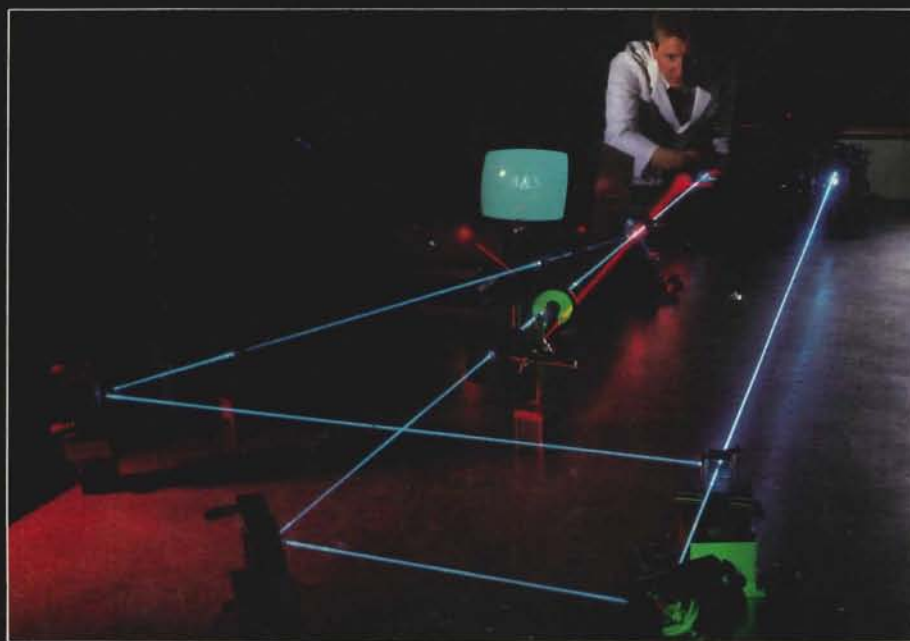


RANGE AND VISION



THE FIRST HUNDRED YEARS OF
BARR & STROUD

MICHAEL MOSS AND IAIN RUSSELL

FOREWORD BY SIR ALWYN WILLIAMS

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FOREWORD

by

Sir Alwyn Williams
Principal, University of Glasgow

At a time when British Universities are being criticised for their failure to build close links with the business community, I am delighted to write a foreword to a history of a company that has its origins so firmly in the involvement of scientists in this University in industrial innovation.

From the beginning of the Barr and Stroud partnership in 1888, Professor Barr provided the commercial drive, taking his lead from his university mentor, Professor Sir William Thomson, Lord Kelvin. The outstanding natural scientist of the late-nineteenth century, Kelvin applied his theoretical knowledge to the invention of useful devices manufactured by his own firm.

Throughout the last hundred years Barr & Stroud and this university have maintained close links, feeding off each others' expertise and experience. The company has drawn successive generations of directors and managers from universities and in return has contributed to the development of scientific and management training in the West of Scotland. Such partnerships are not unusual in Glasgow; it is just that as academics we have taken them for granted.

It is, therefore, particularly satisfying for me to congratulate Barr & Stroud on its centenary. The company's recent achievements demonstrate vividly how the results of scientific enquiry, both pure and applied, benefit product development and production techniques. This book should be required reading for policy-makers who doubt the relevance of university-based research, for those businessmen who attach little importance to building bridges with universities, and for academics who believe themselves to be part of a cloistered community.

I wish Barr & Stroud well in the future, working as it is at the very boundaries of scientific knowledge in the complex field of opto-electronics. There is no doubt in my mind that this area of expertise offers exciting potential for the development of advanced innovative products in a number of markets. The continuing success of Barr & Stroud in meeting the challenge of new technology is essential for higher education and research in the West of Scotland.

March 1988
Gilmorehill
Glasgow.