



THE AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF

Robert A. Millikan

Dean of American Scientists

Pioneer in Atomic Physics

Winner of the Nobel Prize

The Autobiography Of Robert A Millikan

Chao Zhang



The Autobiography Of Robert A Millikan:

The Autobiography of Robert A. Millikan Robert Andrews Millikan,1980 [The Autobiography of Robert A. Millikan](#)
Robert Andrews Millikan,2013-08 [The Autobiography of Robert A. Millikan, Etc. \[With a Portrait.\]](#). Robert Andrews
Millikan,1951 *The Autobiography of Robert A. Millikan. Foreword by Sir George Thomson,...* Robert Andrews
Millikan,1951 *The Autobiography of Robert Andrews Millikan* Robert Andrews Millikan,1950 **The Autobiography of
Robert A. Millikan** Robert Andrews Millikan (Physicist, United States),1950 *The Rise of Robert Millikan: Portrait of a
Life in American Science* Robert H. Kargon,2020-11-08 I do not consider myself to be Robert Millikan s biographer This book
is not a full record of Millikan s life or even of his scientific career It is an essay very selective on themes that are illustrated
and illuminated by Millikan s life in American science It is as well a portrait of the development of a scientist Robert Millikan
was among the most famous of American scientists to the public of the 1920s Millikan represented science The first
American born physicist to win the Nobel Prize Millikan was a leader in the application of scientific research to military
problems during World War I and a guiding force in the rise of the California Institute of Technology to a preeminent place in
American scientific education and research His life is therefore peculiarly suited to illuminate and provide texture for the
vast changes that have taken place in science during the twentieth century In this extended essay I employ the biographical
mode to explore several important aspects of this theme Millikan was successively a teacher researcher administrator
entrepreneur and sage By describing the novel roles that he assumed I suggest how science grew in complexity and carved
out an essential place for itself in our general culture Robert H Kargon from the Preface of *The Rise of Robert Millikan
Portrait of a Life in American Science* Professor Kargon has given us a sympathetic account of Millikan s scientific career
including his great triumphs his rearguard actions to defend untenable positions and the eventual rejection or revision of
every major result or standpoint But he is more concerned with Millikan s influence on the developing American physics
community and with Millikan s role in advancing American science generally and American higher education Together with
the chemist A P Noyes and the astronomer G E Hale Millikan believed in an American scientific destiny This picture of
American science is presented with great insight tremendous learning and wit Professor Kargon s book strikes a happy
balance between being an interpretive story of a scientific life and a social history of science in America Every reader
interested in science or in the place of science in society will come away from this book with new information important
insights and a better understanding of the growth of scientific ideas and institutions in the twentieth century I Bernard
Cohen *Nature* With the publication of this volume by Kargon readers now have new and valuable access to much material
about Millikan that was previously unavailable Kargon states that he is not writing a biography of Millikan but rather a
portrait of the man and the scientific scene in early 20th century America he has succeeded well in this endeavor the book is
well written and readers who are already reasonably conversant with 20th century developments in physics will find much

that is illuminating a genuine contribution to the history of science Katherine R Sopka American Scientist Here is an admirable piece of work Kargon has not sought to make his readers like his subject but only to understand his scientific style his achievements and his character and to perceive how his life was a microcosm of new roles assumed by the scientist during the course of the twentieth century Kargon's insights are important and his book is deserving of a careful study Robert C Post The American Historical Review A useful corrective to Millikan's self portrait that reveals some of the blemishes as well as the embellishments of an important life in American science Robert W Seidel Science For over thirty years the only overview of Millikan's life available to the layman was his own selective autobiography That book either omitted or told only one side sometimes biased by hindsight of many important controversial episodes associated with his achievements and views Kargon's portrait essay deals with some of these neglected incidents in a well written and coherent manner aimed at a wide readership John L Michel Technology and Culture A very readable work with the virtue of containing a great deal of information in a brief compass Kargon's book deserves and will receive a wide audience as the successor to its subject's autobiography Kargon also merits credit for interesting discussions on Millikan as a statesman administrator and spokesman for science a clearly first rate narrative Nathan Reingold Isis Admirably Kargon combines institutional with intellectual history Kargon offers a fascinating discussion of Millikan's and George Hale's contributions to war research the California Institute of Technology and the Mount Wilson Observatory Kargon rightly stresses the collaborator's links with the leaders of finance and industry developing Los Angeles as a brief sketch of Millikan the scientific institution builder Kargon's book deserves the wide audience he seeks Peter Galison The Journal of American History The book leaves us in no doubt about Millikan's ability but does not gloss over his occasional obstinacy or his wishful thinking about past errors matters on which some histories tend to be silent Millikan was not a revolutionary who started new ideas but the author stresses rightly the importance of men like him for the progress of science Rudolf Peierls The New York Review of Books A gem of a book thought provoking insightful highly interesting reading Lawrence Badash University of California Santa Barbara The author skillfully weaves the story of Millikan with the story of modern science in a book that will be well received by a variety of audiences from professional historians of science to the general public Choice Kargon's background in physics serves him well in placing Millikan's work in its theoretical context in the analysis of the work itself and in generally managing to capture both the intense excitement and the routine involved in testing the ideas of the giants of that period in physics Kargon has certainly opened enough questions in this perceptive work in addition to the large number that he has settled and he has demonstrated an important use for the biographical mode The general American historian as well as the historian of science can profit from reading this volume George H Daniels The Historian Robert Millikan's scientific career his character and his roles as teacher administrator at the California Institute of Technology entrepreneur and public figure are the topics covered in this biography Even in discussing Millikan's later decline as a front line scientist author Robert Kargon treats the

scientist with compassion and fairness and portrays him as a many faceted often controversial man with doubts and uncertainties at the height of his fame The high school physics student will find this book engaging and insightful in its description of a scientist struggling with science self and society A Cordell Perkes The Science Teacher V ery well researched and written Robert Kargon gives an excellent picture of the rise of American physics from the years when every aspiring young American physicist wanted to go to Germany to study to the years when every aspiring young European physicist wanted to come to the United States for the same purpose He clearly understands science yet knows how to present its history so that it is interesting and meaningful to non scientists He tells not only of Millikan s triumphs but of his doubts as well of his discoveries and also of his mistakes All in all this is an excellent book strongly recommended to the reader who is interested in the history of American science and in the life of an outstanding practitioner of it Donald E Osterbrock The Wisconsin Magazine of History Millikan's School: A History of the California Institute of Technology Judith

Goodstein,2020-10-19 In November 1891 wealthy former abolitionist and Chicago politician Amos Throop founded a thoroughly undistinguished small college in Pasadena California which he named after himself Millikan s School is the history of this institution that stands today at the pinnacle of world academics with 300 full time faculty nearly 1 000 undergraduate 1 250 graduate students and 39 Caltech and alumni Nobel Prize recipients Although Amos Throop the name of the college was changed to Caltech in 1920 could not have realized the importance of geography the fact that Pasadena lay at the foot of Mount Wilson was central to its success astronomer George Ellery Hale built his telescope there in 1902 the finest at that time in the world Later Hale joined the board of trustees of the struggling school and persuaded Arthur Amos Noyes former president of MIT and the nation s leading physical chemist to join him in Pasadena The third member of Caltech s founding troika was renowned physicist Robert A Millikan from the University of Chicago The dedication of Caltech in 1920 and the proclamation of what it stood for in science and education set the stage for Millikan who functioned as the school s president to bring the best and the brightest from all over the world Theodore von K r m n in aeronautics Thomas Hunt Morgan in biology Paul Sophus Epstein in physics Beno Gutenberg in seismology Linus Pauling in chemistry to Pasadena to work in an ever larger number of areas in science and technology The book also covers the funding planning and construction of the 200 inch telescope on Palomar Mountain Willy Fowler s work in nuclear astrophysics and the wartime rocket experiments that grew into the Jet Propulsion Laboratory JPL today the world leader in deep space exploration Millikan s School presents an interesting and thoroughly reliable account of the astonishing change over a period of a few years of a small technical school in Pasadena California into one of the world s leading scientific institutions Linus Pauling In Millikan s School Judith Goodstein tells the remarkable story of the rise of Caltech She details how Millikan aided by Hale and Arthur Amos Noyes America s leading physical chemist and another of Hale s inspired acquisitions took a former trade school and forged from it a grandiose university among the orange groves It would be impossible while reading Goodstein s lively account not to be

impressed by the energy drive and boundless enthusiasm of men like Millikan Hale and Noyes who had the bare faced audacity to set about building an institute to rival the cream of the universities of Europe and America Marcus Chown New Scientist Goodstein's story is first and foremost the tale of three men the astronomer George Ellery Hale the chemist Alfred Noyes and the physicist Robert Millikan It is the story of their attempts to transform an undistinguished little school founded in 1891 into a world class scientific establishment A useful book Tony Rothman Science In Millikan's School the story of Throop University's transformation into Caltech is told with precision Judith Goodstein's history offers a quick tour of the landmarks of science in the mid 20th Century and a glance at how pure science puts itself at the service of government commerce and the military Goodstein approaches her subject with a healthy sense of humor and an acute sense of academic politics She tells a wonderful story about how Caltech lost to Princeton in a bidding war over the services of Albert Einstein for example To her credit Goodstein asks the hard question What is the best way to do science Millikan's School offers enough hard data to enable us to come to our own conclusions Jonathan Kirsch Los Angeles Times A cleanly written scientifically well informed account of one of the world's foremost institutions for science and technology Ed Regis Nature Relying on archival material published secondary sources and interviews with institute scientists Goodstein presents a highly readable account of Caltech's beginnings at the turn of the century substantive informative and a good read Rebecca S Lowen Technology and Culture As a history of science this book is well crafted Orderly in its flow it is not only a tribute to Millikan but also places him within the development of physics as a field Andrew Rolle Southern California Quarterly A fascinating history that speaks to issues far larger than Cal Tech itself This well written and honest account witness the many cited instances of anti-Semitism in the scientific world is both a good read and a sobering reminder that big science and top schools are not brought by storks Carroll Pursell History of Education Quarterly The author focuses on the personalities and the research fields of the principal scientific figures The emphasis on personalities and capsule surveys of relevant scientific fields produce a book that can be apprehended by a wide audience Roger Geiger Isis This chronicle offers glimpses of the passion and drive that have motivated a roster of distinguished scientists Publishers Weekly A lively tale Goodstein's individual profiles are lean and candid her background on subjects as diverse as nuclear astrophysics seismology aeronautical design quantum mechanics and rocket fuel are crisp and understandable With a light style and meticulous documentation Goodstein has produced a tale worthy of her subject Marshall Robinson Foundation News A distinguished and uniquely American institution has found its chronicler and its chronicle in Judith Goodstein's thorough but compact story of Millikan's School The emergence of Caltech as a powerhouse of science and engineering and a makeweight in the technological advancement of 20th century industry is both beautifully and reliably presented Harry Woolf Institute for Advanced Study Princeton University *A Short History of Physics in the American Century* David C. Cassidy, 2011-10-24 As the twentieth century drew to a close computers the Internet and nanotechnology were central to modern American life Yet

the advances in physics underlying these applications are poorly understood and widely underappreciated by U S citizens today In this concise overview David C Cassidy sharpens our perspective on modern physics by viewing this foundational science through the lens of America s engagement with the political events of a tumultuous century American physics first stirred in the 1890s around the time x rays and radioactivity were discovered in Germany with the founding of graduate schools on the German model Yet American research lagged behind the great European laboratories until highly effective domestic policies together with the exodus of physicists from fascist countries brought the nation into the first ranks of world research in the 1930s The creation of the atomic bomb and radar during World War II ensured lavish government support for particle physics along with computation solid state physics and military communication These advances facilitated space exploration and led to the global expansion of the Internet Well into the 1960s physicists bolstered the United States international status and the nation repaid the favor through massive outlays of federal military and philanthropic funding But gradually America relinquished its postwar commitment to scientific leadership and the nation found itself struggling to maintain a competitive edge in science education and research Today American physicists relying primarily on industrial funding must compete with smaller scrappier nations intent on writing their own brief history of physics in the twenty first century

The Master of Light: A Biography of Albert A. Michelson Dorothy Michelson Livingston, 2021-01-14 In this biography of Albert A Michelson 1852 1931 his daughter shares personal reminiscences describes her father s family life two wives six children and a strong temperament and follows Michelson from his birth in Poland to Jewish parents to the United States where his parents brought him at the age of three settling in a gold rush town in Nevada and then in San Francisco Michelson graduated from the US Naval Academy in 1873 studied in Europe taught at Clark University and was head of the department of physics at the University of Chicago from 1894 to 1929 Michelson s passion was the accurate measurement of the speed of light In his first experiment he found it to be 186 320 miles per second which remained the best value available for a generation until Michelson himself bettered it He also invented the interferometer to measure distances using the length of light waves he measured the meter using the wavelength of cadmium light for the International Bureau of Weights and Measures in Paris and he used light interference to determine the size of stars With E W Morley he showed that the absolute motion of the earth through the ether is not measurable contributing to the development of the theory of relativity The first American to receive a Nobel prize in science Michelson received the Nobel prize in physics in 1907 for his optical precision instruments and for the spectroscopic and metrological investigations he made with them This work of a devoted daughter who is not herself a scientist catches the humanity of a complex brilliant man through anecdotes and informed detail The New York Times From personal recollection from much reading and from interviews Mrs Livingston has written a well organized scientific biography of her father In this book the author has attempted not only to discuss his scientific achievements but also to portray Michelson the man his personality and character strengths and foibles He was dedicated

but demanding and could be arrogant strict and severe This book portrays Michelson not as a legend but as a real believable person John N Howard Science A beautiful family portrait of Albert Abraham Michelson America's first Nobel laureate for science This biography is more than an intellectual exercise more than merely of academic or scientific or historical interest It is almost a religious work that begins with a quest for my father and ends with a postscript on Michelson's honors and continuing influence an intelligently organized emotionally motivated intellectually controlled search for meaning in the life and works of a great man of science Michelson's youngest daughter by his second marriage has presented a sensitive artful honest and superbly readable portrait of her father which paints the full life personal relations and human figure of Michelson in a form that is a worthy monument to his memory We learn to know much more intimately where Michelson originated how he matured who recognized and helped him what personal influences shaped his life when and where his own exertions were influential in shaping the life of physics in the United States and the world the author has been remarkably judicious and meticulous in handling her material Loyd S Swenson Jr Isis A non physicist herself the author has relied heavily on physicists who were familiar with her father's work and with the field of optics in general as well as archivists historians of science writers and editors Thus this thorough biography is the fortunate combination of the efforts of many people resulting in a valuable reference work as well as a very readable story about one of America's greatest scientists Its merit lies in the masterful way the author has melded voluminous information from many sources into a sensitive and realistic portrait of Michelson showing him as a very real person with strengths and weaknesses and showing his relation to scientists and the science of his period It is a book well written and well worth reading by physicists and non physicists alike Jean M Bennett Physics Today Mrs Livingston Michelson's last child by his second wife is as she says neither a physicist nor a writer Her book nonetheless has something for both the general reader and the specialist The former will find an interesting and even adventurous life the latter some gems from unpublished correspondence J L Heilbron The British Journal for the History of Science The biography is a well researched accurate and reliable work enhanced by the author's invaluable first hand experience with the subject Michelson's achievements are set against his personal life including his family relationships to other scientists and the struggles which inevitably develop in establishing a college science department George T Ladd The Science Teacher This excellent biography by Michelson's youngest daughter is a judicious mixture of anecdotes and details of the scientific achievements Dorothy Livingston is to be congratulated on this very readable and informative biography of her talented father W W Watson American Scientist An admirable biography of Michelson the man most fascinating David R Topper Technology and Culture

History of the Naval Weapons Center, China Lake, California ,1971 **History of the Naval Weapons Center, China Lake, California: Sailors, scientists, and rockets; origins of the Navy rocket program and of the Naval Ordnance Test Station, Inyokern ,1971** **Reader's Guide to the History of Science** Arne Hessenbruch,2013-12-16 The Reader's Guide to the History of Science looks at the literature of science in some 550 entries

on individuals Einstein institutions and disciplines Mathematics general themes Romantic Science and central concepts Paradigm and Fact The history of science is construed widely to include the history of medicine and technology as is reflected in the range of disciplines from which the international team of 200 contributors are drawn **Protestant Modernist Pamphlets** Edward B. Davis,2024-10-08 This work is a hybrid of a scholarly edition and an academic monograph that focuses on the relation between science and religion in early twentieth century America The Molecular Vision of Life Lily E. Kay,1993 This fascinating study examines the rise of American molecular biology to disciplinary dominance focusing on the period between 1930 and the elucidation of DNA structure in the mid 1950s Research undertaken during this period with its focus on genetic structure and function endowed scientists with then unprecedented power over life By viewing the new biology as both a scientific and cultural enterprise Lily E Kay shows that the growth of molecular biology was a result of systematic efforts by key scientists and their sponsors to direct the development of biological research toward a shared vision of science and society She analyzes the motivations and mechanisms empowering this vision by focusing on two key institutions Caltech and its sponsor the Rockefeller Foundation Her study explores a number of vital sometimes controversial topics among them the role of private power centers in shaping scientific agenda and the political dimensions of pure research It also advances a sobering argument the cognitive and social groundwork for genetic engineering and human genome projects was laid by the American architects of molecular biology during these early decades of the project This book will be of interest to molecular biologists historians sociologists and the general reader alike *Hubble, Humason and the Big Bang* Ron Voller,2021-10-28 The story of Hubble and Humason is one for the ages and in particular the Cosmic Age In this compelling book science writer Ron Voller digs deep into how and why the two scientists continued to investigate their theory of universal expansion in the face of persistent doubt contrary theories and calamitous world events The evolution of this dynamic duo s tenuous friendship and professional partnership is in many ways as intriguing as their groundbreaking work on the evolution of the universe The book therefore traces their lives from their childhoods into their burgeoning careers revealing how a World War and their own personal differences stood in the way of initial cooperation It then shows how despite all this the two opposites eventually came together in the pursuit of something far greater than themselves This grand story is inextricably interwoven with that of Albert Einstein Willem de Sitter and other great physicists of the era all of whom took part in the staggering quest to make sense of the Big Bang and what followed Edwin Hubble has often been considered as an island of sorts a lone wolf of astronomy But Voller s book shows otherwise as he examines Milt Humason s essential contributions to our understanding of the expanding universe Daniel Lewis Dibner Senior Curator History of Science Technology The Huntington Library Albert Abraham Michelson D. T. McAllister,1970 **The Harvest of a Century** Siegmund Brandt,2008-11-06 Physics was the leading science of the twentieth century and the book retraces important discoveries made between 1895 and 2001 in 100 self contained episodes Each is a short story of the scientists

involved their time and their work Together they form a mosaic of modern physics formulating relativity and quantum mechanics finding the constituents of matter and unravelling the forces between them understanding the working of conductors and semiconductors discovering and explaining macroscopic quantum effects superconductivity superfluidity quantum Hall effect developing novel experimental techniques like the Geiger counter and particle accelerators building revolutionary applications like the transistor and the laser and observing astonishing features of our cosmos expanding universe cosmic background radiation The text is intended for easy reading Occasionally a more thorough discussion of experimental set ups and theoretical concepts is presented in special boxes for readers interested in more detail Episodes contain extensive references to biographies and original scientific literature The book is richly illustrated by about 600 portraits photographs and figures

Entropic Creation Helge S. Kragh, 2016-04-29 Entropic Creation is the first English language book to consider the cultural and religious responses to the second law of thermodynamics from around 1860 to 1920 According to the second law of thermodynamics as formulated by the German physicist Rudolf Clausius the entropy of any closed system will inevitably increase in time meaning that the system will decay and eventually end in a dead state of equilibrium Application of the law to the entire universe first proposed in the 1850s led to the prediction of a future heat death where all life has ceased and all organization dissolved In the late 1860s it was pointed out that as a consequence of the heat death scenario the universe can have existed only for a finite period of time According to the entropic creation argument thermodynamics warrants the conclusion that the world once begun or was created It is these two scenarios allegedly consequences of the science of thermodynamics which form the core of this book The heat death and the claim of cosmic creation were widely discussed in the period 1870 to 1920 with participants in the debate including European scientists intellectuals and social critics among them the physicist William Thomson and the communist thinker Friedrich Engels One reason for the passion of the debate was that some authors used the law of entropy increase to argue for a divine creation of the world Consequently the second law of thermodynamics became highly controversial In Germany in particular materialists and positivists engaged in battle with Christian mostly Catholic scholars over the cosmological consequences of thermodynamics This heated debate which is today largely forgotten is reconstructed and examined in detail in this book bringing into focus key themes on the interactions between cosmology physics religion and ideology and the public way in which these topics were discussed in the latter half of the nineteenth and the first years of the twentieth century

City of Quartz Mike Davis, 2006-09-17 This new edition of the visionary social history of Los Angeles is as central to the L A canon as anything that Joan Didion wrote in the seventies New Yorker No metropolis has been more loved or more hated To its official boosters Los Angeles brings it all together To detractors L A is a sunlit mortuary where you can rot without feeling it To Mike Davis the author of this fiercely elegant and wide ranging work of social history Los Angeles is both utopia and dystopia a place where the last Joshua trees are being plowed under to make room for model communities in the desert where the rich

have hired their own police to fend off street gangs as well as armed Beirut militias In *City of Quartz* Davis reconstructs L A s shadow history and dissects its ethereal economy He tells us who has the power and how they hold on to it He gives us a city of Dickensian extremes Pynchonesque conspiracies and a desperation straight out of Nathaniel West a city in which we may glimpse our own future mirrored with terrifying clarity In this new edition Davis provides a dazzling update on the city s current status

Unveiling the Energy of Verbal Art: An Emotional Sojourn through **The Autobiography Of Robert A Millikan**

In a world inundated with screens and the cacophony of quick transmission, the profound power and emotional resonance of verbal artistry usually disappear into obscurity, eclipsed by the constant assault of sound and distractions. Yet, nestled within the lyrical pages of **The Autobiography Of Robert A Millikan**, a interesting perform of fictional elegance that impulses with natural feelings, lies an wonderful journey waiting to be embarked upon. Penned by way of a virtuoso wordsmith, that interesting opus guides viewers on a psychological odyssey, softly exposing the latent potential and profound impact embedded within the delicate internet of language. Within the heart-wrenching expanse with this evocative evaluation, we can embark upon an introspective exploration of the book is key subjects, dissect their captivating publishing fashion, and immerse ourselves in the indelible impression it leaves upon the depths of readers souls.

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The Autobiography Of Robert A Millikan Introduction

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