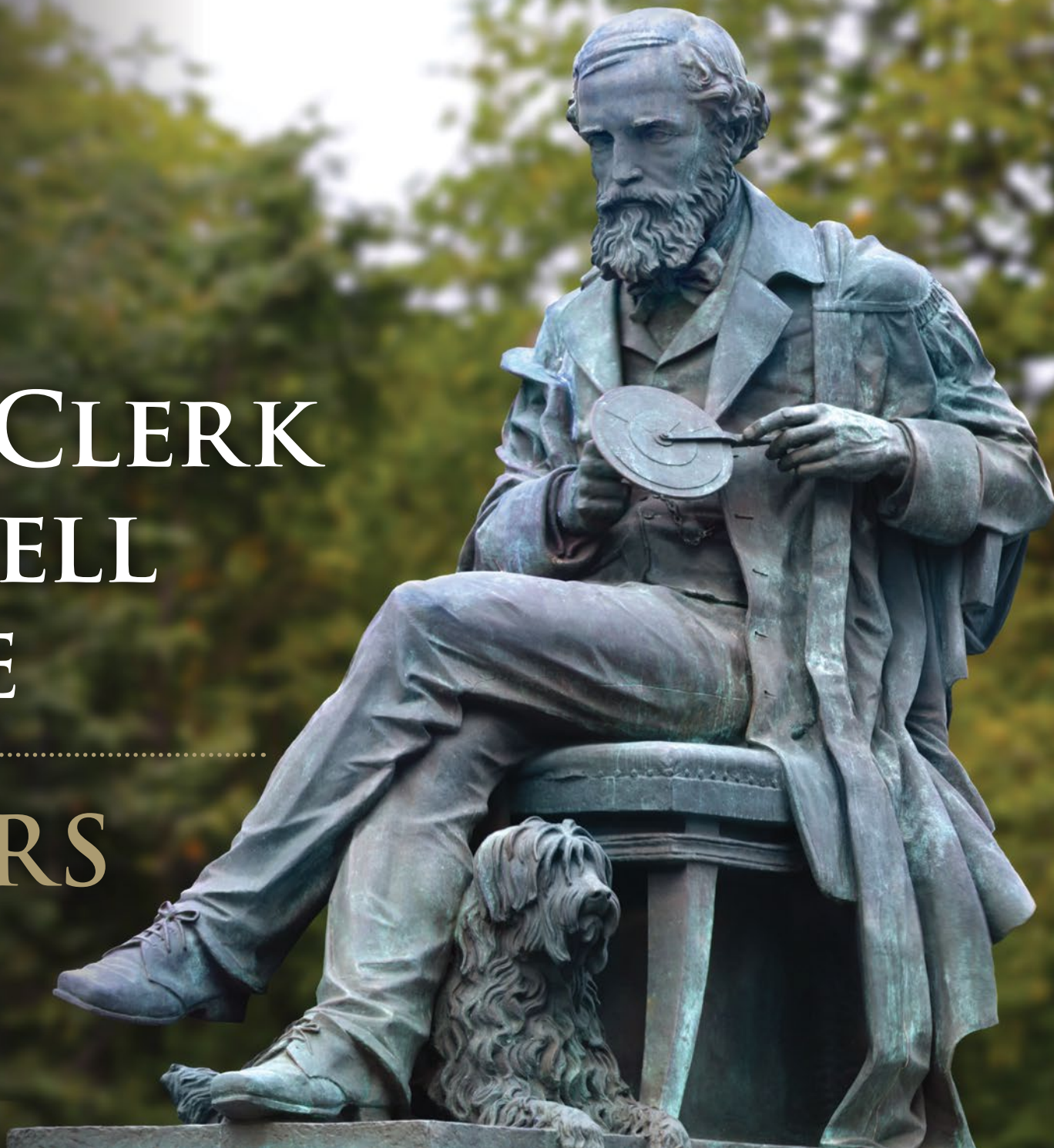




JAMES CLERK MAXWELL STATUE

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James Clerk Maxwell is generally regarded as the greatest physicist after Newton. While Newton laid down the laws of mechanics and universal gravitation, Maxwell did the same for electromagnetism, showing in particular that light was part of the electromagnetic spectrum. Our modern technological society, from the computer to telecommunications, rests firmly on the foundations established by Maxwell. Albert Einstein was one of Maxwell's great admirers and it was Maxwell's emphasis on the basic role of fields of force that led Einstein to his general theory of relativity and the modern understanding of gravity.

Born in Edinburgh in 1831, Maxwell was educated locally before moving to Cambridge, where he became a Fellow of Trinity. He became a Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh in 1856 at the age of 24, and of the Royal Society in London in 1859. After holding chairs at Aberdeen and King's College, London, he retired to his family estate at Glenlair in Dumfriesshire, where he wrote his great treatise on electricity and magnetism. In 1871, he returned to Cambridge and established the Cavendish Laboratory. Sadly, Maxwell died at the early age of 48.



For a scientist of Maxwell's stature, there are few memorials to him. In 2006, the 175th anniversary of his birth, the Royal Society of Edinburgh (RSE), led by its then President Sir Michael Atiyah, initiated plans for a statue, which culminated in its unveiling in George Street on 25 November 2008. The statue would not have been possible without the donations of many who wished to recognise James Clerk Maxwell's achievements and legacy. The RSE is extremely grateful to all those listed on the following pages who donated to the project.

Prior to crafting the statue of James Clerk Maxwell, the sculptor Alexander Stoddart FRSE had already made his mark on Edinburgh with the statues of David Hume and Adam Smith in the Royal Mile, as well as the Robert Louis Stevenson memorial in Corstorphine. In 2008, he was appointed as Her Majesty's Sculptor in Ordinary in Scotland. Showing Maxwell seated, and dressed in costume of his time, the statue is cast in bronze and located in George Street, Edinburgh, in the heart of the "New Town" where Maxwell lived, and close to the present building of the RSE.







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Prospect of the James Clerk Maxwell statue, George St. Edinburgh.
The Royal Society of Edinburgh is the nearest domed building.



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THANK YOU



Maxwell's Equations

$$\nabla \cdot \mathbf{B} = 0$$

$$\nabla \cdot \mathbf{D} = \rho$$

$$\nabla \times \mathbf{E} = - \frac{\partial \mathbf{B}}{\partial t}$$

$$\nabla \times \mathbf{H} = \frac{\partial \mathbf{D}}{\partial t} + \mathbf{J}$$