In this chatty style, Count Rumford began to describe in 1797 his discovery of the thermal current in fluids. His first observations of convection currents were accidental, as he watched the behavior of the contents of the bore of a large thermometer he was using in an experiment:

I saw the whole mass of the liquid in the tube in a most rapid motion running swiftly in two opposite directions, up and down at the same time. The bulb of the thermometer, which is of copper, had been made two years before I found leisure to begin my experiments, and having been