Contents

Preface Acknowledgements Author's Notes Symbols and Abbreviations	v viii ix x
1. Introduction	1
2. The Operational Characteristics of a High Voltage Vacuum Gap	13
3. Breakdown Initiating Mechanisms I - Electron Emission Based	51
 Breakdown Initiating Mechanisms II - Microparticle Based 	83
5. Simulation Studies I - The Point-to-Plane Field Emitting Diode	117
6. Simulation Studies II - Microsphere Impact Phenomena	141
7. Diagnostic Studies of Electrode and Gap Phenomena	171
8. Recent Advances in the Understanding of Prebreakdown Electron Emission	211
Appendix - Flashover across Solid Insulators in a Vacuum Environment	229
Subject Index	241