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Introduction

The Charter and Statutes of The City University were passed under the Great Seal of the Realm on the 23rd of May 1966. From that date The City University came into existence as a corporate body. Its immediate forerunner, the Northampton College of Advanced Technology, London, was required to continue in being for a brief spell beyond the appointed day, in connexion with property and financial matters, until it was dissolved by Act of Parliament.

Thus the new university was not essentially, an institution newly created in 1966, but a long established London College whose several generations of students had read for internal degrees of the University of London in the engineering and science faculties. Its history was entwined with that of the City Parochial Foundation, the London County Council and its successors, the Department of Education and Science, the City of London and the University of London.

As an illustration of the evolution of British institutions it is a fascinating study, as educational history it exhibits a college robust and adaptable in meeting the nation's needs for engineers over the years, developing from its own excellences and seizing new opportunities as they arose. This process has continued and accelerated under the stimulus of independent university status, in studies of relevance to the City of London as well as in engineering where there was already a soundly established tradition.

The College and University has been exceptionally fortunate in the leadership it has enjoyed from Mullineux Walmsley, Samuel Laws, Eric Richardson, James Tait and Edward Parkes, at the end of whose period at The City University the main thread of this narrative closes. Developments in the Gresham College link have, however, demanded a mention that brings us into 1979 under the Vice-Chancellorship of Dr. Raoul Franklin.

S.J. Teague.