

Sir Edward Victor Appleton GBE KCB

The honorary degree of Doctor of Science was conferred upon Sir Edward Victor Appleton by the Chancellor Sir Charles Bickerton Blackburn KCMG OBE at the ceremony held on 29 August 1952, part of the University of Sydney's Centenary celebrations.

Sir Edward Victor Appleton, GBE KCB, MA Hon ScD *Camb* DSc *Lond* Hon LLD *Aberdeen, Birmingham, St Andrews, London & Glasgow* Hon DSc *Oxford, Brussels & Leeds*, FRS, was Principal and Vice-Chancellor of the University of Edinburgh.



Chairman of the Professorial Board Professor A D Trendall (on left) presenting Sir Edward Victor Appleton (centre left) to the Chancellor (centre right), *Sydney Morning Herald* photo, copies held by the University of Sydney Archives.

Citation

Presented by the Chairman of the Professorial Board, Professor A D Trendall:

Mr Chancellor, the name of Edward Victor Appleton will forever be associated with the investigation of the upper atmosphere by means of radio. Like Prometheus of old ... "he has shown to men the risings and the settings of the stars, hard to discern." This, however, he achieved by the more modern method of radio astronomy, and has thereby brought into human ken much in the heavens that was previously unknown. His brilliant researches, which may almost literally be said to have extended the physical horizon, have earned for him a myriad of well-merited honours, culminating in the award of the Nobel Prize for Physics five years ago. He has held, with the highest distinction, chairs in the Universities of London and Cambridge, and, since 1949, has been Principal and Vice-Chancellor of the University of Edinburgh, 'which ancient foundation he is now here to represent at our Centenary. Our more youthful laurels receive a fresh lustre from the addition to our roll of Honorary Graduates of one to whom might most justly be applied the Vergilian phrase *lama super aethera notus* - "his fame is known in the heavens above".

Mr Chancellor, I present to you Edward Victor Appleton, Knight Grand Cross of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire, Knight Commander of the Most Honourable Order of the Bath, Doctor of Science, Fellow of the Royal Society, Principal and Vice-Chancellor of the University of Edinburgh.

From "The University of Sydney Centenary Celebrations August 26 - August 31, 1952" compiled by the Office of Information and Public Relations. Allan Gamble, Information and Public Relations Officer.