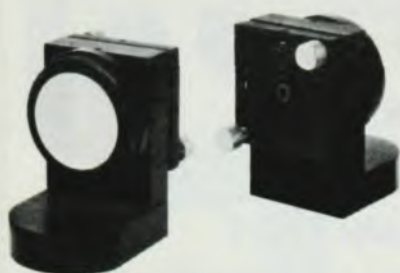


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Zero charge for Earth?

In a letter in the November issue (page 11) R. Burman puts the negative surface charge of the Earth at around 10^{15} esu. This is erroneous, and it also is not the most interesting problem related to the electric charge of the Earth. Burman obviously arrives at his number by multiplying the average surface charge of the solid Earth in fair-weather regions of 1 nanocoulomb per square meter by the total surface of the Earth. The generally accepted fact is, of course, that this negative surface charge in fair-weather areas is nearly or totally cancelled by the positive charge in many of the disturbed weather areas, especially under thunderstorms, so that the total charge of the solid Earth is zero. The interesting question is, however, whether or not Earth with its atmosphere carries a net charge and what it might be—a question we cannot answer by measurements from within.

HANS DOLEZALEK

International Commission on
Atmospheric Electricity
Alexandria, Va.

Hugh Dryden papers

Over the past 22 months the Milton S. Eisenhower Library of the Johns Hopkins University has been collecting and collating the papers of the late Hugh L. Dryden (1898–1965), who was the aerodynamicist in the National Bureau of Standards, 1919–1947, director of the old National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics (NACA), 1947–58, and deputy director of NASA, 1958–65.

His papers have been located at Johns Hopkins at the request of Mrs Hugh Dryden because Hugh Dryden was a Hopkins graduate. He received his PhD in mathematics and physics from Hopkins in 1919 when he was 20 years old.

The *Basic Collection* of the Dryden Papers is now complete. An archival system is now ready to receive all other letters, memoranda, notes, reports, photographs and other forms of docu-

CHAIR OF EXPERIMENTAL PHYSICS

Applications are invited for a newly-established Chair of Experimental Physics at the University of Trondheim. For administrative purposes the chair will be attached to the College of Arts and Science until the basic structure of subjects and administration at the University has been determined in more detail.

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The professor is appointed on the understanding that he takes part in teaching and examinations according to the system which is valid at the time. This includes giving guidance to students taking the major (hovedfag) and licentiate degrees. He must accept without compensation any changes which may be made by law or by the King with the approval of the Norwegian Parliament concerning duties, pension and retiring age.

Details of the field covered by the chair and the duties involved can be obtained from the University of Trondheim, Interimstyre, Holtermannsvn. 1, 7000 Trondheim, Norway.

Salary Grade 4 on the Norwegian salary scale for senior posts, N. kr. 87,290, - p.a. Of this amount N. kr. 1,573,- is a compulsory contribution to the National Pension Scheme.

Candidates must submit the following papers to the University of Trondheim, Interimstyre, Holtermannsvn. 1, 7000 Trondheim, Norway, up to one month after the final date of application: 5 complete sets of the published or unpublished scholarly work which they wish to be considered; 6 copies of a list of their work stating date and place of publication; and 5 copies of their application and of any enclosures. Scholarly work which is uncompleted by the final date of application, may however be sent in up to three months after the final date of application, provided the candidate gives notice of his intention to do this when sending in the other work.

A satisfactory health certificate will be required before the final appointment is made.

Applications, including certified copies of testimonials and full details of education, professional and teaching career, should be addressed to the King and sent to the University of Trondheim, Interimstyre, Holtermannsvn. 1, 7000 Trondheim, Norway, by July 20, 1973.

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