Further Reading: Michael Faraday

General reading


Published books by Faraday, mainly collections of papers and lecture notes, some published after his death:

*Chemical Manipulation, Being Instructions to Students in Chemistry.* (1827).

*Experimental Researches in Electricity, Vol I, II& III* (1837, 1844, 1855)

*Experimental Researches in Chemistry and Physics* (1859).

W. Crookes. ed. *A Course of six lectures on the Various Forces of Matter* (1860)

W. Crookes. ed. *A Course of six lectures on the Chemical History of a Candle*, (1861)


*The liquefaction of gases* (1896.)

Published texts by Faraday


The complete correspondence of Michael Faraday is currently being compiled. Five volumes have been published with the sixth in progress. Frank A.J.L. James, *The Correspondence of Michael Faraday*, (London, 1991-2008).

In-depth reading:


David Gooding, ‘Experiment and concept formation in electromagnetic science and technology in England in the 1820s’, History and Technology, 1985, 2: 151-176


Frank A.J.L. James, ‘the civil-engineer’s talent’: Michael Faraday, science, engineering and the English lighthouse service, 1836-1865’, *Transactions of the Newcomen Society*, 1999: 70: 153-60


José Romo and Manuel G. Doncel, ‘Faraday’s initial mistake concerning the direction of induced currents, and the manuscript of Series I of his Researches’, Archive for the History of the Exact Sciences, 1994, 47: 291-385.


Ryan Tweney, ‘Toward a Cognitive-Historical Understanding of Michael Faraday’s Research: Editor’s Introduction’, Perspectives on Science 2006, 14: 1-6,

Ryan Tweney, ‘Stopping Time: Faraday and the scientific creation of perceptual order’, Physis, 1992, 29: 149-164,


Michael Faraday, the son of an 18th Century blacksmith, became one of the greatest scientists of his age. One of his discoveries transformed the world and changed the way we live forever. Michael Faraday’s most important and lasting contribution to science - and all our lives - was the invention of the electric motor. Through his work with electrolysis, Faraday became fascinated by electricity and magnetism, which at the time were thought to be separate forces. Modern physicists now recognize a single electromagnetic force. Below, there are some further resources if you would like to find out more about him and his work. Please Answer the Poll! Find out more Michael Faraday, FRS (22 September 1791 â€“ 25 August 1867) was an English chemist and physicist (or natural philosopher, in the terminology of the time) who contributed to the fields of electromagnetism and electrochemistry. Faraday studied the magnetic field around a conductor carrying a DC electric current. Diamagnetism. Michael Faraday holding a glass bar of the type he used in 1845 to show that magnetism can affect light in a dielectric material.[36]. In 1845, Faraday discovered that many materials exhibit a weak repulsion from a magnetic field, a phenomenon he named diamagnetism. Faraday also found that the plane of polarisation of linearly polarised light can be rotated by the application of an external magnetic field aligned in the direction the light is moving. Further Reading: Michael Faraday General reading Geoffrey Cantor, Michael Faraday: Sandemanian and Scientist. A Study of Science and Religion in the Nineteenth Century, (London, 1991). David Gooding, Experiment and the Making of Meaning: Human Agency in Scientific Observation and Experiment, (Dordrecht, 1991). David Gooding and Frank A.J.L. James (eds.), Faraday Rediscovered: Essays on the Life and Work of Michael Faraday, 1791â€”1867, (London, 1985). Frank A.J.L. James (ed.), â€”The Common Purposes of Lifeâ€™: Science and society at the Royal Institution of Great Britain, (Aldershot, 2002). Frank A Michael Faraday (September 22, 1791 â€” August 25, 1867) was an English physicist and chemist who is one of the most influential scientists of all time. His most important contributions, and best known work, were on the closely connected phenomena of electricity and magnetism, but he also made very significant contributions in chemistry. Faraday was principally an experimentalist; in fact, he has been described as the "best experimentalist in the history of science". He did not know any advanced Michael Faraday FRS (/ˈfærədeɪ, -di/; 22 September 1791 â€“ 25 August 1867) was an English scientist who contributed to the study of electromagnetism and electrochemistry. His main discoveries include the principles underlying electromagnetic induction, diamagnetism and electrolysis. Although Faraday received little formal education, he was one of the most influential scientists in history. It was by his research on the magnetic field around a conductor carrying a direct current that Faraday established