Hertha Marks Ayrton was a British engineer, mathematician, physicist and inventor. She was the first woman elected member of The Institution of Electrical Engineers (London) 1899, the first woman to read a paper ("The Hissing of the Electric Arc," 1899) to the Institute of Electrical Engineers, and the first woman to read a paper ("The Origin and Growth of Ripple Marks," 1904) to the Royal Society (London).