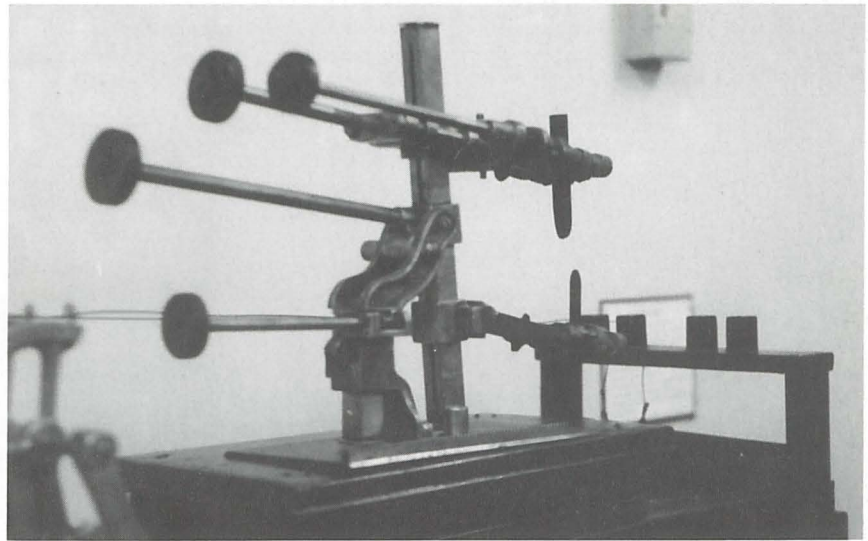


*Model of upstage part of grid with two drums.*

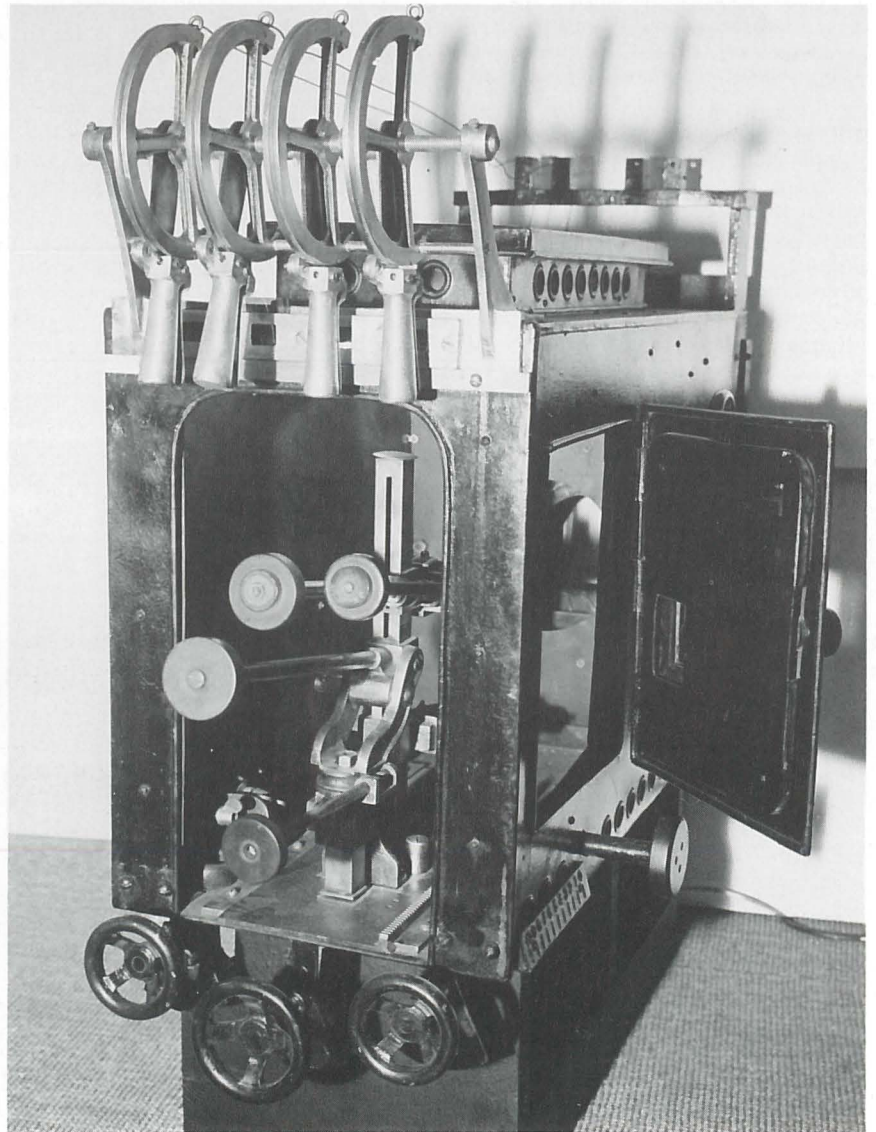
grid. In a very short time we found the drawings were incorrect in some detail aspects. So we re-measured and set about making a model of the upstage drums and shafts. As only one student was working on this part of the project half the grid seemed more than enough. As you can see from the illustration there are many bits of wood in a grid! Again this is an area where some extension of the work could take place especially as some of the support detailing downstage is quite interesting. However the plans for the redevelopment of the theatre entail the removal of the wooden grid to make way for a modern counterweight system. As this is written, plans for the building works are being made and we now hope that we will be able to get there in time to complete this part of the work.

Running parallel to the work on the machinery models we have also started a collection of old lighting artefacts. It must be said that Central School had the beginnings ready to hand! What we do here is completely strip down each unit, and as appropriate, paint or polish each part before reassembly and wiring. Cannibalising enables complete instruments to be made up.

In this part of the work there is the added factor of detective work. A lot of pre-war manufacturers either made equipment on behalf of others or didn't put labels on so identity is not easy to establish. Our one real success was with an arc-lamp retrieved from the Bradford Alhambra. It was completely covered in dirt of all kinds, including organic! No name, or serial number appeared during cleaning. However by a process of diligence and one slice of luck we tracked it back to R. R. Beard Ltd., who no



*The Mechanism of the R.R. Beard Arc Spot (1930). The mechanism made primarily of brass is mounted on a flat bed which sits within the outer sheet steel casing. The rotatable knobs on the left controlled both the alignment of the carbons on the right and could move them together to the left or right. One control function is missing which could raise and lower the burning point to the centre of the lens.*



*Restored Arc Lamp built by R. R. Beard circa 1930. The wheels at the bottom of the casing controlled horizontal and vertical shutters and an iris. The four handles at the top of the picture are attached to wires running across the top of the lantern and down to colour frames hung above the lens at the front. Raising the appropriate handle will lower the required one of four colours into the operative position.*