

August 1998

On the Cover

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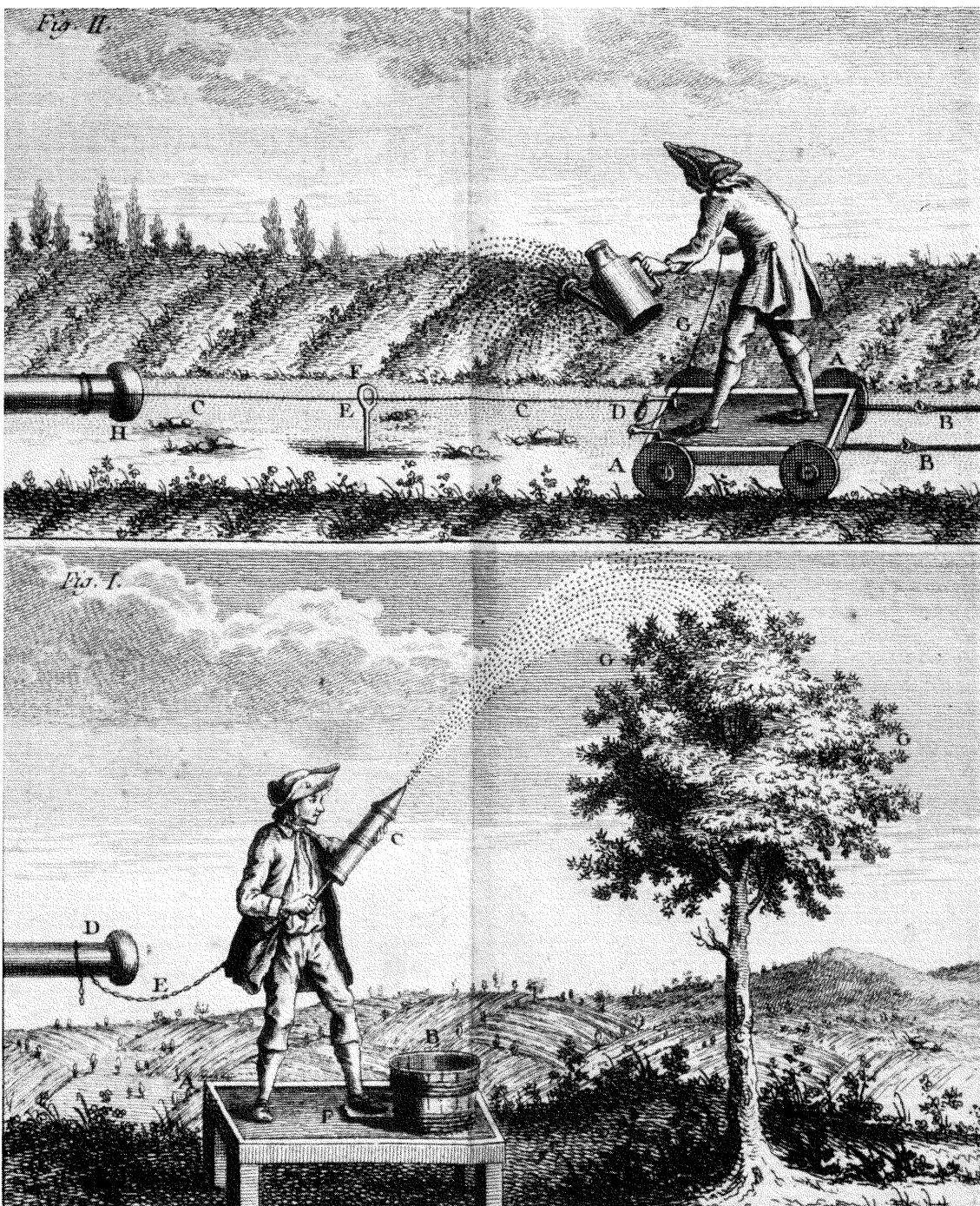
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Volume 52, Number 3

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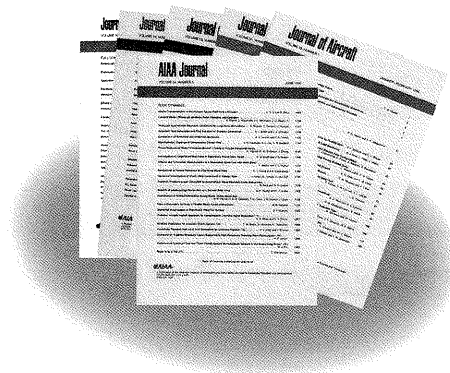
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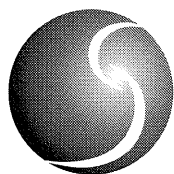
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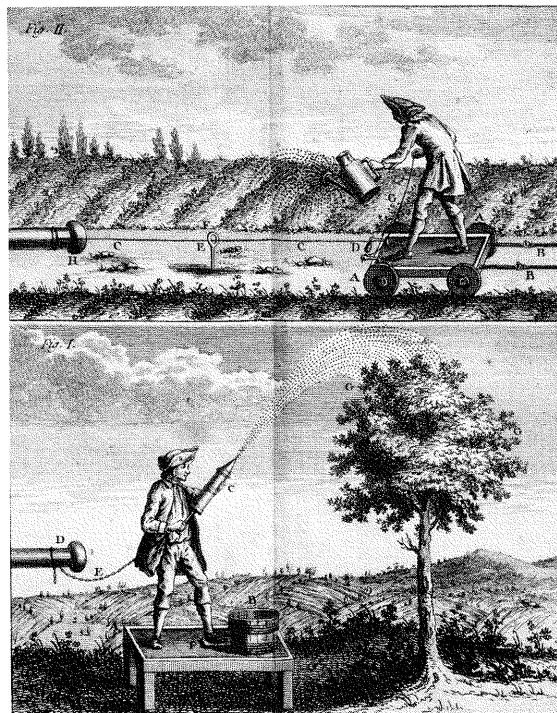
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Although Benjamin Franklin's kite is probably the most well-known electrical experiment of the eighteenth century, scientists conducted many other experiments in a search for practical uses of electricity. To test the effects of electricity on plants, for example, this experiment suggested a method of electrifying plants by watering them with charged water. The charge runs from the prime conductor of an electrostatic generator, through the gardener and into the water of the sprinkling can or the aerosol spray. The illustration is from Pierre Bertholon's *De l'electricite des vegetaux* (Paris, 1783), courtesy the Linda Hall Library, Kansas City, Missouri.

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