

On Her Majesty's Service

WASC1435

1435.

1801 Explain
Visit of Roy Soc Ctee
Papers copied from Lib Roy Soc.

Roy Soc. Reference?

11 June 1801.

to Mr Lacroix for his translations of two papers of Professor Croll, on the growth of plants in pure Water, and on the Acid of Borax.

Also that £ 8. 18. 6 to be paid to Mr Gouber for his translations of Mr Schroetter's papers on the planet Mercury, and on a lucid nebula.

The list of defaulters was read, and orders were given for the second Letter to be sent to Sir Cecil Bishopp and D. Lazard.

A Letter from Mr Cresse, Secretary to the Board of Ordnance to the Secretary of the Society, was read, as follows.

Office of Ordnance
29 May 1801.

Sir,

The Lieut. General and Board of Ordnance being desirous of ascertaining what is the best covering for the Floors of Powder Works and Magazines to prevent the bad effect of Injections when work is performed therein.

I am commanded to desire you will submit this question to the President and

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Council of the Royal Society; and beg them
to favour his Lordship and the Board with
such information upon the subject as it may
be in their power to afford.

I am &c

(Signed) R. H. Crowe.
J. Planta Esq.

Resolved. That a Committee be ap-
pointed to take the purport of the above Letter
into consideration, and that Mr Cavenish,
Mr Hatchett and Count Rumford be of the
said Committee. Also that the Secretary write
to Mr Crowe to acquaint him with this previous
step, and to desire him to lay before the Board
of Ordnance the request of the President and
Council to cause any information concerning
the circumstances that have given rise to the
enquiry to be communicated to the above-
mentioned Committee, which they may stand
in need of in the prosecution of their
enquiry.

2 July 1801.

At a Council

Present:

- | | |
|------------------|------------------|
| 1. The President | 5. Dr Guay |
| 2. Mr. Bost | 6. Mr. Planta |
| 3. Mr. Cavendish | 7. Count Rumford |
| 4. Mr. Fresco | 8. Mr. Wigg. |

A Communication from the Board of Ordnance, being an extract of a letter from Col. Congreve, the Comptroller of the Royal Laboratory to the said Board, concerning the floors of Powder Magazines, was received and read, and the same was referred to the Committee appointed by the last Council to take that matter into consideration.

Resolved,

That Sir Charles Blagden be added to the abovementioned Committee.

Ordered,

That £7. 3. 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ be paid by the Treasurer to Thomas Wood, being one third of his Charge for Masons work done in repairing the footway in front of Somerset Place.

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into consideration the questions proposed by the Board of Ordnance respecting powder Magazines, was read as follows.

23 July 1801.

At a Committee
Present.

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|----------------------|-------------------|
| 1. The President | 4. Dr Quay |
| 2. Sir Chas. Blagden | 5. Mr Hatchett. |
| 3. Mr Cavendish | 6. Count Rumford. |

We the Committee, appointed by the Council of the Royal Society to take into consideration the questions proposed to them by the Lieutenant General and Board of Ordnance on the 29th May 1801. are of opinion that no danger is to be apprehended from such electrical excitation as can be produced by walking or rolling barrels upon the hides or mats used to cover the floors of the Magazines &c at the Royal Powder Works at Waltham Abbey, even when the said hides are used without being previously wetted.

We are also of opinion that no danger of explosion from electrical excitation can arise

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from the use of silk dusting cloths in the manufacture of Gunpowder. With respect to the question what is the best covering for the floors of powder Works and Magazines, we are of opinion that the Planks, at present used, have the disadvantage of affording a lodgement for the dust of the powder, as they do not lie close upon each other, or upon the floor; on which account we think that some uniform material, of sufficient size to cover the whole floor, (such as painted floor cloth without seams) would in that respect be preferable, and would be equally free from danger by electrical excitation.

It appearing that, on account of the long Vacation, this Report had been communicated to the Board of Ordnance by the Committee.

The Council approved of that measure.

The Salaries of the two Secretaries, the Foreign Secretary, the Librarian, the Clerk and the Porter were ordered by ballot to be paid by the Treasurer.

Also that 6 Guineas be paid to D^r Gray

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for the Zenith Sector, and also had had finer wires applied in the focus of the telescope viz of about $\frac{1}{1000}$ of an inch in diameter instead of the wire used before of $\frac{1}{250}$ of an inch, by which he conceived the telescope to be considerably improved.

He also acquainted the Visitors that the Globes belonging to the Observatory 17 inches in diameter were very old and so much worn as to be unfit for use, and requested that a pair of new ones 21 inches in diameter might be supplied in their stead to the Observatory, by Mr Jones of Holborn - and the Visitors approving of the Astronomer Royal's request agreed to recommend it to the President and Council at their next Meeting.

The Astronomer Royal delivered in to the Visitors the Greenwich Observations for the year 1800 consisting of 7th Sheets of Transit, and 2th Sheets of Quadrant Observations.

Ordered That applications be made to the Board of Ordnance for the Globes requested by the Astronomer Royal.

A Report of the Committee appointed to take