

## The Life, Work and Times of an Electrical Genius of the Victorian Age

# OLIVER HEAVISIDE: SAGE IN SOLITUDE

by Paul J. Nahin

*"Heaviside's life was in some respects a great tragedy, but he emerges from it a man of tremendous intellectual stature..."*

—Willis Jackson, *NATURE*

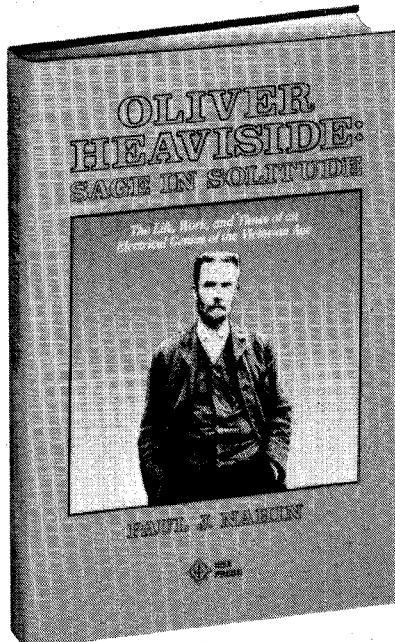
Oliver Heaviside was a highly complex man, with some rather rough edges. Often, he was an uncivil, insensitive, boorish individual. But he was also a non-degreed mathematical physicist of the first rank and an electrical engineer with amazing powers of analytic and physical insight. His pioneering work helped lay the foundations of modern electrical theory, and his distortionless circuit theory continues to this day to be of vital interest.

Until Paul J. Nahin's in-depth historical treatment of both the personal and technical aspects of Heaviside's life, this genius' contributions to engineering, mathematics and science have remained in the shadows of such better known men as Kelvin, Rayleigh, Lodge and Poynting.

Writing in an informal manner, the author had as his primary concern the presentation of Heaviside's story in a nontrivial yet interesting way to "those who understand mathematics at the level of the first two years of college...who don't faint at the sight of a square root." Engineers, mathematicians, scientists and historians alike will find this book to be an invaluable ac-

count of late 19th-century electrical physics—and a "great read" besides!

Author Paul Nahin is an Associate Professor in the Electrical and Computer Engineering Department at the University of New Hampshire. His science fiction short-stories have appeared in *Analogs*, *Omni*, and *Twilight Zone* magazines, plus several anthologies.



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