

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-10370-1 - The Organization of Science and Technology in France 1808-1914

Edited by Robert Fox and George Weisz

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Cambridge University Press

Cambridge

London New York New Rochelle Melbourne Sydney

& Editions de la Maison des Sciences de l'Homme

Paris

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CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge, New York, Melbourne, Madrid, Cape Town, Singapore, São Paulo, Delhi

Cambridge University Press

The Edinburgh Building, Cambridge CB2 8RU, UK

With Editions de la Maison des Sciences de l'Homme

54 Boulevard Raspail, 75270 Paris Cedex 06, France

Published in the United States of America by Cambridge University Press, New York

www.cambridge.org

Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9780521103701

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First published 1980

This digitally printed version (with corrections) 2009

A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library

ISBN 978-0-521-23234-0 hardback

ISBN 978-0-521-10370-1 paperback

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Preface

This book is published under the auspices of Parex, an organization established in 1970 to promote international co-operation in the study of the social relations of science. The idea for a work devoted to the institutional aspects of science and technology in nineteenth-century France was first discussed at a Parex seminar in Paris in December 1976, and detailed plans were laid at a subsequent three-day meeting at the University of Lancaster in July 1977. It was at Lancaster that most of the papers in this volume were presented and discussed.

The contributors wish to record their indebtedness to Parex, the Fondation de la Maison des Sciences de l'Homme, and the Social Science Research Council for the financial support which allowed them not only to meet as a group in Paris and Lancaster but also to circulate successive versions of the papers for criticism. This support, together with facilities provided by the University of Lancaster and McGill University, made possible a rare degree of collaboration, from which all the papers have benefited.

We are also grateful to a number of colleagues whose names do not appear in the book but who have helped at various stages in the work. Thanks are due, in particular, to Professor Roy MacLeod. It was he who organized our first meeting in Paris, and it was in the context of his project for a comprehensive study of higher education in nineteenth-century Europe that this more specialized collection of essays originated.

Finally, we wish to thank the Interuniversity Centre for European Studies, Montreal, for a grant towards the cost of preparing the Index.

R.F.
G.W.

Paris
August 1979

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A note on currency

Between 1808 and 1914 the value of the French franc relative to other major currencies varied little. Rough equivalents are as follows.

German Empire	Mark	worth	1.2 francs
Great Britain	Pound sterling	worth	25 francs
U.S.A.	Dollar	worth	5.4 francs