

Robert Andrew Millikan

(1868 - 1953)

Ph.D. Columbia 1895 ²

Dissertation: A study of the polarization of the light emitted by incandescent solid and liquid surfaces. ²

1923 Nobel Prize in Physics "for his work on the elementary charge of electricity and on the photoelectric effect" ⁶

Advisor: Ogden Nicholas Rood ^{2,4}

Students: Donald Holt Loughridge ⁵
Robley Dunglison Evans ^{1,7}

Notes:

¹ Evans, R. D. New precision technique for removing radioactive emanations from matter, and for measuring minute quantities of radon and thoron. Ph.D. Thesis, California Institute of Technology, 1932.

"It is a pleasure to tender to Professor R. A. Millikan my best thanks for suggesting this problem and for his sustained interest during the course of the investigations."

² Millikan, R. A. A study of the polarization of the light emitted by incandescent solid and liquid surfaces. Ph.D. Thesis, Columbia University, 1895. (This appeared in *Phys. Rev.* **1895**, 3(14), 81-192.)

"In conclusion, I will add that this investigation was suggested to me by Professor Rood, and I wish here to express my thanks to him,..."

³ Email communication with Lalla Grimes, Administrative Coordinator, Columbia Physics Dept. (9 Oct 2001).

RA Millikan was the first Ph.D. graduate of the Columbia Physics dept and there is no record of his research sponsor.

⁴ Millikan, R.A. *Autobiography of Robert Andrew Millikan*. New York: Prentice-Hall, 1950, p 20.

Ogden N. Rood was the advisor.

- ⁵ Loughridge, D. H. A determination by the cloud expansion method of the direction of emission of b-rays produced by x-rays. Ph.D. Thesis, California Institute of Technology, 1927.
"In conclusion I desire to express my warm appreciation for the inspiration and guidance given me during the progress of this work by Professor R.A. Millikan;..."
- ⁶ Physics 1923. http://nobelprize.org/nobel_prizes/physics/laureates/1923/. (accessed 19 April 2007).
- ⁷ Chang, Sooyoung. *Academic Genealogy of Physicists*. Seoul National University Press: Seoul, Korea, 2005.
Says Millikan's advisors were A.A. Michelson and M.I. Pupin.