

was idyllic. Both loved travel, and they made many trips abroad, including one around the world, from which Meggers accumulated a vast array of color slides. He was a born collector, and together they set up the Meggers Museum of Science and Technology, which was housed in a specially built apartment over their garage. Their acquisitions ranged over almost everything collectible—from matchbox covers to foreign buttons, old guns and dolls from exotic lands. Meggers willed his collections of coins and postage stamps, valued at more than \$50000, to the American Institute of Physics for the support of physics education. These were accumulated over his adult lifetime. At the end of each year he always purchased mint sheets of all US stamps issued during the year. He never hesitated to add to funds earmarked for his collections by sitting up all night in a European hard-seated third class carriage instead of sleeping in a comfortable berth, and on one trip even insisted on carrying my heavy bag along with his own in return for my contribution of the fee for a gepäckträger.

Meggers had a strongly developed sense of fun. During a trip I took with him in the summer of 1938 to attend the Stockholm meetings of the International Astronomical Union, and to visit such eminent spectroscopists as Heinrich Kayser, Friedrich Paschen, L. S. Ornstein, and Alfred Fowler, he was always pleased when friends would comment on his resemblance to Will Rogers. Such references usually stimulated him to perpetrate a succession of most atrocious puns. When president of the Optical Society he carried on with one of his predecessors in office a sham feud in which ridiculous pseudoscientific accusations were passed back and forth during speeches at society banquets, with the result that attendance at these affairs was soon more than doubled.

Meggers' last days were saddened by the death of his younger son, an event which may indeed have hastened his own death. He was very proud of his family, which included a daughter and an older son who have achieved considerable distinction in their respective scientific and engineering fields.

Meggers' parents were immigrants

from rural Pomerania, and the circumstances in which he was raised in the small town of Clintonville were severely restrictive. In a letter written the day before he died he referred to his humble beginnings, and mentioned his gratitude for the opportunities he had been given to obtain an extensive education and to pursue a career in science. Most of these opportunities were of his own making, and he used them well.

George R. Harrison

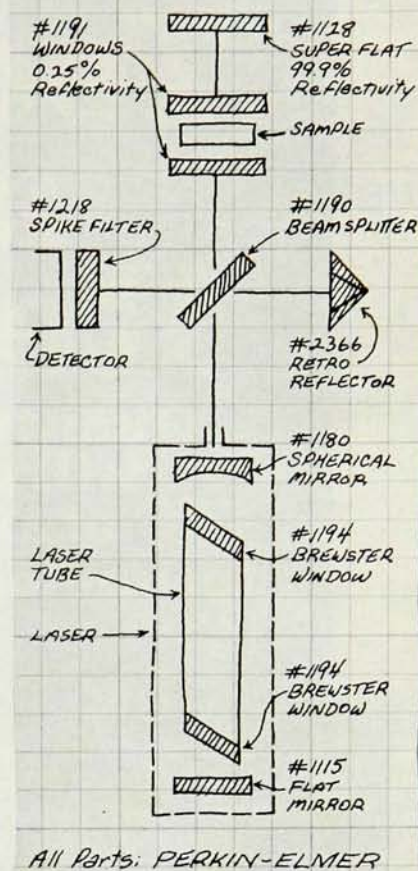
Massachusetts Institute of Technology

John Dewdney; Apparatus Designer

An automobile accident on the Massachusetts Turnpike took the life of John W. Dewdney, associate professor of physics at the University of New Hampshire, on 15 Oct. He had been traveling to Boston after a weekend at Amherst College, where one of his children is a student.

Dewdney was born in 1926 in Hamilton, Ontario, Canada. He received his bachelor's degree in physics from McMaster University in 1947 and his master's degree from McGill University in 1952. Between 1947 and 1952 he served successively with the University of Illinois, the Radio Corporation of America laboratories and George Williams College, and then returned to McMaster as a special lecturer in Physics. He was awarded his PhD there in 1955, and then joined the physics faculty at Dartmouth College. Before coming to New Hampshire in 1964, he was a research fellow at Harvard University.

One of Dewdney's major interests was mass spectrometry, and this was reflected in the papers he wrote on physics teaching, many of which dealt with the development of a mass spectrometer inexpensive enough for any undergraduate laboratory. He was a member of the American Association of Physics Teachers' committee on apparatus, and at the time of his death he held a National Science Foundation grant for the development of a device which would enable undergraduates to measure the relativistic mass change of electrons. He was a member of the American Physical Society, and the Canadian Association of Physicists. □



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