

Newcomb monument in Nova Scotia

I enjoyed the article "Simon Newcomb, America's First Great Astronomer" by Bill Carter and Merri Sue Carter (PHYSICS TODAY, February 2009, page 46). The authors mentioned that Newcomb was Canadian born; more specifically, he was born in Wallace Bridge, Nova Scotia, only a few kilometers from Pugwash, the initial site of the well-known Pugwash Conferences. An official national monument to Newcomb (see photo of plaque) stands at the side of the road near his birthplace.¹ The last time I checked, the nearby community museum in Wallace had a corner devoted to Newcomb.

Unfortunately, Newcomb did not have fond memories of his early life in Nova Scotia; nonetheless, Canadians have honored him: With the annual Simon Newcomb Award, the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada recognizes members who excel in astronomy writing for the public.² When I received the award in 1986 for an article I wrote on inferior conjunctions of Venus,³ I was not then aware that Newcomb had been intimately involved with observing transits of Venus.

In 2008 Newcomb was inducted into the Hall of Fame of the Discovery Centre, Nova Scotia's hands-on science center. So, employing the broader sense of the word "American," Canadians join with their US colleagues in honoring Simon Newcomb, America's first great astronomer.

References

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the consensus is that overdoped samples are BCS-like.

References

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Sá de Melo replies: I thank D. M. Eagles for his comments. My statement concerning the evolution from Bardeen-Cooper-Schrieffer to Bose-

Einstein condensation superfluids was about clarity and not who was the first to propose the idea. Although I appreciate Eagles's work, I still think that Anthony Leggett's papers¹ are the clearest presentation on the topic up to 1980.

In his very interesting book written in 1964, John Blatt describes the BEC theory of superconductivity and its relation to the BCS theory.² As he recounts, the possibility of pairing without superconductivity and Bose condensation of electron pairs at a lower temperature was suggested as early as 1946 by Richard Ogg Jr. In 1954 and subsequent years, Max Schafroth developed a firm theoretical framework for such pairing, but it was not supported by experimental evidence: No pre-formed pairs were found, and the BEC

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