



## Dennis Gabor

1900-1979

Dennis Gabor was a Hungarian electrical engineer whose most notable accomplishment was the invention of holography. After earning his university degrees in Berlin, Gabor fled Nazi Germany in 1933 and landed a job in the United Kingdom with the British Thomson-Houston Company. While much of his early work there focused on communication theory, he also developed a system of stereoscopic cinematography, and while attempting to improve the performance of the electron microscope in 1948 he carried out the first basic experiments in holography, which he called "wavefront reconstruction." Gabor later stated that he felt his work in this area was "20 years too early," since a practical demonstration of holography was not possible until the invention of the laser in the early 1960's. In 1949 Gabor joined the Imperial College of Science & Technology in London, first as a Reader in Electronics, later as Professor of Applied Electron Physics. While there, he led the development of imaging devices such as a holographic microscope and a flat, thin, [colour] color television tube. Gabor eventually received patents on over 100 inventions. In 1971 he was awarded the Nobel Prize in physics for his pioneering work in holography.