

physics and an AB in mathematics from Southern Methodist University in 1933 and obtained his PhD in physics from the University of Chicago in 1940. In 1941 he became the curator and chief instructor of the Buhl Planetarium and Institute of Popular Science and also a physics instructor at the University of Pittsburgh.

In 1944 he began his lifelong association with the Westinghouse Electric Corporation. His research interests covered a wide range. He was coinventor of a scintillation counter; he played an important part in the development of an x-ray image intensifier; he managed research in the areas of vacuum electronics and solid state phenomena. Most recently he had been working on imaging-sensor systems for defense and space applications.

He was a senior member of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers and a member of the American Physical Society, Phi Beta Kappa and Sigma Xi.

Boris Podolsky; Helped Formulate Paradox

Boris Podolsky, research professor of theoretical physics at Xavier University, Cincinnati, died on 28 Nov. 1966, of a heart ailment. Born in Taganrog, Russia, in 1896, Podolsky emigrated to the United States in 1913. After receiving his BS degree in electrical engineering from the University of Southern California in 1918, he served in the US Army and then was employed as an engineer by the Los Angeles Bureau of Power and Light. He obtained an MA in Mathematics from USC in 1926, and then studied under Paul S. Epstein at the California Institute of Technology, receiving his PhD in Physics in 1928.

Awarded a National Research Council post-doctoral fellowship, Podolsky spent a year at the University of California at Berkeley, followed by a year in Leipzig as an International Research Fellow. He returned to Cal Tech for a year, during which he worked with Richard Tolman. The next two years were spent at the Ukrainian Physico-Technical Institute

at Kharkov, doing research on quantum electrodynamics, which culminated in a series of papers with Vladimir A. Fock, and one with P.A.M. Dirac and Fock, and also collaborating with Lev D. Landau on relativistic electrodynamics. After returning to the United States, Podolsky was awarded a fellowship at the Institute for Advanced Study, where he worked with



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Albert Einstein. Their paper (with N. Rosen) entitled "Can quantum mechanical description of physical reality be considered complete" still provokes debate among physicists and philosophers of science.

In 1935 Podolsky accepted a position in the University of Cincinnati department of physics and later was made a fellow of the graduate school. He remained there until 1961 and continued his research in a number of topics in theoretical physics, the most important of which was his generalization of Maxwell-Lorentz electrodynamics. As a consultant to industry, his research and many unpublished reports were in the areas of quantum mechanics, magnetohydrodynamics and electromagnetic propulsion, and in applied mathematics (particularly smoothing). He also served as a consultant in biophysical problems for the college of medicine at the University of Cincinnati and patented a number of inventions.

In 1961 Podolsky became professor of theoretical physics at Xavier University, and later research professor. He chaired the conference on the foundations of quantum mechanics held there in 1962. Although the range of his interests and contributions was very wide, his greatest concern was with the foundations of quantum electrodynamics and, in particular,

with understanding the role of the fine-structure constant. Einstein once wrote of him: "His clear mind enables him to express every matter in the field of physics in a clear and original way."

A gifted and inspiring teacher as well as an outstanding physicist, his keen mind and enthusiasm stimulated and enriched the minds of several generations of students. In his memory, former students and friends are establishing the Boris Podolsky Memorial Fellowship at Xavier University.

Harry H. Denman
Wayne State University

A. Vasicek, Czechoslovak Thin-Film Physicist

Antonin Vasicek, head of the department of physics of the University of J. E. Purkyne, Brno, Czechoslovakia, died 16 Nov. 1966. He was a Fellow of the Optical Society of America and was known for his work in thin-film optics.

Francis Webb Jr.; STD Physicist

Senior research physicist for STD Research Corporation, Francis Henry Webb Jr., died in Pasadena on 7 Sept. at the age of 38.

Webb was born in Los Angeles and educated at the University of California. He received his PhD at Berkeley in 1957 and then joined the staff of Cooper Development Corporation as senior scientist. From 1958 to 1962 he was principal scientist in the fluid physics division of Electro-Optical Systems where he engaged in studies of exploding wires and hypervelocity particle generation. He headed the quantum physics department at MHD Research, Inc., from 1962-64.

Webb was a member of the American Physical Society, the American Association of Physics Teachers, the Optical Society of America, the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics and the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers.

Friedrich O. Ringleb; Navy Aerodynamicist

One of the designers of the first rocket-propelled aircraft, Friedrich O. Ringleb, died on 20 Nov. He had been chief scientist with the US Naval Air