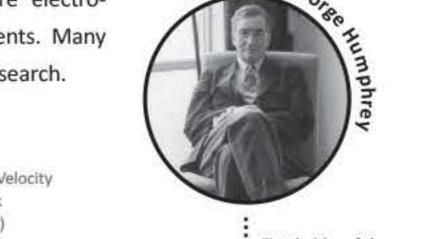


Another key benefactor, Mrs Hugh Watts, helped enormously in shaping psychology at Oxford through her donation. The sum she gave led to the foundation of the first independent Oxford Institute of Psychology equipped with a modest laboratory, and a lecture room to provide teaching for a Diploma course. Her friend W. Brown said that Oxford would owe her "an immeasurable debt of gratitude". Equipment used in the early years of psychology were electro-

1921 1935

nechanical instruments for recording external body movements. Many



Chair of Psychology

Final Honour School of Psychology Physiology

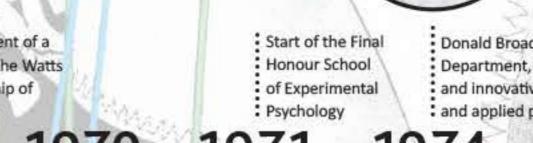
undergraduate course comprising psychology, physiology, and philosophy (PPP) and gained a permanent professional position, a Chair of Psychology. Despite these major achievements, psychology and experimental psychology were intermittently under attack from philosophers and others. The task was not easy for the first Professor in the Chair, G. Humphrey. He recounted his experience as if "he heard the lions on the shore sniffing round him, waiting for him to make a wrong move". However, philosophers' disapproval didn't make psychology unpopular. Research and teaching continued to grow, requiring more lecturers to be recruited. It was good fortune that at the same time the Institute was forced to move to a spacious Victorian house which soon became crammed, too, with the influx of students and staff bringing new themes of investigation. Professor Larry Weiskrantz would lead the next phase of the Institute's expansion.

In 1947 the Institute expanded its teaching programme with a new









Further expansion took place in the early 1970's. A second Chair of Psychology

was created by the Watts Chair bearing the name of its benefactor, and

opening applications to any fields of experimental psychology. A final honours

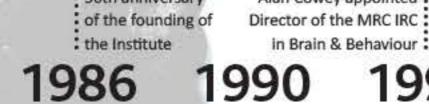
school in experimental psychology was introduced (EP). The Institute once

again needed more space and better facilities. It finally moved to its present

location in 1971 and became the Department of Experimental Psychology,

marking the beginning of a constant growth of inter-disciplinary activities,

and enlarging its community of researchers.





McDonnell-Pew Cognitive

The 1990's was a phase of innovation with research centres using new

methods of analyzing brain function, helped by the Medical Research Council

Inter-disciplinary Research Centres (MRC IRC). A "Baby Lab" for research

on infant development was established bringing very young visitors to the

Department. Neuroscience became an important field linked to psychology.

A new postgraduate course, the MSc in Neuroscience, was created.





In 2001 the Department became part of the Medical Sciences Division

providing valuable collaboration in the field of neuroscience while continuing

its research work in the areas of social psychology and child development

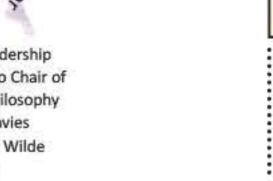
with the establishment of new research centres.



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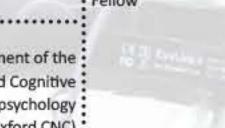


Today the Department continues to expand its contribution to science with

its involvement in the biomedical sciences and the recent establishment of 2

new centres in clinical and cognitive neuropsychology, to understand mental

and neurological diseases and to develop new treatments.





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