ms. notebook inscribed 'Lent Term '08. Light (contd) C.T.R.
Wilson': 24 lectures 1908
7. Ms. notebook inscribed 'R. Whiddington, Feb. 3, 1910': tabular 1910
summaries of data, graphs
8. Ms. notebook: notes on lectures 'The New Electric Field' 1910
'Cathode Rays' and others
9. Ms. notebook: notes on lectures 'Intermediate Light' n.d.
10. Ms. notebook inscribed 'Pass B.Sc. Heat': notes on lectures n.d.

III. Laboratory notebooks

11. Ms. notebook inscribed 'daily notes RW': data, tabular summaries, 1916 - 18
drawings, descriptions of experiments
12. Ms. notebook inscribed 'G.R. Brett. Physics Department, the 1926 - 27
University, Leeds. Sept 1926 - July 1927': daily records of
experiments (in another hand)
13. Ms. notebook: record of experimental observations 1927 - 28

IV. Lectures and experiments

14. Ms. 'notes on wave velocity and group velocity' n.d.
15. Ms. 'laws of induction from the MS. of G.F.C. Searle' n.d.
16. Ms. '(i) comparison of refractive indices of water and airline' n.d.
(ii) measurement of the radii of curvature of a convex lens
by Boye's method
(iii) Radius curvature of convex mirror'

17. Ms. 'measurement of the electromotive force of a thermo-electric couple' n.d.
18. Ms. 'dynamical compendium' n.d.
19. Ms. 'resonance experiments' n.d.
20. Ms. 'the copper voltameter' n.d.
21. Ms. 'harmonic motion of a body suspended by a spring' n.d.
22. Ms. 'testing iron by the magnetometer' n.d.
23. Ms. 'the vibration magnetometer coulomb's experiment' n.d.
24. Ms. 'notes on rainbows' n.d.
25. Ms. notes for series of lectures on gas conduction, including 3 pages of examination questions 1946 - 47
26. Ms. notes for 4 lectures on radioactivity n.d.
 lecture 1: introduction
 lecture 2: α -rays
 lecture 3: β -rays
 lecture 4: γ -rays
27. Ms. notes for various unnumbered lectures on radioactivity : n.d.
 'successive trough theory', 'uranium and the age of the earth',
 'influence of filament temperature on valve' and others
28. Miscellaneous Ms. notes for various introductory physics lectures 1946?
29. Miscellaneous Ms. notes for various introductory physics lectures n.d.
30. Miscellaneous Ms. notes for various lectures on sound: includes 1938?
 typescript of 'An Optical Model for Studying the Acoustics of
 Theatres' and of 'Decibels and Phons'
31. Test papers, some Ms. notes, and Ms. 'Radio-teaching 1940 onwards' 1938 - 49
 (In another hand)
32. Folder inscribed 'cosmic rays 1948' containing 8 sets of Ms. notes 1939 - 48
 entitled: 'Instruments used in cosmic ray investigations'
 'Mesons'
 'Showers'
 'Track photographs'
 'Cosmic rays general facts and interpretations'
 'Composition of cosmic rays'
 'The early facts of atomic rays'
 'Latitude effect of cosmic radiation'

V. War Work

33. Deputy Director of Scientific Research: folder containing Ms. 1943
 notes, correspondence, committee papers

34. 'Atomic Energy in relation to the Nationalisation of the Mines and Compensation therefor': typescript; untitled typescript re atomic energy in industry; copy of offprint by D. Gabor entitled 'Energy Conversion in Electronic Devices' 1943

VI. Publications

35. Typescripts of Professor Whiddington's bibliography
36. 'Ionic oscillation in three-electrode thermionic valves', Radio Review, Vol. I, No. 2: typescript 1919
- 37.-43. Science at War (with J.G. Crowther) H.M.S.O. 1947 1945 - 52
37. Correspondence with Crowther and others re writing and publication of book 1945 - 48
38. Correspondence with Department of Scientific and Industrial Research re publication and distribution 1945 - 48
39. Correspondence with DSIR secretarial assistants (includes typescripts of notes on meetings with Sir Edward Appleton and Professor J.T. Randall) 1945 - 48
40. Reviews and correspondence following publication 1948 - 50
41. Correspondence following publication (includes typescript of report by Captain B.H. Liddell Hart on operational research) 1948 - 52
43. Typescript of manuscript with Ms. corrections n.d.
44. Material used in writing Royal Society memoir of J.W. Ryde: copies of 1957 correspondence, obituary notices, scientific photographs, Ryde's night illumination chart. Copy of Whiddington's memoir enclosed. (Whiddington's collection of Ryde's offprints deposited in the Library of the Royal Society, London) 1961 - 63
45. Correspondence with Ryde's co-workers (many with lengthy notes and personal recollections of Ryde's career) 1961 - 63

VII. University of Leeds

46. Whiddington's report on university and industrial physics laboratories in North America (undertaken at request of Leeds University): includes photographs and floor plans, typescript of 'general notes on new accommodation for physics department' 1925 - 26
47. Photographs of physics building, University of Leeds; copy of Perkins Testimonial Fund report and photography of Professor A.G. Perkins 1927
48. 'Notes on the Brotherton Library', 'Mildewing of Book Covers, Parchments, etc.': typescripts n.d.

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