
Contents

	<i>Page</i>
Foreword	ix
Preface	xi
Acknowledgments	xv
1 Measurements for knowledge and control	1
1.1 What is a measurement?	1
1.2 Representing ideas	6
1.3 Models of the measurement process	10
1.4 Units, standards and scales	22
1.5 Measurement and the scientific method	26
1.6 Measurements as parameters of control	30
1.7 Measuring instrument sophistication as an expression of degree of science applied	35
1.8 Measurements and the body of knowledge	38
2 Science and technology of measuring instruments	42
2.1 The role of technology	42
2.2 The dual nature of machines	44
2.3 The importance of improving instrument performance	46
2.4 Instrument design	49
2.5 Innovation and invention	59
2.6 Availability of materials	66
2.7 Availability of processes and machines of manufacture	67
2.8 Availability and use of theories and principles	73
2.9 Instrument designers and builders	88
2.10 Development of the instrument industries	103
2.11 Observatories, laboratories and research institutions	122
2.12 Economic considerations: costs and benefits	131
3 Ancient times to Middle Ages: birth of the first instruments	142
3.1 Introductory remarks	142
3.2 Science at Alexandria	147

3.3	The Dark Ages (c300-c1300 AD)	148
3.4	Renaissance – rebirth of learning and the arts (14th and 15th centuries)	151
3.5	Time interval and time of day	153
3.6	Weights and measures	165
3.7	Astronomy and surveying	189
3.8	The beginning of other instrumentation	209
4	Experimental science becomes established: Middle Ages – 1800 AD	219
4.1	Emphasis on observation	219
4.2	First foundations of electricity	226
4.3	Further development of mechanics	246
4.4	Blossoming of optical instruments	262
4.5	Growth of the instrument range	274
4.6	Recording and registration	286
5	Growth of electrical methods: the 19th century	292
5.1	Expansion of measurement technique	292
5.2	Electrical method	297
5.3	Control and computation	341
5.4	Recording and registration	353
5.5	Optical instrumentation	367
5.6	Mechanics	376
5.7	Still more measurements	378
6	The first half of the 20th century: 1900-1950	389
6.1	Data galore	389
6.2	Electronic technique	394
6.3	Accurate mechanism and mathematics	418
6.4	Instrument systems emerge	422
6.5	Recording data	435
6.6	Further growth in sensing instrumentation	445
6.7	Measurement in the empirical sciences	451
	Bibliography	456
Appendix 1	Biographies relevant to instrument history	482
Appendix 2	Collections containing instruments	486
	Index	498