Further Reading: Michael Faraday

General reading


Alan E. Jeffreys, Michael Faraday: A List of His Lectures and Published Writings, (London, 1960).

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:


Henry Bence Jones, Life and Letters of Faraday, 1st and 2nd editions, 2 volumes, London, 1870


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


Bruce J. Hunt, The Maxwellians (Ithaca, 1991)


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.


Michael Faraday was an English scientist renowned for his contribution to the study of electrochemistry and electromagnetism. Faraday left school at an early age and joined a local book binder and during his leisure time he used to engage in teaching himself new scientific methods. The first step towards his success came when he built the first electric motor. Michael Faraday. The book of nature which we have to read is written by the finger of God. God Nature. Michael Faraday. Magnetic lines of force convey a far better and purer idea than the phrase magnetic current or magnetic flood: it avoids the assumption of a current or of two currents and also of fluids or a fluid, yet conveys a full and useful pictorial idea to the mind. Michael Faraday. 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. So he began educating himself. He read untold numbers of books while he was an apprentice. Through his reading he developed a fascination with science. Before long, he had studied some of the most serious academic works of his day. Michael Faraday and Sir Humphrey Davy. When he was twenty years old, he was able to attend the public lectures at the recently founded Royal Institution in London. The president of the Institution at that time was Sir Humphrey Davy. Michael Faraday, English physicist and chemist whose many experiments contributed greatly to the understanding of electromagnetism. Among his achievements, he was the first to produce an electric current from a magnetic field and invented the first electric motor and dynamo. Learn about his life and career. John Stambaugh Professor of the History of Science; Director, Program in the History and Philosophy of Science and Technology, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York. Author of Michael Faraday. Last Updated: Jan 22, 2021 See Article History. Michael Faraday achieved his early renown as a chemist. He made many important contributions to chemistry. In 1820, Faraday produced the first known compounds made from carbon and chlorine, hexachloroethane (C2Cl6) and tetrachloroethene (C2Cl4). Michael Faraday provided evidence for this fact by applying pressure to liquefy chlorine gas and ammonia gas for the first time. These were till then believed to be \textit{permanent gases}, or gases incapable of liquefaction. During ammonia liquefaction, Faraday also noted that when he allowed the ammonia to evaporate again, it caused cooling. Michael Faraday FRS (IPA: /ˈfærədeɪ, -di/; 22 September 1791 – 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