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Carl Henry Eckart Biography

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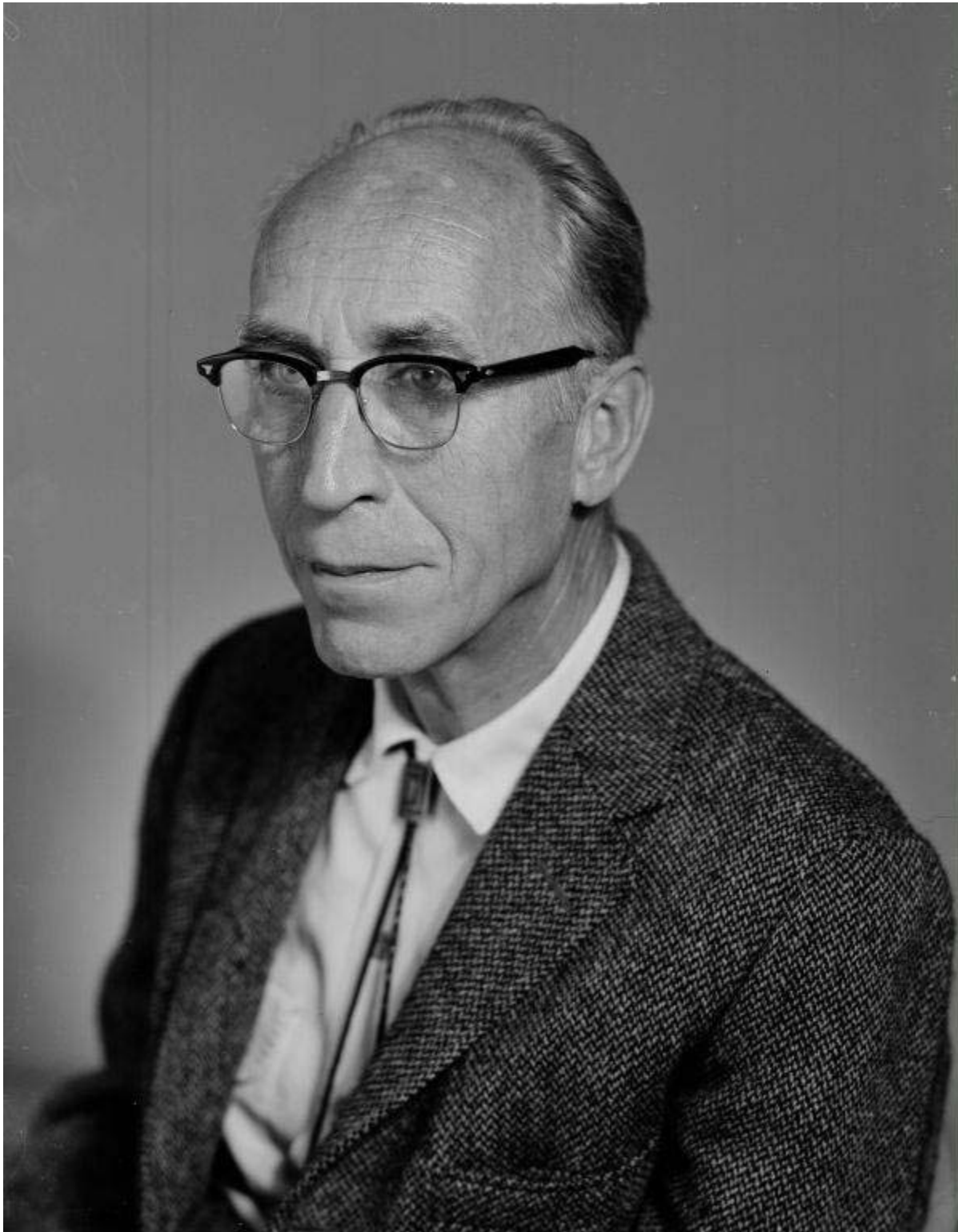
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Publication Date

2005

Carl Henry Eckart Biography



Carl Henry Eckart was born in St. Louis May 4, 1902, the son of Will and Lilly Hellwig Eckart. His father was a journalist at the St. Louis Star and a member of the socialist party. The family was of German heritage and spoke German at home.

Carl Eckart received B.S. and M.S. degrees from Washington University and a Ph.D. in physics from Princeton in 1925. He married Eda Lou Major at Princeton, but the couple divorced and had no children. He joined the University of Chicago as an assistant professor of physics in 1928 and remained on the faculty until 1946. There he made very substantial contributions to quantum physics and developed the Wigner-Eckart theorem.

Eckart came to San Diego in 1942 to join the staff of the University of California Division of War Research (UCDWR) as associate director and then director and worked on problems of underwater sound relevant to submarine warfare. After the war, Eckart was appointed the first director of the Marine Physical Laboratory which was established in 1946 to continue work under navy contract begun by UCDWR. In 1948, the Marine Physical Laboratory became part of Scripps Institution of Oceanography, and Eckart became director of the Scripps Institution of Oceanography on March 1. He also received an appointment as professor of physics and oceanography in 1948.

Eckart served as director of Scripps for only two years, and passed the directorship to Roger Revelle. Eckart chaired the University of California, San Diego Academic Senate from 1963-1965. In 1965, he was appointed to the newly created position of Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs at the University of California, San Diego. He married Klara Dan von Neumann, the widow of John von Neumann in 1958. She died in 1963. Carl Henry Eckart died in La Jolla on October 23, 1973.

The most comprehensive published biography of Carl Henry Eckart (with a bibliography of his publications dated 1923-1968) is:

Walter H. Munk and Rudolph W. Preisendorfer, "Carl Henry Eckart, 1902-1973," *Biographical Memoirs of the National Academy of Sciences*, v. XLVII, pp. 195-219.

Eckart's career at the University of California is discussed in greater detail in:

Fred Spiess, et. al. "Carl Eckart, 1902-1973 Professor of Geophysics, Emeritus," *IN: University of California In Memoriam*, May 1977, pp. 89-91.