

way. He retired at the age of 70.

Odd Dahl was a remarkable personality. He accepted only challenging tasks, and his intuition never failed him. Although many considered him daring, he proved able to complete what he took on.

He was very inspiring to work for and with. He created well-integrated teams in which each member nevertheless had considerable freedom. It was a privilege and a pleasure to work with Odd Dahl.

KJELL JOHNSEN
CERN

Geneva, Switzerland

Willem J. Luyten

Internationally known astronomer Willem J. Luyten died at his home in Minneapolis on 21 November 1994, at the age of 95. Luyten was best known for his extensive and fundamental work on stellar motions, white dwarfs and the stellar luminosity function. He was born in Samarang, Java, and became interested in astronomy when he saw Comet Halley in 1910.

Luyten was educated at the Universities of Amsterdam and Leiden, where he earned his BA and PhD, and he came to the US in 1921. In 1931 he joined the faculty of the University of Minnesota, where he would spend his entire academic career and where he was often a one-man astronomy department. He became professor emeritus in 1967.

Luyten produced the Bruce and Palomar proper-motion surveys that generated fundamental data on positions and motions for hundreds of thousands of stars. In the mid-1960s, at the beginning of the now-famous Luyten-Palomar proper-motion survey, he recognized that this major survey, covering two-thirds of the sky, would be a formidable task that could not be accomplished in one senior astronomer's remaining years. To remedy this situation he proposed an automated measuring machine, completely computer controlled. Funded by NASA, the "blink machine" was built by engineers at Control Data Corporation and dedicated in 1970. It is still in use today in the Minnesota astronomy department.

Luyten was well known for his dedication to detail, his insight into fundamental astronomical problems, and his wit and humor.

ROBERTA HUMPHREYS
*University of Minnesota
Minneapolis, Minnesota*

Edward A. Mason

Edward A. Mason, emeritus professor of chemistry and engineering at Brown University, died on 27 October 1994, after the initially promising therapy for his cancer ultimately did not succeed. He was 68.

After receiving his BS at the Virginia Polytechnic Institute (1947) and his PhD in chemistry from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (1951), Ed was a research fellow at the University of Wisconsin, Madison (1952-53); an assistant professor of chemistry at Pennsylvania State University (1953-55); and a professor of molecular physics at the University of Maryland (1955-67). He came to Brown in 1967.

As a result of the post-Sputnik interest in the upper atmosphere, Ed set out to predict transport properties of gases at high temperatures and low pressures. These calculations required accurate interaction energies for atoms and molecules. With his colleague Joseph T. Vanderslice, Ed developed an elegant and simple method for obtaining these energies from spectroscopic data.

Ed developed the first usable, quantitative treatments of the transport properties of molecular gases, for which he showed the importance of the internal degrees of freedom and inelastic collisions, particularly in thermal conductivity. By recognizing that the methods of classical kinetic theory break down at high electric field strengths, he was able to give the first accurate account of the motion of ions in gases under the influence of these fields, a problem that had been unsolved for 50 years.

This solution has been significant in interpreting experiments in drift tables and collision-dominated ion-cyclotron resonance. His contributions to transport theory are widely used by engineers concerned with gas transport in porous media; his general statistical mechanical theory of transport through membranes includes, corrects and extends all previous treatments. Recently he had found a compact, analytical equation of state for dense fluids that is simple, general and remarkably accurate—something that had been sought without success since the time of van der Waals.

Ed set an example for all who knew him: He helped us to be careful, to be honest and to do things the right way. We miss him.

PEDER J. ESTRUP
EDWARD F. GREENE
*Brown University
Providence, Rhode Island ■*



“
There are
many,

many complexities...but
one doesn't have to cope
with them all the time and
understand them in order
to make progress.”

—**Frances E. Allen**,
President of the IBM
Academy of Technology

From an interview in the
March/April 1995 issue

Computers in Physics

**Compelling
interviews
in every issue**

\$50 per year for individuals in the U.S.
Call 1-800-344-6902
to order, request a sample issue, or for
institutional, non-U.S., and AIP Member
Society subscription rates, or e-mail:
mktg@aip.org.

**AMERICAN
INSTITUTE
OF PHYSICS**

Computers in Physics
Your most powerful peripheral.