

heavily involved in the experiments, observations or analysis. Thus they are highly able specialists in their fields writing primarily for their peers, as is usual in scientific journals. They make no concessions to the "popular" reader in terms of nomenclature or mathematical theory. On the other hand the editor provides in each volume comprehensive lists of names, acronyms and abbreviations.

In spite of the above caveats, the amateur or serious student with a modest technical background should find much of the material comprehensible and enlightening. Unfortunately, the format of most of the chapters does not follow the standard form for scientific papers, which usually consist of an abstract, introduction, content and conclusions or discussions. The tyro can consult the editor's introduction to each volume to ascertain the general contents of each chapter to make a rational choice for serious reading. For skimming, most of the chapters do end with summaries, conclusions or discussions.

Of the 39 chapters, 31 are devoted to the direct scientific results from the space missions, ground-based observations and airborne or rocket studies. The editor includes two introductory chapters in the first volume for a presentation of the superb international cooperation and organization that led to the great success of the research. The lack of such organization during the 1910 apparition of Halley's comet led to a dissipation of much of the observational material. The most complete but still only partial analysis was delayed until the later 1920s; this took place at Berkeley, while I was there as a graduate student in astronomy. In fact that study by the late N. T. Bobrovnikoff helped to arouse my own interest in comets.

At the end of the second volume, the editor includes six chapters on evolution and orbital motion. The addition of the historical, organizational and theoretical chapters rounds out the presentations to provide the reader with a broad view not only of the present status of cometary research but of its past and future. In particular, the International Halley Watch program is about to issue an enormous compilation of the observational data assembled from all the programs encouraged and organized through its efforts. As a consequence, many more scientific results can be expected.

The editor went to great effort and was successful in maintaining the uniformity and quality in the writing

and the intelligibility of presentations by authors of many nationalities. As he notes, he also attempted (with success, I think) to minimize unnecessary overlap between the chapters of each section and to allow the authors to make clear their diverse opinions or conclusions. The publisher succeeded admirably in producing two beautifully constructed volumes with many illustrations, including several

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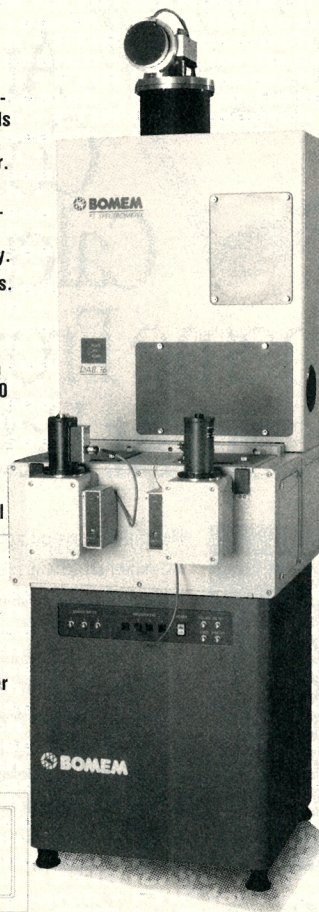
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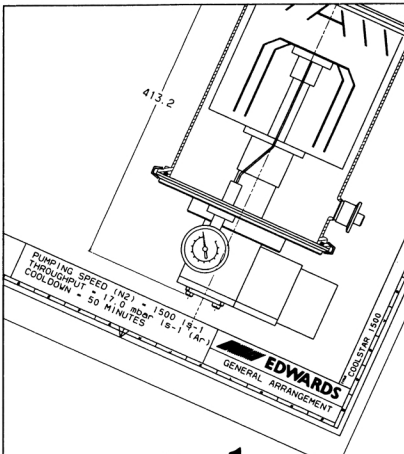
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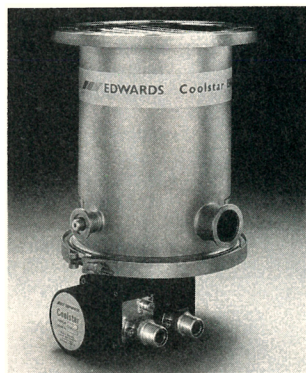
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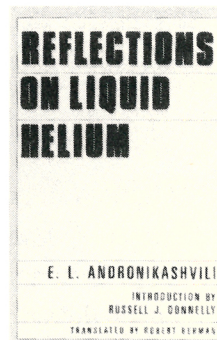
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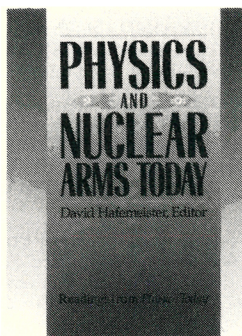
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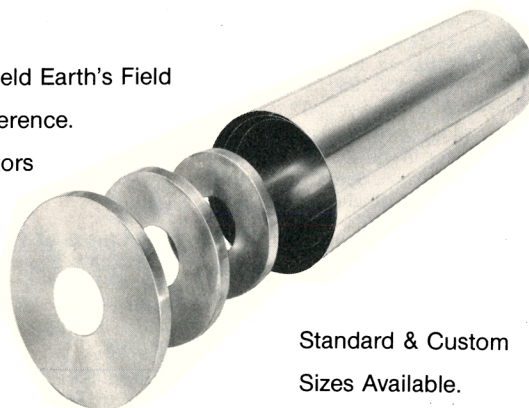
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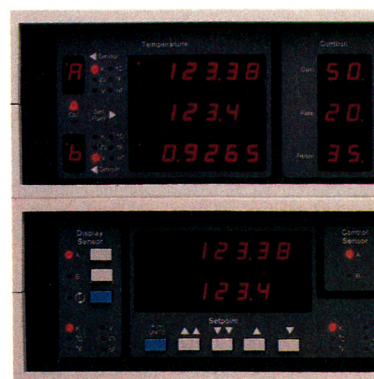
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