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
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. 7007) 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 Superintendent 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.

A bound complete collection of Sir John’s work is in the University Library, Keele.

Summary of the career of Sir John Lennard-Jones.

b. 1894.

1912 - 15 Manchester University.

1914 B.Sc. Manchester.

1915 M.Sc. Manchester.


1922 - 25 Senior 1851 Exhibitioner, Trinity College, Cambridge.

1924 Ph.D. Cantab.

1925 Reader in Mathematical Physics, Bristol University. Married.

1927 - 32 Professor of Theoretical Physics, Bristol.

1929 Rockefeller Fellow, University of Göttingen.

1930 - 32 Dean of Faculty of Science, Bristol.

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 Superintendent 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
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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Handlist

I. Biographical


2. School reports; letter from St. John's College, Cambridge

3. Royal Flying Corps

1906 - 12

1915
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


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) numbered 1 - 3 by Lennard-Jones 1952 - 53
24. 17 September 1942 - 31 October 1943 numbered 1 - 20 by Lennard-Jones 1942 - 43
25. 1 November 1943 - 27 September 1944 numbered 21 - 35 by Lennard-Jones 1943 - 44
26. 28 September 1944 - 20 March 1946 numbered 36 - 61 by Lennard-Jones 1944 - 46
27. 21 March 1946 - 26 March 1953 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 Leigh Baptist Church, 24 December 1922
32. 'Some Application of Crystal Measurements,' Manchester, 20 February 1925
33. 'Forecasting the Weather' 1927
34. 'Concerning the Nature of Things,' Tyndale Literary Society, 27 February 1928
35. 'Theories of Light and Theories of Matter,' Mathematical 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 Society, Cambridge, 14 February 1935
39. 'The Organisation of Scientific Workers in Peace and War,' 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 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
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
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,' Keele, 13 November 1953
73. 10th Anniversary dinner, Armaments Research Establishment, Fort Halstead, Riverhead, 11 December 1953
74. Speech of welcome, Conference of British Geographers, Keele, 2 January 1954
76. Introduction to Morning Service, broadcast from University 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
80. Speech of welcome, visit of headmasters and headmistresses, 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 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)

86. 1923
87. 1924 - 25
88. 1927 - 39
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