

Recent Instrument Acquisitions

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Since publishing a series of booklets on the history of chemical apparatus based on the holdings of the Oesper Collections, we have acquired additional examples of some of the instruments covered in this series, and the purpose of this issue of *Museum Notes* is to briefly update the reader on these recent acquisitions.

Colorimeters

In addition to the colorimeters described in Booklet No. 4 (1), we have recently acquired, thanks to the



Figure 1. A circa 1950 Spencer colorimeter.



Figure 2. A circa 1920 Zeiss Butter Refractometer.

generosity of Dr. Richard Paselk of Humboldt State University, a circa 1950 AO Spencer Colorimeter with a build-in electric light source in the base and micrometer adjustment knobs for equalizing the color intensities of the two cells (figure 1). Its modernistic design gives it a physical appearance radically different from that of most colorimeters in use during the period 1870-1950.

Refractometers

Since the publication of Booklet No. 3 on the refractometer (2), two additional examples have been added to our collections. The first of these is a circa 1920 Zeiss

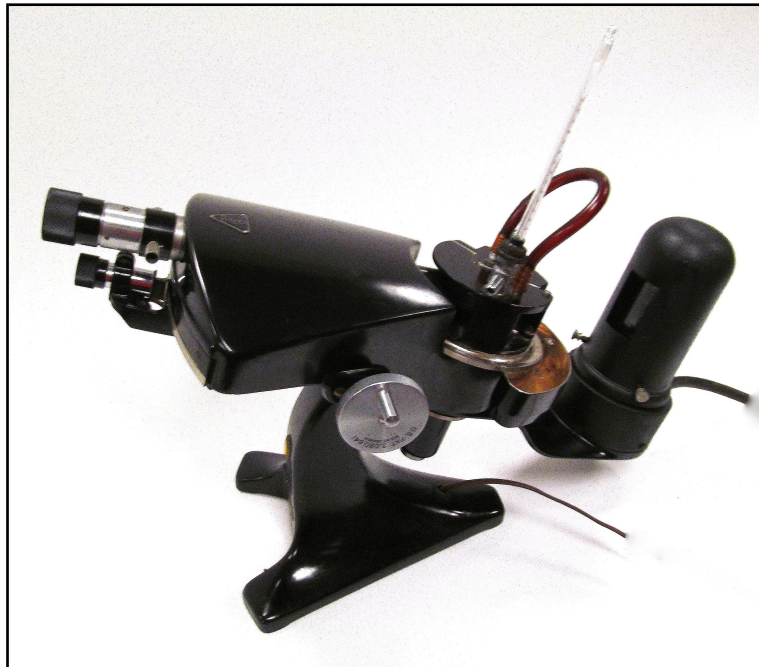


Figure 3. A circa 1938 Bausch and Lomb Precision Refractometer.

ond is a 1938 Bausch and Lomb “Precision Refractometer” which was discovered gathering dust in one of our departmental research laboratories (figure 3). It incorporates features of both the traditional Abbe refractometer and the traditional dipping refractometer, save that the sample cell opens horizontally rather than vertically. It comes with a permanently mounted sodium lamp and an optically expanded, internally mounted, scale that is illuminated by a small electrical light source. In its day this was an extremely expensive instrument with a 1940 list price of over \$1056.00.

Polarimeters

butter refractometer (figure 2) which has already been described in detail in an earlier issue of *Museum Notes* (3), and which was also a gift from Dr. Paselk, The sec-

Since the publication of Booklet No. 1 on polarimeters (4), we have acquired two examples of a circa 1960 Model 60 Rudolph and Sons polarimeter (figure 4). These were being discarded by our under-

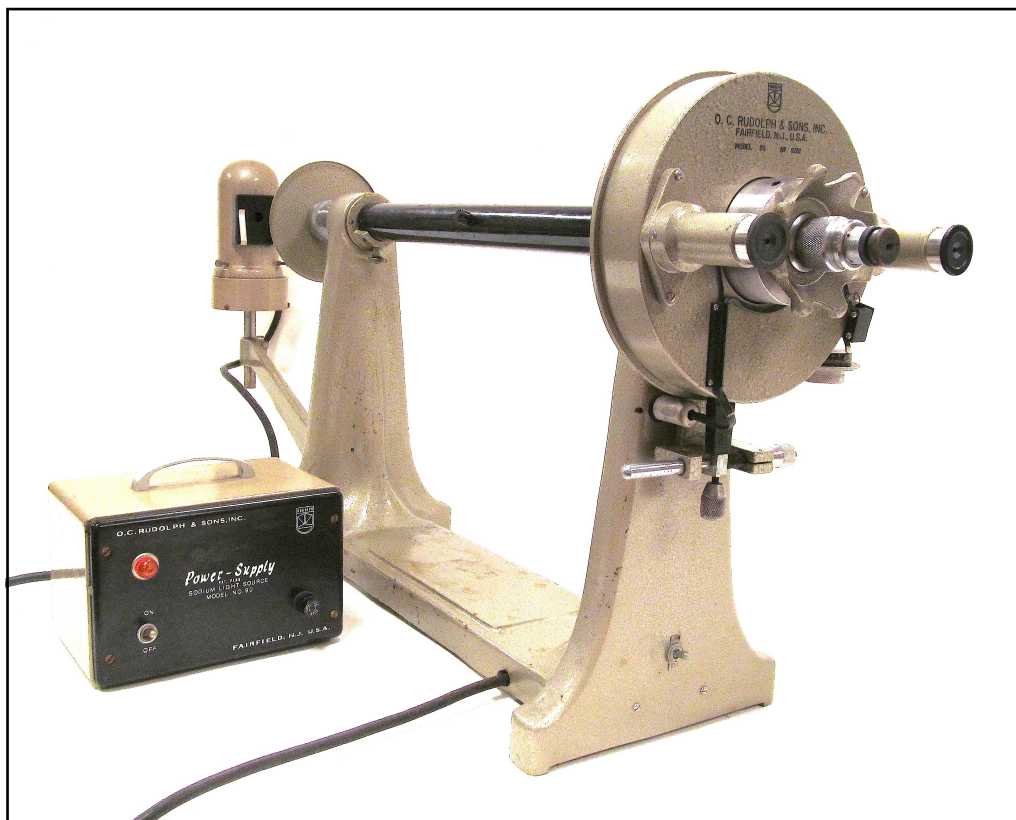


Figure 4. One of two circa 1960 Model 60 polarimeters made by O. C. Rudolph and Sons of Fairfield NJ.

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graduate physical chemistry laboratory and both come with a build-in mount for a sodium vapor lamp.

References and Notes

1. W. B. Jensen, *Colorimeters, Oesper Museum Booklets on the History of Chemical Apparatus, No. 4*, Oesper Collections, University of Cincinnati: Cincinnati, OH, 2014.
2. W. B. Jensen, *Refractometers, Oesper Museum*

Booklets on the History of Chemical Apparatus, No. 3, Oesper Collections, University of Cincinnati: Cincinnati, OH, 2014.

3. W. B. Jensen, "A Zeiss Butter Refractometer," *Museum Notes*, No. 42, January/February, 2017.

4. W. B. Jensen, *Polarimeters, Oesper Museum Booklets on the History of Chemical Apparatus, No. 1*, Oesper Collections, University of Cincinnati: Cincinnati, OH, 2014.