



## ERIK HERBERT PALMÉN SIXTY YEARS

by

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On August 31, 1958 Professor ERIK HERBERT PALMÉN, member of the Academy of Finland, celebrates the 60th anniversary of his birth. It is the desire of the Geophysical Society of Finland to do honor to its distinguished member and to felicitate him on the occasion of his anniversary by dedicating this issue of *GEOPHYSICA* to him. Professor Palmén's numerous friends and colleagues from all over the world join in felicitating him by scientific contributions for publication in this issue. Many others have graciously given financial assistance for the printing of this publication.

Professor Palmén passed his student examination in 1917; received his M.S. degree in 1921, and the degree of Ph. D. in 1927 at the University

of Helsinki with his thesis »*Über die Bewegung der aussertropischen Zyklonen*«. That, briefly stated, is the formal educational road traveled by the celebrating scientist.

Professor Palmén was interested in meteorology while still a school boy. For this reason it is no wonder that the weather — so important to all of us — became the object of his professional scientific interest. At first blush, it might of course seem regrettable that he did not come into the service of the Finnish Meteorological Office but rather the service of the Institute of Marine Research. On the other hand, Professor Palmén's development was greatly enhanced in that he thus, from a sense of duty, immersed himself in the secrets of the hydrosphere, the twin-brother, one might say, of the atmosphere. In this his perspectives broadened, and with a broader view he was enabled to tackle the problems which awaited him in the field of meteorology, which was the object of his intense love. Side by side with his official oceanographic investigations he unofficially and with relentless zeal pursued the study of meteorology.

Palmén's official career began as an assistant at the Institute of Marine Research (1922—1935). In 1935 he was appointed Chief of Section in that establishment and in 1939 its director. He directed the Institute of Marine Research until the year 1947 when he was called as extraordinary professor in meteorology to the Helsinki University. Prior to that year he had served as reader in geophysics at the University for twenty years. Palmén was able to hold his professorship only for one year, for in 1948 he was appointed a member of the Academy of Finland which had just been established.

It is generally known among meteorologists that beginning with the year 1946, Palmén has on many different occasions been invited as a visiting professor to universities in the U.S.A. In addition, he has visited as lecturer or for research purposes numerous other countries and represented his country in many conferences and congresses.

For his merits in the field of science Palmén was granted in 1951 »Theodor Hønen Prize« for distinguished contributions to geophysics (The Finnish Society of Sciences) and in 1957 the Symons Memorial Gold Medal for his contribution to the advancement of synoptic meteorology (The Royal Meteorological Society).

Palmén is a member of the Finnish Society of Sciences (chairman, 1958), the Geographical Society in Finland (chairman, 1945), the Norden-skiöld Society (Finland), the Geophysical Society of Finland, the Finnish National Committee of IUGG, the Swedish Academy of Technology in

Finland, the Swedish Geophysical Society, the Astronomisk Selskab (Denmark), Deutsche Meteorologische Gesellschaft, the Royal Meteorological Society, the American Meteorological Society, the American Geophysical Union, and the Aerological Commission (WMO). He is also a member of the Advisory Board of the International Institute for Meteorology (Stockholm), as well as of the Editorial Board of »Geophysica» (Helsinki) and of »Tellus» (Stockholm).

An idea of the extent of the work done by Palmén will be obtained when it is stated that up to the present time he has published a total of 101 papers.

In this connection we need mention only that his main work has been concentrated on synoptic meteorology, especially the general atmospheric circulation as well as on the structure of cyclones and the jet stream.

»What about our friend Palmén's hobbies?» It may be asked. Well, it may be stated that he is a real fisherman and a very enthusiastic one at that.

Finally, we wish to extend, on the behalf of the editorial board of »Geophysica» our sincere thanks to all scientists, who with their studies or otherwise have assisted in the publication of this issue.

The following members of the Geophysical Society of Finland congratulate Prof. Dr. *Erik H. Palmén* on attaining the age of 60 years

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