

Heads of Department

	<p>Charles Cardale Babington, FRS (1808-1895) Professor of Botany 1861-1895. Babington was principally a field botanist who wrote <i>Manual of British Botany</i> (1843), <i>Flora of Cambridgeshire</i> (1860) and <i>The British Rubi</i> (1869). He was the last Professor of Botany to be appointed for life, staying in post through many illnesses until he was 87.</p>
	<p>Harry Marshall Ward, FRS (1854-1906) Professor of Botany 1896-1906. Marshall Ward was an eminent plant pathologist who gained his reputation working on coffee rust disease in Ceylon (now Sri Lanka). He revitalised Botany in Cambridge, and organised the building of the new Botany School, opened by King Edward VII in 1904, which contained laboratories for experimental work (quite an innovation at that time). His son Frank Kingdon Ward was an eminent botanical explorer and plant collector.</p>
	<p>Albert Charles Seward, FRS (1863-1941) Professor of Botany 1906-1936. Seward was a palaeobotanist who was interested in the fossil record of climate change and continental drift. He became Master of Downing College in 1915 and was knighted in 1936.</p>
	<p>Frederick Frost Blackman, FRS (1866-1947) Reader in Botany 1904-1936. Blackman was a plant physiologist with a particular interest in photosynthesis. He introduced the concept of 'limiting factors' and proposed that photosynthesis must consist of separate light and dark reactions. Eleven of his PhD students subsequently became Fellows of the Royal Society.</p>
	<p>Frederick Tom Brooks, FRS (1882-1952) Professor of Botany 1936-1948. Brooks was a mycologist and plant pathologist, mainly concerned with diseases of fruit trees, particularly silver leaf. He left most of his estate to the Department, creating the Brooks Fund.</p>
	<p>George Edward Briggs, FRS (1893-1985) Professor of Botany 1948-1960. Briggs was a plant physiologist and student of F.F. Blackman. He took an explicitly mathematical approach in several areas: he developed equations for steady-state enzyme kinetics with J.B.S. Haldane; he laid the foundations for modern 'plant growth analysis'; and he made advances in the field of multiphasic ion uptake.</p>
	<p>Harry Godwin, FRS (1901-1985) Professor of Botany 1960-1968. Godwin was a student of F.F. Blackman, but changed to field-based studies and developed the science of ecology. He pioneered studies of vegetational distribution and ecological succession, particularly at Wicken Fen, using pollen analysis. In 1948 he established the Sub-department of Quaternary Research, which included one of the first radiocarbon dating laboratories in the world. He was knighted in 1970.</p>



Percy Wragg Brian, FRS (1910-1979) Professor of Botany 1968-1977. Brian was a mycologist and student of F.T. Brooks. He worked extensively on griseofulvin and other antibiotics produced by fungi and was interested their ecological significance. He also made major contributions to studies of gibberellins.



Richard Gilbert West, FRS (1926-) Professor of Botany 1977-1991. West was a palaeobotanist and student of H. Godwin. He initiated studies of the changes occurring during interglacial periods in the Quaternary in Britain. He became Director of the Sub-department of Quaternary research in 1966.



Tom ap Rees (1930-1996) Professor of Botany 1991-1996. Tom ap Rees was a plant biochemist who was renowned for the rigorous standards he applied to his investigations of the regulation of pathways of carbon metabolism, particularly involving starch and sucrose. He pioneered the use of transgenics to investigate the control of metabolic pathways, laying the foundations of metabolomics.



Enid Anne Campbell MacRobbie, FRS (1931-) Professor of Plant Biophysics. Head of Department of Plant Sciences 1996-1998. Enid MacRobbie is a biophysicist and a pioneer of plant electrophysiology, with particular interests in the control of ion fluxes in giant algal cells and stomatal guard cells. Many of Prof MacRobbie's students and co-workers have gone on to become leaders in plant biology.



Roger Allen Leigh (1949-) Professor of Botany 1998-2006. Head of Department of Plant Sciences 1998-2003. Roger Leigh is a plant physiologist who carried out pioneering studies on plant vacuoles; He is currently head of the School of Agriculture, Food & Wine at the University of Adelaide.



John Clinton Gray (1946-) Professor of Plant Molecular Biology, Head of Department of Plant Sciences 2003-2009. John Gray is a plant biochemist and molecular biologist who studied the structure, function and biogenesis of chloroplasts, in particular how the nucleus and chloroplast cooperate to enable assembly of the photosynthetic apparatus.