It has long been held that acceptance of science as an academic subject in Oxford came about slowly, generally lagging far behind events in Cambridge and London. As recently as 1993 it was stated that «with few exceptions Oxford was late, slow and niggardly in taking up the modern physical sciences».\textsuperscript{1} It would, however, be a mistake to assume that there was no concern for science within the University during the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Chapters prepared for the multivolume \textit{History of the University of Oxford} have demonstrated that Oxford’s contribution to science in this period was far from negligible.\textsuperscript{2} This impression has been confirmed by a recent project to locate sources for the history of science in Oxford since the mid-nineteenth century, which has shown that there was in fact a great deal of scientific activity by the science professors, although this was commonly of a didactic rather than an investigative nature.

The project, carried out in 1994 with the aid of a grant from the Nuffield Foundation,\textsuperscript{3} helped to show that manuscripts, recordings, photographs, printed material and apparatus can survive unnoticed in departments and colleges for many years. In this case, the most profitable place to look proved to be the Clarendon Laboratory, which retains material of all types dating back to the 1850s. The Reverend


\textsuperscript{2} The chapters to which I refer in particular are those by Nicolaas Rupke, Robert Fox and Janet Howarth (due to appear in volumes 6 and 7); Jack Morrell, John Roche and Charles Webster (already published in volume 8).

\textsuperscript{3} K. D. Watson, \textit{Sources for the History of Science in Oxford} (Oxford, Modern History Faculty, 1994); Preface by Robert Fox.
Robert Walker, Reader (later Professor) in Experimental Philosophy, and his successor, Professor Robert Clifton, were both avid collectors of scientific instruments, many of which survive in the Clarendon together with the instructions for use provided by the instrument makers. Representative of more recent times is the material relating to work carried out on radar and related technology by physicists working in the Clarendon during the second world war, as well as on low temperature physics and magnetism.

In the case of other science departments, and some colleges, much material has already been deposited in the Museum of the History of Science or the University Museum, where it is available for consultation upon request. This project has sought to emphasize materials that are to be found in depositories other than the University Archives and the Bodleian Library, and has uncovered new material in the Department of Physiology, the Forestry Institute, Christ Church and Wolfson College.

Significant Findings

The Clarendon Laboratory archives are extensive, and are currently being moved into a dedicated Archive Room within the Laboratory; all requests for information should be addressed to the librarian. The following is a summary of the holdings.

Many of the materials held in the Clarendon were collected by Dr A. J. Croft (1925-1988), a physicist who built his career in the Laboratory and became its unofficial historian. In 1986 he completed a typescript entitled «Oxford's Clarendon Laboratory». A book on F. A. Lindemann, Viscount Cherwell (1886-1957), was planned, and Croft was also involved in the planning of a history of Oxford physics from 1865 to 1965. During the course of his research for these projects he gathered a large collection of photographs, instruments, recordings, correspondence, etc.

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6 Clarendon Laboratory, Parks Road, Oxford, England, OX1 3PU.
7 Lindemann's papers have been deposited in the Library of Nuffield College, Oxford, OX1 1NF.