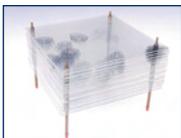


BASEMENT

GALLERIES

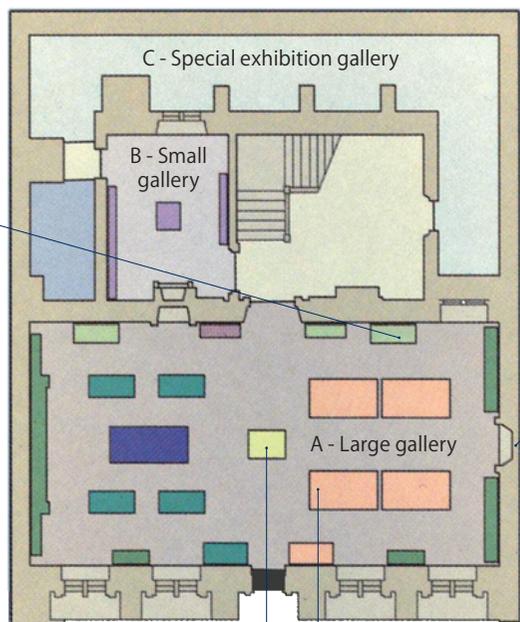
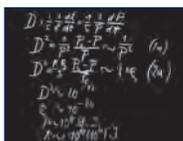
The large gallery (A) contains instruments for research and teaching in **physics, chemistry, medicine, microscopy and photography**. It also contains equipment from the **Marconi Collection** and archaeological finds from the original activities of chemistry and dissection. The smaller gallery (B) has more domestic items, such as **clocks, globes and orreries**, while a third gallery (C) has a programme of **changing exhibitions**.



Penicillin apparatus and model
From the drug's development in Oxford in the 1940s.

Einstein's blackboard

These chalked equations were written during a lecture in Oxford in 1931.



The Countess of Westmorland's lodestone
A famous natural magnet mounted with a crown.



Lewis Carroll's photographic kit
The author's camera and chemicals.

ENTRANCE

GALLERY

The entrance gallery introduces the Museum by illustrating the cultural and chronological range of its collections. In its four corners it also displays four particular collections: the **Orrery Collection**, formed around 1700; the collections of the **Royal Astronomical Society** and the **Royal Microscopical Society**, both begun in the early 19th century; and the collection of the Museum's founding benefactor, **Lewis Evans**, presented to the University in 1924.

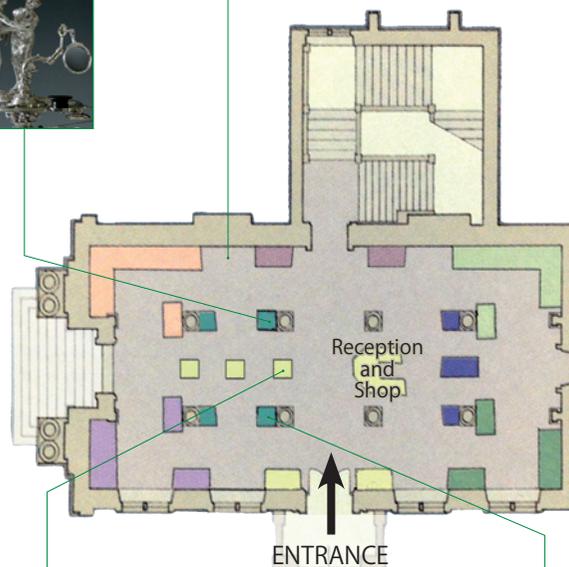
The Fromanteel clock

One of the earliest surviving pendulum clocks.



George III's silver microscope

An instrument that is also an extravagant piece of decorative silver.



The spherical astrolabe
The only example of such an instrument in the world.

John Dee's magic tablet

An attempt to discover the secrets of nature by communicating with angels.



TOP

GALLERY

The top gallery displays mathematical instruments from a variety of disciplines including **astronomy, navigation, surveying, horology, drawing, architecture, and the arts of war**. Four of the central showcases deal with four types of instrument (sundials, astrolabes, spheres and quadrants), while four more deal with key tasks in practical mathematics (calculation, distant measurement, direct measurement and drawing). Around the walls, the displays consider the contexts in which instruments are invented, manufactured, owned and used.

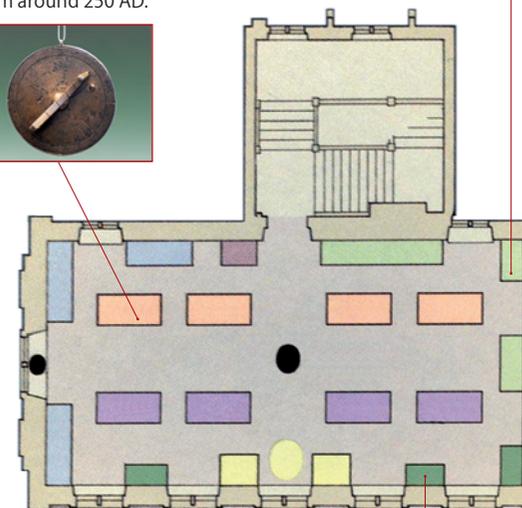
An equatorium

One of only two surviving examples.



A Roman sundial

A hanging dial, dating from around 250 AD.



Elizabeth I's astrolabe
made by the first commercial instrument maker in England.

ABOUT THE MUSEUM

The Museum of the History of Science houses an unrivalled collection of historic scientific instruments in the world's oldest surviving purpose-built museum building (completed in 1683), the Old Ashmolean on Broad Street, Oxford. By virtue of the collection and the building, the Museum occupies a special position, both in the study of the history of science and in the development of western culture and collecting.

The donation of a collection of scientific instruments to the University of Oxford by Lewis Evans in 1924 prompted the establishment of the Museum of the History of Science, which opened to the public a year later. Today the collections are particularly strong in early instruments, such as astrolabes and sundials, and are international in their extent, covering all of Europe and having many Islamic instruments, as well as examples from India and the Far East. The collections extend into subjects that would not be considered 'scientific' today, but which represent past attempts to understand and manipulate the natural world. In more modern periods the Museum has particular strengths, such as the microscopes of the Royal Microscopical Society and the pioneering radio equipment contained in the Marconi Collection.

The museum runs an extensive programme of exhibitions and public events such as lectures, tours, theme days and family friendly activities, details of which can be found on the website and in the quarterly events programme. The Museum of the History of Science is a department of the University of Oxford.

OPENING HOURS

Tuesday to Sunday: 12 noon – 5pm
Monday: closed
Admission to the museum is free

GROUP VISITS

Groups are limited to 15 and must be booked in advance.

EVENTS & EXHIBITIONS

Details of special events and exhibitions can be found in the quarterly programme and on the website.

EDUCATION

The museum's education service offers a range of taught sessions suitable for primary and secondary key stages and workshops and Study Days for sixth formers and advanced students as well as fortnightly family friendly activities.

LIBRARY

The library and archives are available to researchers by appointment.

BROADSHEET

Broadsheet is an occasional publication communicating the work of the Museum. It is published on the website and printed for sale.

MEMBERSHIP

Keep in contact with the Museum and support its work by becoming a member. For a small annual subscription you will receive the quarterly programmes, issues of *Broadsheet* and an invitation to an annual reception.

EMAILING LIST

Subscribe to the free mailing list to receive monthly news of Museum events by email. See the website for details.

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