



Huygens: The Man behind the Principle

By C. D. Andriesse

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This biography on Christiaan Huygens (1629-1695) describes in detail how he arrived at discoveries and inventions often wrongly ascribed to Newton. The great seventeenth-century Dutch mathematician and physicist played a key role in the 'scientific revolution' and the Huygens Principle on the wave theory of light helped establish his reputation. Moreover, the discovery of Saturn's rings and the invention of the pendulum clock made him so famous that he was invited to be the first director of the French Academy of Science.

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Huygens: The Man behind the Principle By C. D. Andriesse Bibliography

- Rank: #4772636 in Books
- Brand: Andriesse C D Miedema Sally
- Published on: 2011-02-17
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 9.02" h x .94" w x 5.98" l, 1.37 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 476 pages

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"a very diligently referenced work"

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About the Author

C.D. Andriesse studied physical engineering at the Technical University in Delft and gained his Ph.D. in 1969. His research career moved first into astrophysics at the University of Groningen and then materials research, with a prime interest in nuclear safety and electrical network stability. Since 1989 he has been a professor at the University of Utrecht, researching energy conversions in fuel cells and wind turbines. In addition to his research articles, Professor Andriesse's non-research publications include a handbook on problems with nuclear energy, for the IAEA, essays on the cultural value of technology, diverse historical work and an intellectual autobiography.

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