



Instruments of Science: An Historical Encyclopedia (Garland Encyclopedias in the History of Science)

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Review

"This scholarly resource is an important contribution to the literature of the history of science, providing descriptions of many instruments that are overlooked in other books."

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"The first reference book to address the immense historical range of instruments and also the first to consider application, innovation, and costs. Its emphasis on twentieth-century devices and disciplines makes it especially valuable to students and scholars of modern science and technology, and the beauty of some of the antique instruments makes it a valuable guide for collectors, dealers, and curators."

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"The editors state: "This volume is intended to communicate clearly to a wide audience." This goal has been achieved, as the work is very readable, with little specialized jargon. This encyclopedia comes highly recommended, especially for academic/research or large public libraries. In addition, anyone who has an interest in the subject would benefit. And the price is modest for an illustrated 700-page reference book."

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"This book will be of greatest value to students of the history of science. The short bibliography at the end of each subject is useful, and in many cases one of the reference works cited was written by the contributor...."

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... "it is hard to put down once you've started reading. It is an excellent reference work that should find a place on the shelves of all science and technology museums and libraries.."

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From the Back Cover

This authoritative work on the history of scientific instruments brings together information from hundreds of primary sources and specialized studies in many languages. Written by 223 scientists, instrument designers, and historians, the Encyclopedia's 327 entries cover instruments from the beginnings of science to the present day and explore devices designed for cutting-edge research as well as routine testing. Each entry explains how a device works, how it is used, who developed it, and shows what it looks like. The Encyclopedia is the first reference work to address the great historical range of instruments and is also the first to consider applications, innovations, and costs. Because of its focus on 20th-century devices and disciplines, its coverage is particularly valuable to students and scholars of modern science and technology.

About the Author

Robert Bud holds a doctorate in the History and Sociology of Science from the University of Pennsylvania, and serves as Head of Research (Collections) at the Science Museum in London. His widespread publications on the history of chemistry and biotechnology include *Invisible Connections: Instruments, Institutions and Science* (1992), and *The Uses of Life: A History of Biotechnology* (1993).

Deborah Warner holds a M.A. in the History of Sciences from Harvard University, and serves as Curator of Physical Science Collections at the National Museum of American History. Her widespread publications in the history of science and scientific instruments include *Alvan Clark & Sons: Artists in Optics* (1968; rev. 1996), and *The Sky Explored: Celestial Cartography 1500-1800* (1979). She is also founder and editor of *Rittenhouse*, a quarterly journal of the American instrument enterprise.

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