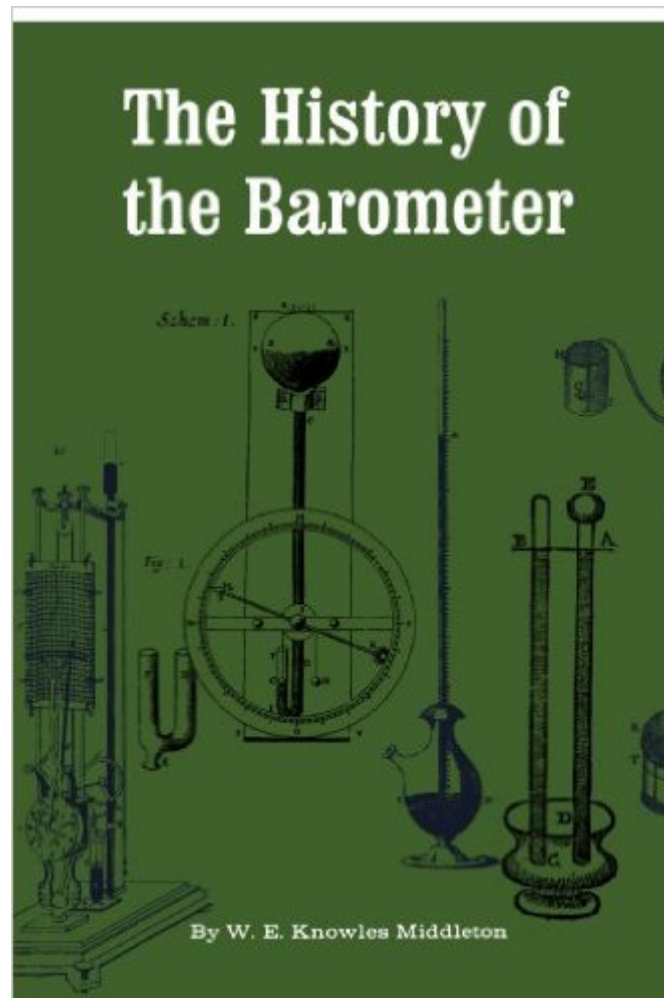


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The History Of The Barometer



Synopsis

For two centuries the barometer has been an indispensable laboratory instrument. Yet, despite its revolutionary influence on science, W. E. Knowles Middleton here offers the first complete history of the barometer as a scientific tool. Middleton relies on research from Western European documents and manuscripts of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. He begins his story with a pre-history of the barometer, the Torricellian experiment, the subsequent experiments and controversies in the 1640s, and the barometric experiments during the remainder of the century. Later chapters are concerned with the mercury barometer as a scientific instrument, discussing the efforts to expand the scale to render the instrument portable, and to attain greater accuracy. These chapters follow accounts of mercury barographs, the history of the corrections to the barometer, the history of the mercury barometer in North America, and the luminescence that appears when a barometer is moved in the dark. The final chapters discuss barometers other than those using the weight of a column of mercury. A large number of the more interesting barometers seen by the author in his extensive travels appears in the appendix. Nearly 200 figures and diagrams depict the wide variety of barometers studied by the author over his long career at the Smithsonian Institution.

Book Information

Paperback: 511 pages

Publisher: Johns Hopkins University Press (May 30, 2002)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0801871549

ISBN-13: 978-0801871542

Product Dimensions: 6 x 1.3 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.7 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 3.2 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (4 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #2,097,165 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #182 in [Books > Science & Math > Experiments, Instruments & Measurement > Scientific Instruments](#) #1910 in [Books > Science & Math > Earth Sciences > Rivers](#) #2059 in [Books > Science & Math > Earth Sciences > Climatology](#)

Customer Reviews

I actually bought two barometer books when I bought this one, and I believe this one to be the better of the two because it has more information, more in- depth. It has several chapters following the history of the barometer, from the first experiments trying to measure atmospheric pressure, to all

the types of barometers invented down through the years since the first efforts. I love how in-depth it goes with each type of barometer! From the experiments of friends of Torrecelli, to the invention of the Sympiesometer, for oceanic use (now known as the Tendency barometer), to the strenuous effort expended trying to perfect a truly working and useful aneroid barometer! Even water barometers are covered in this book! If you want to really understand about the effort gone into making truly useful barometers of all types, then this is the book for you! :-D

Book used for Reference material, quite useful is the history of the barometer for restoration of an old barometer I have.

This book is an excellent resource for historians of technology. Having said that, I have to add that the illustrations are of terrible quality, when in the original hardcover version they were of excellent quality. And the many illustrations are very important, they are taken from original material going as far back as the seventeenth century. I bought this book in the expectation that it would be an inexpensive way of owning it. I had borrowed the original hardcover version from a university library. I'll be holding on to the borrowed hardcover book a little longer, and will borrow it again if need be. The paperback is of the quality of a mass market "airport novel" paperback. The Johns Hopkins University Press should have known better and published what is called a "trade paperback". I'm returning this book. And I suggest to describe this book properly as a "mass-market-quality" paperback.

Is an interesting book for who is in domaine. For the otherone could be interesting not at all.

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