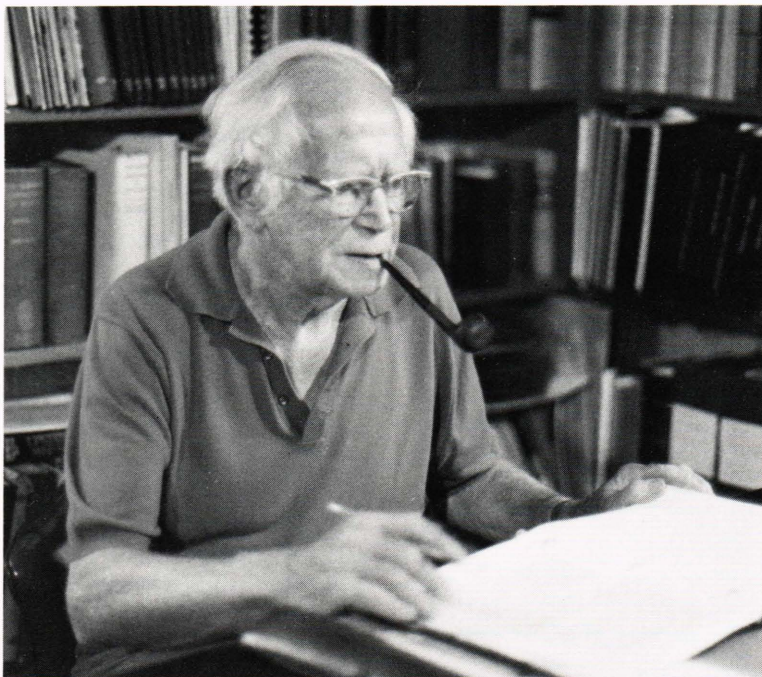


Biography



R. E. Gibson was born at King's Lynn, Norfolk, England. He was educated at George Watson's Boys' College and the University of Edinburgh where he received the B. Sc. and Ph.D. degrees in chemistry from the University of Edinburgh, Scotland, in 1922 and 1924, respectively. At Edinburgh he was awarded the Hope Prize Scholarship in Chemistry (1921) and a Carnegie Foundation Research Fellowship (1923–24).

Dr. Gibson was a physical chemist at the Geophysical Laboratory of the Carnegie Institution of Washington from 1924 to 1941. During much of that period, he was also a member of the faculty of the George Washington

University as Lecturer in chemistry (1929–32) and Adjunct Professor of chemistry (1932–45). In 1940 he joined Section H of the National Defense Research Committee. From 1944 until 1946, he was first Director of Research of the Allegany Ballistics Laboratory. Dr. Gibson joined the Applied Physics Laboratory in 1946 as head of the Contracts Group. He became Acting Director in 1947 and Director in 1948. He has been Director Emeritus of APL and Professor of biomedical engineering of The Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine since his retirement in 1969. He has published 70 papers in the fields of physical chemistry, solid

propellants, guided missile development, missile systems research and development, space technology, and research administration.

Dr. Gibson has served as chairman, co-chairman, or member of a score or more Government and professional committees, advisory boards, and task forces. Among his many honors are the Crum Brown Medal in Chemistry (1920); the Hildebrand Prize of the Chemical Society of Washington, DC (1939); the Bureau of Naval Ordnance Development Award (1945); the President's Certificate of Merit, World War II (1948); the Navy Distinguished Public Service Award (1958); the Captain Robert Dexter Conrad Award (1960); Honorary Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (CBE) (1966); and the Department of Defense Medal for Distinctive Public Service (1969). He received the M.D. (Honoris Causa) from The Johns Hopkins University in 1972.

Dr. Gibson is a charter member of the Academy of Medicine of Washington, DC, and Fellow of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics. He was Chairman of the Division of Physical and Inorganic Chemistry of the American Chemical Society (1942); President of the Chemical Society of Washington, DC (1930); President of the Philosophical Society of Washington, DC (1940); President of the Cosmos Club (1956); and President of the Washington (DC) Academy of Sciences (1956). His other memberships included the American Geophysical Union, the American Physical Society, the Armed Forces Chemical Association, and the International Academy of Astronautics. Dr. Gibson is presently a member of the Scientific Advisory Council of the Governor of Maryland.