

STATE AND SOCIETY

Growing European Physical Society Includes 31 000 Persons

A five-person secretariat is nearly overwhelmed with the rapidly expanding task of running the European Physical Society. A full-fledged council, executive committee and slate of officers have been operative since the first general meeting in Florence last April. They and the secretariat are now immersed in problems of advisory committees, divisions, associate membership, finances, publications and programs. Recently we discussed these matters with Lorette Etienne, the energetic Battelle Institute physicist who is executive secretary.

Membership lists for the society now include about 31 000 persons, of whom about 600 have joined as individuals. The others have become linked to EPS by belonging to one of 22 organizations that have become member societies. These societies are registered in 20 countries, 13 from noncommunist Europe, six from communist Europe and one that is non-European, Israel.

The council that took office in Florence has 50 members. Of these at least one is delegated by each member society, but the representation goes up to five for a society in proportion to membership. Five councillors elected by mail ballot represent persons who have joined as "individual ordinary members." Among them is the only transoceanic councillor, Victor F. Weisskopf, department cochairman at Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Listed in the box on page 65 are the 11 councillors who have been elected to the executive committee and the society offices that they occupy.

Administration falls to a five-person paid staff under Etienne, who worked on electrons in metals for Battelle Institute, Geneva, Advanced Studies Center, before she took on organization of EPS. Her first assistant is Ernest Risch, an accountant concerned with international membership lists and bank accounts.

Battelle, a branch of the Battelle Memorial Institute that has headquarters in Columbus, Ohio, is contributing office space and 10% of Etienne's salary (EPS refunds 90% to Battelle). CERN (European Center for Nuclear Research) is also a contributor. Five members of its public-information section are furnishing the editorial effort for the EPS publication *Europhysics News* and will continue to do so through 1971. Brian Southworth, editor of the *CERN Courier*, is also editor of *Europhysics News*, an eight-page newspaper that will appear every two months; E. Ascher of the EPS secretariat is called "coördinator."

Seven advisory committees are already at work on various aspects of policy. Their assigned subjects are: publications, conferences, physics and industry, finance, an EPS bulletin, summer schools and student exchange, physics and society. The conference committee plans not to arrange con-

ferences but to coördinate plans and to promote effectiveness and eliminate overlap in conferences held in Europe.

Five existing divisions are devoted to the following subjects: condensed matter, atomic spectroscopy, low temperature, quantum electronics, plasmas. Like divisions of the American Physical Society, EPS divisions will cover subdivisions of subject matter, not such segments of member activities as "pure" and "applied." The council can approve a division on application from five or more members.

Taking a cue from the American Institute of Physics, EPS is providing associate memberships for corporations, other industrial organizations and research laboratories. A principal aim of this program is to draw financial support from the organizations that are likely to gain most. Specific benefits intended for associate members are receipt of publications and reports and meetings of associate members. Minimal annual contribution for an associate member will be Sw frs 2000 (\$470).

Society finances offer problems of quantity and fluidity. Members contribute on a scale that charges less per member to large societies than to small ones. When all the averaging is done, the treasury gets only about \$16 000 per year in dues from the 31 000 persons who benefit from EPS through their societies. Additional charges are assessed for *Europhysics News* sub-



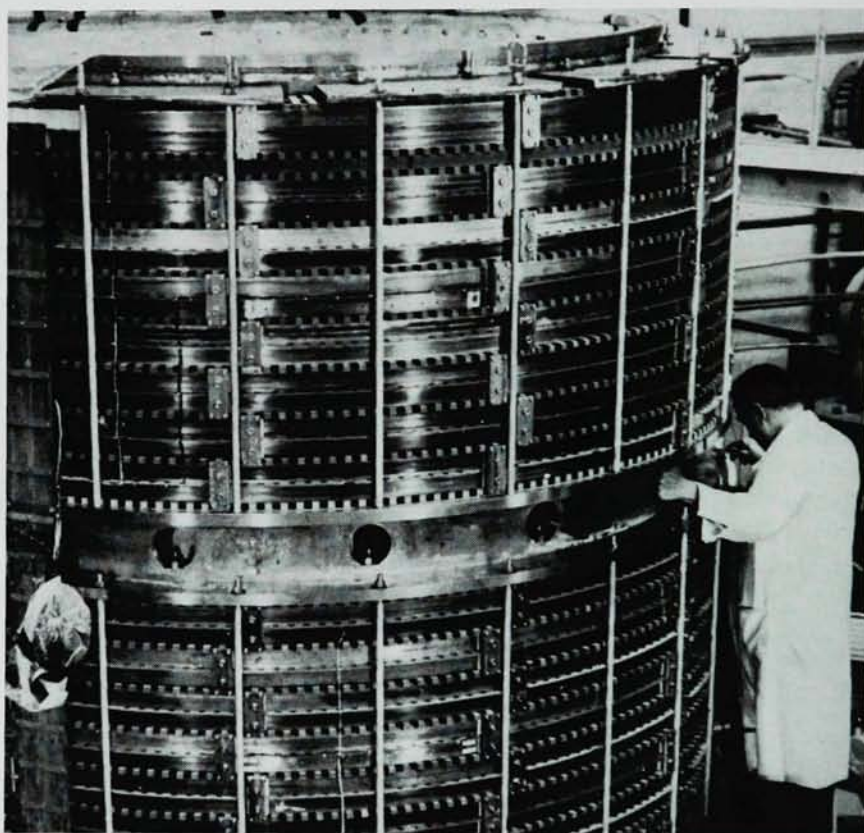
COHEN, RUDBERG, BERNARDINI AND JANSEN (left to right) at first general EPS meeting. The four are members of the executive committee.



BERNARDINI, ETIENNE, president and executive secretary, talk at meeting.

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Conductor: 2" W x 0.1" th
Magnetic field: 1.8T
Length: 132,000 ft.
Weight: 104,000 lbs.
Energy: 80,000,000 joules
Vol. of field: 1770 cu. ft. (50,000,000 cm³)
Bore: 12 ft.

Our Smallest

Conductor: 0.0032" dia.
Magnetic field: 1.8T
Length: 2300 ft.
Weight: .06 lbs. (28 grams)
Energy: 14.1 joules
Vol. of field: .06 cu. in. (1.0 cm³)
Bore: 1/2" (1.25 cm)

NORTON SUPERCON DIVISION



DELEGATES TO FLORENCE include Y. Yeivin, Alfred Kastler, Francis Netter, Hubert Curien, André Berthelot, Michel Soutif, all from France (left to right from lower left) and Georges Béné,

Switzerland, George Szigeti, Hungary, Bentsion M. Vul and B. M. Kozyrev, both from the Soviet Union (right to left from lower right).

scriptions to cover publication costs.

As do all international organizations, EPS has difficulties with eastern European money. These soft currencies of communist countries, whose economies are less productive than those of western European nations, are not negotiable across the iron curtain. Thus EPS must deposit these currencies in eastern banks and find ways to use them in the eastern countries. One way, for example, will be to let westerners going to eastern meetings pay hard currencies into the EPS treasury while EPS pays their expenses from its eastern accounts.

Publications. Two committees have been assigned to study the two publication problems with which the society is concerned. One is making plans for a bulletin to replace the present *Europhysics News*. The timetable it has set itself calls for a pilot issue in November or December of 1971 and regular issue number 1 on 1 Jan. 1972. A suggestion has been "a form of PHYSICS TODAY perhaps with

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, EPS COUNCIL

Gilberto Bernardini (president), Italy
Erik Rudberg (vice-president), Sweden
Laurens Jansen (secretary), Switzerland
Louis Cohen (treasurer), UK
Frantisek Janouch (vice-secretary), Czechoslovakia
Georges J. Béné (vice-treasurer), Switzerland
Lev A. Artsimovich, USSR
Hubert Curien, France
Jan De Boer, Netherlands
Ivo Slaus, Yugoslavia
George Szigeti, Hungary

a smaller scientific part." The committee is considering several alternatives—for example whether the society itself or a private company should be the publisher.

Meanwhile the committee on technical publications is considering a scheme to coordinate or "rationalize" existing journals of member societies. The plan is to have each journal of the member societies concentrate in certain subjects and refer papers in other subjects to other appropriate journals.

Program. In conversation with Etienne the speed and extent of the EPS program is always conspicuous. A steering committee met in Prague in May 1968. In September 1968 the society was founded in Geneva. Last April the first scientific conference and first general meeting of EPS took place in Florence and the council took office. Last July the council met again in Vienna. During October the conference and publications committees met, and next 12, 13 Feb. the council will meet again in Paris. They will have many decisions to make for the future, but they will already look back on two years of very busy achievement.

—RHE

American Physicists Association Is Founded to Promote Profession

The newly formed American Physicists Association states its purpose as "to promote the advancement and improvement of the professional and economic standing of physicists." Three young physicists at the University of Maryland started it, and it has about 100 members.

John Osmundson, president of APA, says that he, Richard Smith and Robert Wayland got the idea last spring, and the organization was incorporated in July. APA has just published its first

newsletter, which will be mailed mostly to physicists in the Washington area in the hope of increasing membership. Osmundson says they are considering a booth at the Chicago meeting of the American Physical Society or perhaps a parallel meeting of APA. He feels that the new organization's goals complement those of the American Institute of Physics and the APS.

APA wants to bring supply and demand into balance, initially by eval-

uating the current job market for physicists through surveys. According to an APA flier: "The information obtained will be correlated in a manner especially useful to the job seeker, as opposed to more general studies that have been carried out. Hopefully trends, such as specialties in physics with changing personnel demands, can be identified and made known to APA members."

APA has already conducted a pilot survey in the Washington area of new