

THE ROYAL COMMISSION ON HISTORICAL MANUSCRIPTS

Report on the papers of  
SIR JOHN LENNARD-JONES, KBE, FRS  
(1894-1954)  
deposited in Churchill College, Cambridge

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No. 73/320

CONTEMPORARY SCIENTIFIC ARCHIVES CENTRE

Papers of

SIR JOHN LENNARD-JONES, K.B.E., F.R.S.

(1894 - 1954)

Listed by: Jeannine Alton

Harriot Weiskittel

Deposited in Churchill College Library, Cambridge

1973

ADDENDUM

A collection of lecture notes taken 1928 - 32 deposited by Professor C.A. Coulson in Cambridge University Library (Shelfmark: Add. 7807) includes careful notes of lectures given in Cambridge by Lennard-Jones. Professor Coulson wrote (14 November 1973) "I suspect that these are the first lectures on theoretical chemistry (or perhaps more accurately quantum chemistry) that had been given in Britain."

Description of the collection.

The papers cover the years 1906 - 54.

They were received from Dr. John Lennard-Jones, Sir John's son, who had already selected and arranged them in roughly chronological order for a possible biography of his father. This order has been preserved as far as possible.

Sir John's daily journals for 1943 - 46 and 1952 - 54, the former covering his service as Superintendant of Armament Research and Director General of Scientific Research, Ministry of Supply, during the Second World War, are an important feature of the collection, and are listed separately (Items 22 - 29).

Very little scientific work remained (see Items 20, 85), though some of the lectures and correspondence deal with scientific subjects.

Items 86 - 89 contain, in sealed envelopes, the private letters of Sir John Lennard-Jones to his wife for the years 1923 - 51. They may be consulted only with the written permission of Dr. John Lennard-Jones (son), 9, ~~Well Road,~~ \* London NW3, or of Mrs. R. Howard (daughter), Christ Church Vicarage, Reservoir Road, Prenton, nr. Birkenhead, during their lifetimes, and thereafter without restriction.

Summary of career (cont)

- 1932 - 54 Professorial Fellow, Corpus Christi College, Cambridge
- 1933 Fellow of the Royal Society
- 1939 Key Scientist, Ministry of Supply (Mathematics Laboratory)
- 1940 - 45 Chief Superintendant of Armament Research, Ministry of Supply
- 1945 - 46 Chief Scientific Officer and Director General of Scientific Research, Ministry of Supply
- 1946 - 53 Chairman, Scientific Advisory Council, Ministry of Supply
- 1946 K.B.E.; Sc.D. Cantab.
- 1947 - 54 Service on Research Panel, National Gallery
- 1948 & 49 President of Faraday Society
- 1952 Appointed Principal, University College of North Staffordshire
- 1954 President, Section B, British Association; Hon. D.Sc. Oxon.; Longstaff Medal, Chemical Society

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HandlistI. Biographical

1. Memoir, by Sir Nevill Mott. (Biographical Memoirs of Fellows of the Royal Society, Vol. 1, November 1955). Typescript list of published scientific papers and manuscript list of lecture notes, as received in collection.
2. School reports; letter from St. John's College, Cambridge 1906 - 12
3. Royal Flying Corps 1915

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4. University of Manchester, correspondence with Horace Lamb 1912 - 15
5. University of Cambridge: correspondence with Horace Lamb and with Royal Commission for 1851 Exhibition re Lennard-Jones's work during tenure of Senior Studentship 1922 - 25
6. Report on computing at University of Cambridge 1937 - 38
7. Notes and correspondence re establishment of new college at Cambridge; application for grant 1946 - 48  
1951
8. Ministry of Supply: photograph, curricula vitae in Lennard-Jones's hand, newspaper clipping re appointment to Advisory Council 1939
9. University College of North Staffordshire: Inaugural Address, newspaper clippings, drafts for two articles re University, article published in Cambridge Review, 7 March 1953 1952 - 54
10. Obituaries 1954
11. Miscellaneous Honours: 1932 Fellow, American Physical Society  
1933 Fellow of the Royal Society  
1946 K.B.E.  
1947 American Medal of Freedom, Bronze Palm  
1953 Hopkins Prize, Cambridge Philosophical Society  
1953 Coronation Commemoration Medal 1932 - 53
12. The Davy Medal, Royal Society 1953
13. Miscellaneous photographs of Sir John Lennard-Jones, colleagues and departments.

## II. Scientific and personal correspondence

14. Correspondence (scientific and personal) 1922 - 24
15. Correspondence (scientific and personal) 1925
16. Correspondence (scientific and personal) 1925 - 53
17. Correspondence relating to Dr. P.R. Manning 1951 - 52
18. Correspondence relating to Dr. P.R. Manning 1953 - 54
19. Correspondence relating to University College of North Staffordshire 1953- 54
20. 'Some theoretical calculation of certain crystal potential constants and on the cubic crystal of least potential energy,' (with A.E. Ingham), Proc. Roy. Soc. A, 107, 636. Proof with corrections 1925
21. Correspondence with A.C. Hurley and others relating to papers by Hurley for Proc. Roy. Soc. 1953 - 54

III. Personal daily journals

- |     |   |           |
|-----|---|-----------|
| 22. | Cambridge (11 November 1952 - 13 April 1953)<br>numbered 1 - 3 by Lennard-Jones | 1952 - 53 |
| 23. | Keele (14 April 1953 - 15 April 1954)<br>numbered 1 - 18 by Lennard-Jones       | 1953 - 54 |
| 24. | 17 September 1942 - 31 October 1943<br>numbered 1 - 20 by Lennard-Jones         | 1942 - 43 |
| 25. | 1 November 1943 - 27 September 1944<br>numbered 21 - 35 by Lennard-Jones        | 1943 - 44 |
| 26. | 28 September 1944 - 20 March 1946<br>numbered 36 - 61 by Lennard-Jones          | 1944 - 46 |
| 27. | 21 March 1946 - 26 March 1953<br>numbered 62 - 80 by Lennard-Jones              | 1946 - 53 |
| 28. | Visit to Germany 14 - 23 July 1950  | 1950      |
| 29. | 'Progress of Work' 2 April - 26 September 1942                                  | 1942      |

IV. Lectures, sermons and addresses

- |     |   |      |
|-----|---|------|
| 30. | 'The Nonconformist Conscience,' Leigh Baptist, 13 July  | 1921 |
| 31. | 'The Religion of Healthy Mindedness,' sermon preached at<br>Leigh Baptist Church, 24 December               | 1922 |
| 32. | 'Some Application of Crystal Measurements,' Manchester,<br>20 February                                      | 1925 |
| 33. | 'Forecasting the Weather'   | 1927 |
| 34. | 'Concerning the Nature of Things,' Tyndale Literary Society,<br>27 February                                 | 1928 |
| 35. | 'Theories of Light and Theories of Matter,' Mathematical<br>Association, Bristol, 1 February                | 1929 |
| 36. | 'Flight,' Bristol Scientific Club, 1 March  | 1930 |
| 37. | Chemical Dinner, Bristol University, 5 December   | 1930 |
| 38. | 'Modern Theories of Atomic Structure,' Quintic Club, Adams<br>Society, Cambridge, 14 February               | 1935 |
| 39. | 'The Organisation of Scientific Workers in Peace and War,'<br>Association of Scientific Workers, 2 November | 1938 |
| 40. | 'Chemical Equilibria at very high pressures; ' 19 May   | 1942 |
| 41. | 'The Organisation of Armament Research, ' A.R.D. Memorandum   | 1945 |
| 42. | Address to the Staff, A.R.D.; Farewell Message to the Staff<br>A.R.D., 28 August                            | 1945 |

43. 'Co-operation in Defence Science' 1945
44. 'Evidence to Lord President's Committee on Scientific Manpower,' 21 May 1946
45. 'The Chemist in Government Service,' Chemical Society, Cambridge, 12 November. Includes documents. 1946
46. 'Some War-time Experiences,' Chemical Society, Cambridge, 12 March. Includes documents. 1947
47. 'The new place of Science in Higher Education' n.d.
48. 'The new place of Science in the Universities,' The Barlow Report. n.d.
49. 'University Courses for Scientists' n.d.
50. 'The Scientist and the State,' script of broadcast talk with Ms corrections. n.d.
51. 'The Place of the Universities in the Community,' British Association discussion, 10 May 1947
52. 'The Scientist and the State,' Dundee Rotary Club, 28 August 1947
53. Cambridge Graduate Science Club, 28 May 1949
54. 'The Education of the Man of Science,' and related documents 1949
55. Faraday Society meeting, Liverpool University, 12 April 1950
56. Cambridge Graduate Science Club, 27 May 1950
57. Faraday Society Dinner, Trinity College, Cambridge, 25 Sept. 1950
58. Corpus Dinner, Corpus Christi College, Cambridge, 5 December 1950
59. Faraday Society Dinner, Trinity College, Cambridge, 6 August 1952
60. 'University Education Today,' Keele n.d.
61. Inaugural Address, Principal, Keele University. Notes and published address, and ceremony of inauguration. 1953
62. G.A.C. Dinner, Keele, 28 May 1953
63. Lecturers Association, Keele, 9 June 1953
64. Speech on visit of Staffordshire County Council, 11 June 1953
65. Speech at opening of Bradwell County Primary School, 25 June 1953
66. Address at end of term service, 28 June, Keele 1953
67. Address to freshmen, Keele, 5 October 1953
68. Introductory lecture, Foundation Year Course, Keele, 8 Oct. 1953

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|-----|---|-----------|
| 69. | Staffordshire Society, 22 October   | 1953      |
| 70. | Pottery Federation, 29 October, Stoke   | 1953      |
| 71. | Presentation to Dr. Jenkins, Keele, 31 October  | 1953      |
| 72. | Introduction to lecture by Mr. Brimble, Editor of 'Nature,'<br>Keele, 13 November                   | 1953      |
| 73. | 10th Anniversary dinner, Armaments Research Establishment,<br>Fort Halstead, Riverhead, 11 December | 1953      |
| 74. | Speech of welcome, Conference of British Geographers,<br>Keele, 2 January                           | 1954      |
| 75. | North Staffordshire Caledonian Society, Anniversary dinner,<br>Keele, 25 January                    | 1954      |
| 76. | Introduction to Morning Service, broadcast from University<br>College, Keele, 31 January            | 1954      |
| 77. | Speech at dinner, Harwood Hall, Keele, 5 March  | 1954      |
| 78. | Speech at dinner, Senior Common Room, Keele, 22 March   | 1954      |
| 79. | Speeches of welcome, Conference of Directors of Education,<br>Keele, 23 - 24 March                  | 1954      |
| 80. | Speech of welcome, visit of headmasters and headmistresses,<br>Keele, 26 March                      | 1954      |
| 81. | Speech at degree day, Keele, 18 April   | 1954      |
| 82. | Speech to members of Staffordshire Society, Keele, 8 May  | 1954      |
| 83. | Speech at Commemoration, Keele, 30 June   | 1954      |
| 84. | Sermon for new academic year, Keele, October  | 1954      |
| 85. | Lecture notes, Theoretical Chemistry, Cambridge (see note on<br>file cover)                         | 1938 - 52 |

V. Private Correspondence

To be consulted only with the written permission of Sir John's family;  
(see note in general description of the collection, p.1)

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| 87. | 1924 - 25 |
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