

The NIST Museum is open to official NIST visitors Monday through Friday 8:30 am to 5:00 pm. You may tour the museum on your own or contact the NIST Information Services Division (ISD) to arrange a guided tour: 301-975-3052 or [library@nist.gov](mailto:library@nist.gov).

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<http://museum.nist.gov/>

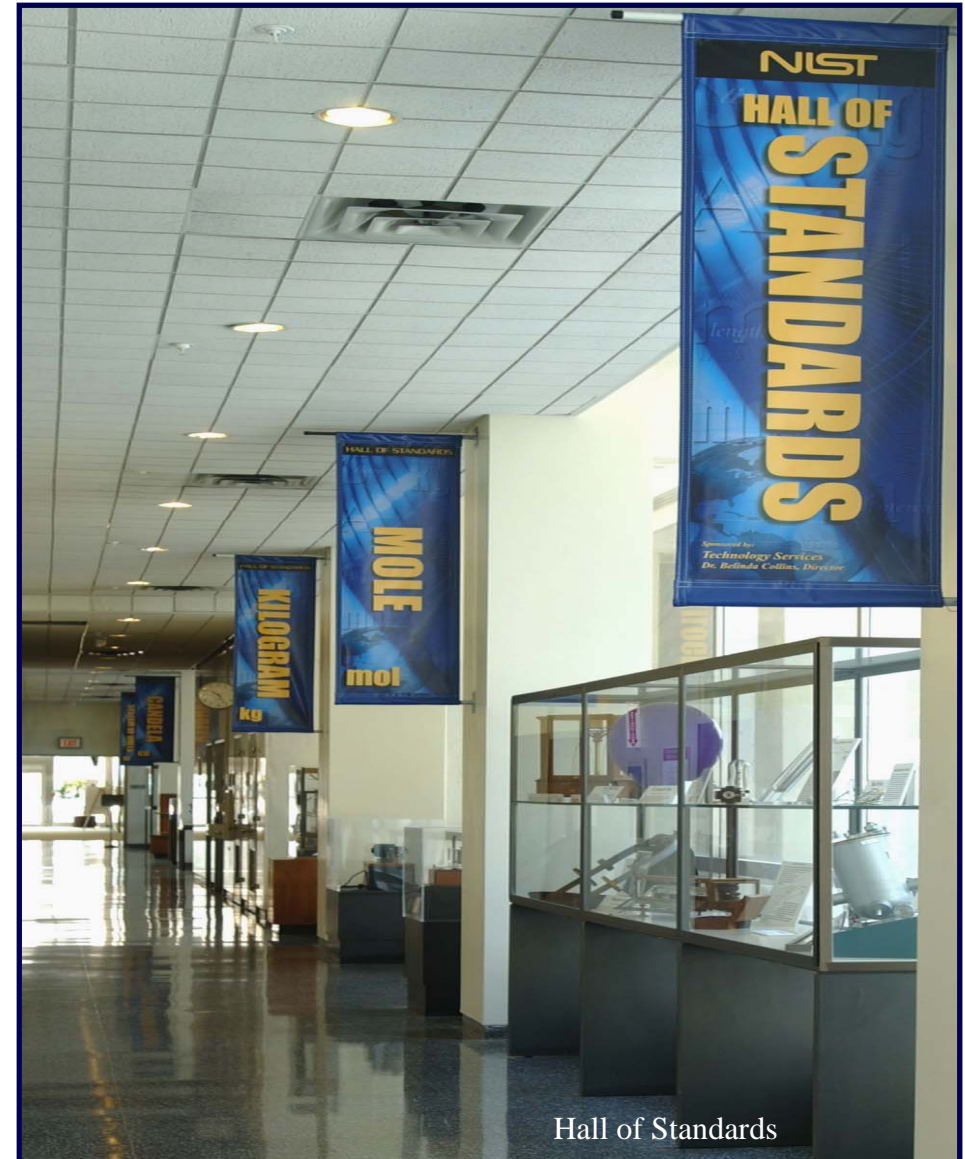


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National Institute of Standards  
and Technology  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
Technology Services  
Information Services Division

# MUSEUM

## NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF STANDARDS AND TECHNOLOGY



Hall of Standards

Since 1901, the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) has maintained increasingly more precise measures for the United States. The NIST Museum showcases many of NIST's historic achievements, information about some of NIST's notable scientists, and objects of importance to the history of metrology. The floor plan gives the locations of many of the exhibits currently on display, which may change or rotate over time. NIST also has a Virtual Museum where you can browse the exhibits electronically by visiting <http://museum.nist.gov>.

## Highlights of the NIST Museum

### Hall of Standards

The Hall of Standards contains several exhibits including the International System of Units (SI), the Beautiful Measures, and selected correspondence by Ferdinand Rudolph Hassler.

### Standard Reference Materials Exhibit

Standard Reference Materials are materials evaluated and measured by NIST that are used by industry to maintain proper instrument calibrations and quality assurance. There are over 1300 standard materials produced by NIST, such as Portland Cement, Cholesterol, and Rain Water. (*Hall of Standards*)

### Preservation of the Charters of Freedom Exhibit

In the late 1940's and again in the 1990's, NIST designed encasements to house the Charters of Freedom: the U.S. Declaration of Independence, the U.S. Constitution, and the Bill of Rights. Artifacts from both encasements are on display at the entrance to the Museum.

### Shortt Clock

The Shortt clock is the most accurate of mechanical clocks. Around 1929, NIST purchased this clock for Dr. Paul R. Heyl to use in his second determination of  $G$ , the gravitational constant.

(*Main Room*)



### The Fall of Parity Exhibit

Between Christmas of 1956 and New Year's Day 1957, the first exciting results from an experiment that showed our world is distinguishable from its mirror image. This discovery brought about the fall of parity.

### Luminous Script Signs Exhibit

NIST designed luminous script signs for display at the 1904 World's Fair in St Louis, MO. This was the first time these noble gases – argon, helium, neon, krypton, and xenon – were used for display purposes. Neon signs began to be commercially produced around 1930. (*Main Room*)

### Historical Standards

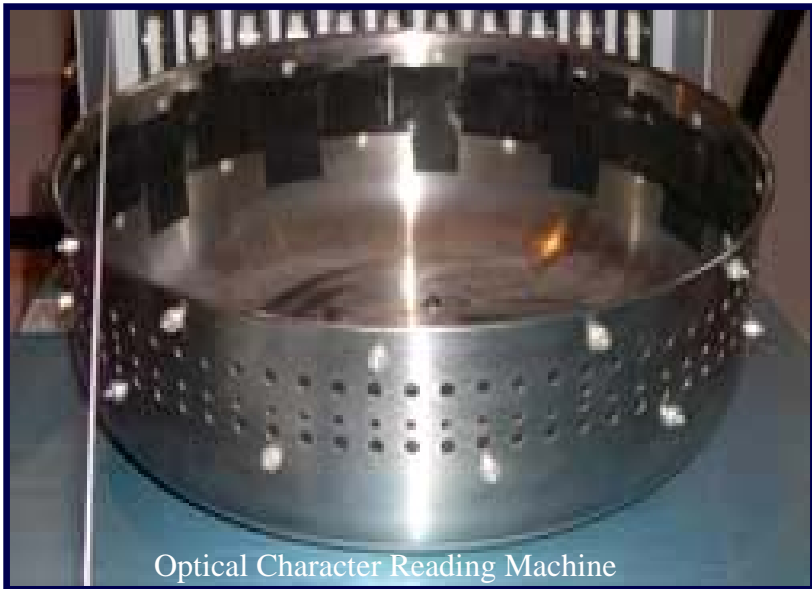
The Museum houses a variety of artifacts related to the historical development of measurement standardization in many fields. Electricity, time, temperature, and light are just a few of the areas covered. Historical weights and measures standards (length, mass, volume) are the cornerstones of the collection in the Hall of Standards. The Committee Meter and Kilogram of 1799 are on display in the Museum's Main Room.

### **Building and Fire Research Exhibit**

NIST Scientists performed research on the structural cause of the World Trade Center collapse. A piece of the steel from one of the perimeter columns from the 100th floor of the building is displayed in the Museum Lobby.

### **Jacob Rabinow Room**

Jacob Rabinow (1910-1999), a NIST engineer and prolific inventor, was inducted to the National Inventor's Hall of Fame in 2005. He patented 230 inventions, including an optical character reading machine (1954). This machine recognized printed text, automating work previously done by hand at the U.S. Postal Service, the U.S. Census Bureau, and private businesses. Many of Rabinow's inventions are on display in this room.



Optical Character Reading Machine

### **Ferdinand Rudolf Hassler Exhibits**

Ferdinand Rudolf Hassler (1770–1843) was the first Superintendent of both the U.S. Coast Survey and Office of Weights and Measures, the predecessor agency of NIST. Hassler's personal surveying instruments are on display in the Museum Lobby. The original Hassler memorial tablet is on display in the Building 101 Lobby.

### **NIST and the Nobel Display**

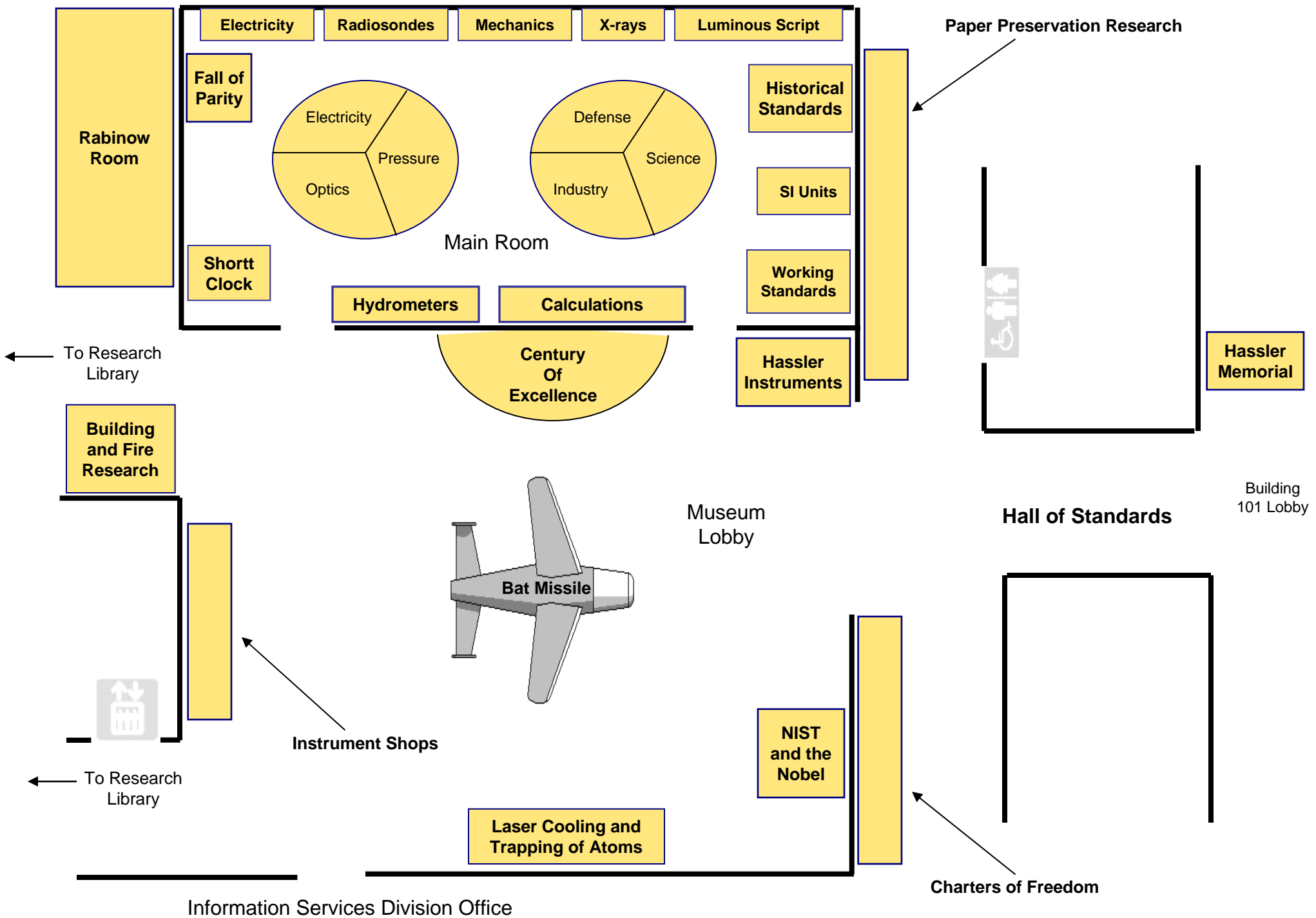
NIST scientists have won multiple Nobel Prizes in Physics. Some of the instruments used in NIST's Nobel winning research are on display in the Museum Lobby.

### **Bat Missile Exhibit**

This exhibit displays the first fully automated guided missile employed in combat. NIST developed the radar guidance system for this World War II era weapon on display in the Museum Lobby.



Renovated Model of the Bat Missile



# NIST Museum Exhibits