

WHIPPLE MUSEUM OF THE HISTORY OF SCIENCE

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The Whipple Museum's collection includes scientific instruments, apparatus, models, pictures, prints, photographs, books, and other material related to the history of science. The museum's holdings are particularly strong in material dating from the 17th to the 19th centuries, especially objects produced by English instrument makers, although the collection contains objects dating from the medieval period to the present day. Instruments of astronomy, navigation, surveying, drawing, and calculating are well represented, as are sundials, mathematical instruments, and early electrical apparatus.

The Whipple Museum was founded in 1944 when Robert Stewart Whipple presented his collection of scientific instruments to the University of Cambridge. Since Robert Whipple's initial gift of the collection, the Museum has come to house many instruments formerly used in the Colleges and Departments of the University of Cambridge. Details of these collections can be found on the special collections page. The room now housing the Main Gallery of the Museum was built in 1618. Originally it was part of the first Free School in Cambridge and has also been used as an electrical laboratory and a display area for the Fitzwilliam Museum during its history. The Main Gallery is being refurbished in autumn 2010 and that will be followed by an exhibition about Lord Rayleigh (as part of the Royal Society's 350th anniversary Local Heroes exhibition series) date to be announced.

The Museum forms part of the Department of History and Philosophy of Science, University of Cambridge. The Department includes a working library with a large collection of early scientific books, some of which were given by Robert Whipple. The Museum plays an important part in the Department's teaching and research.

Opening times: Monday to Friday 12:30 - 4.30pm. Admission to the museum is free
