

1971 Holweck Medal goes to Dennis Gabor

The French Physical Society's 1971 Holweck Medal and Prize has been presented to Dennis Gabor, a staff scientist at CBS Laboratories. Gabor, known as the "father of holography," was honored for his invention of the lensless photographic technique of producing three-dimensional objects by freezing a light wave into a photographic plate by means of another reference beam and reviving it by laser or white-light illumination.

A native of Budapest, Hungary, Gabor first worked out the mathematical basis of holography at the University of London in 1948. However it was not until 1962, when the coherence of laser light was used to produce the first high-quality hologram, that the full importance of holography was realized. Gabor has also been responsible for numerous mathematical contributions to the advancement of communications and color television. At CBS he was a member of the team that developed electronic video recording, a system which makes it possible to play pre-

recorded programming from motion-picture film and videotape on conventional television sets.

Turner and Shenstone receive OSA awards

The Optical Society of America will present three awards to distinguished scientists during the October meeting in Ottawa, Canada. The Frederic Ives Medal and Award will be presented to A. Francis Turner; the William F. Meggers Award and Medal will go to Allen G. Shenstone, and the Edgar D. Tyler Award and Medal (originally to have been presented at the spring meeting) will be presented to Louise L. Sloan (*physics today*, January, page 85).

Turner, who has recently joined the Optical Sciences Center in Tucson, Arizona, had been associated with Bausch and Lomb Optical Co in Rochester, N. Y. since 1939. He is being cited for his "leadership in pioneering the methods of design and fabrication of multilayer evaporated films; his originality in applying multilayer systems to the solution of practical optical problems, and his effectiveness as an

educator." Associated with the OSA since 1960, when he served as associate editor of *Journal of the OSA*, Turner was president of the OSA in 1968. The Ives award, established in 1928 by Herbert E. Ives in honor of his father Frederic Ives, was originally presented biennially, and since 1951 it has been presented annually.

The Meggers award, which was recently established to recognize contributions to optical spectroscopy, is being presented to Shenstone, a professor emeritus of Princeton University. He is being honored for his analysis of atomic spectra over the past 45 years and his use of "optical spectra to yield new insight into atomic structure." Among Shenstone's contributions has been the "Shenstone effect" with which he recognized the importance of auto-ionization in atomic spectra. He has also contributed to line spectroscopy, radioactivity and photoelectricity. Although he formally retired from Princeton several years ago, after having worked there since 1925, he has continued to do research in atomic spectra and has recently published an analysis of Ni II, based on 4300 observed lines, and he is now working on the Cu III spectrum.

Conyers Herring has been promoted to co-head of the theoretical physics research department at Bell Telephone Laboratories, where he will be responsible for research in solid-state physics.

Youngstown State University has promoted **Paul E. Dalbec** to associate professor.

Richard A. Swalin was named dean of the University of Minnesota Institute of Technology. Swalin was previously associate dean of the institute.

Among the new members of the Los Alamos Scientific Laboratory are **Maxwell T. Sandford II**, **Guy E. Barasch** and **Frederick Young** in the testing division. Also joining Los Alamos are

Raymond P. Engelke in the explosives testing division, **Richard A. Gerwin** in the physics division, **Chaim Richman** in the health division and **Cecil J. Umbarger Jr** in the assay and accountability division.

Paul B. Richards, superintendent of the mathematics and information sciences division of the Naval Research Laboratory, has been named president of the American Astronautical Society. Richards, who joined NRL in 1968, has been involved in the US space program since

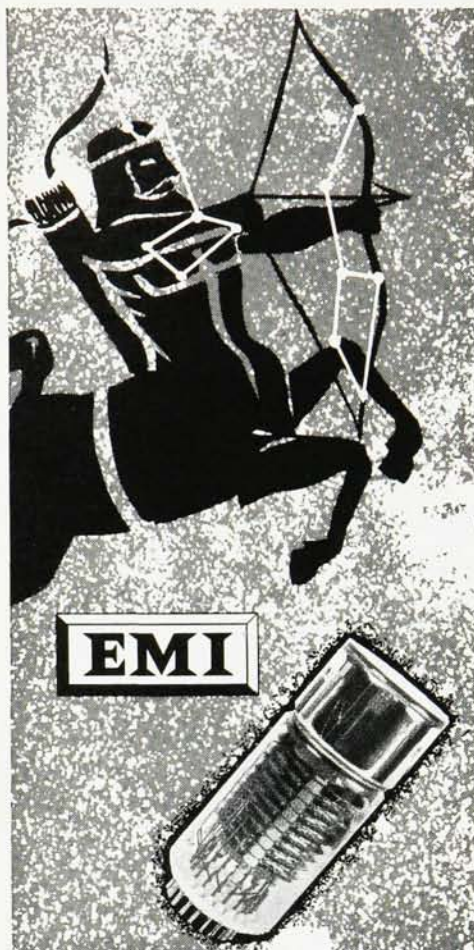


RICHARDS

1959, conducting research for the Army, Air Force and NASA programs concerned with satellite tracking, celestial mechanics and systems analysis. Richards, who last year was vice-president of the American Astronautical Society, has been active in the society since 1965 when he organized a symposium, "Recent Developments in Space Flight Mechanics," sponsored jointly by the American Astronautical Society and the American Association for the Advancement of Science. Later he was named chairman of the space flight mechanics committee and then a national director of the American Astronautical Society.

At Case-Western Reserve University **Kenneth L. Kowalski** has been named

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we hear that

chairman of the department of physics. He succeeds Harvey B. Willard, who is continuing as vice-provost for science and technology. **D. Keith Robinson** has been promoted to professor of physics.

The new vice-president of Environmental Analysts, Inc is **Thomas W. Philbin**, formerly senior environmental engineer for S. M. Stoller Corp.

Eldon B. Priestley has joined the scientific staff of RCA Laboratories at the David Sarnoff Research Center.

Walter A. Rosenblith, a former chairman of the faculty and for the past two years associate provost at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, has been named provost of the institute.

John P. Craven, dean of marine programs at the University of Hawaii, was elected as the sixth president of the Marine Technology Society.

L. R. Kueberth Jr has been appointed product manager, environmental radiation monitoring systems for the Victoreen Instrument Division of VLN Corp. He formerly was a staff physicist for Westinghouse Electric Corp.

obituaries

Ralph Bown

A former vice-president of Bell Telephone Laboratories, Ralph Bown, died on 29 July. He was 80 years old.

From 1954 until his retirement in 1956, Bown served as vice-president in charge of patent activities and long-range planning at Bell Labs. He had previously been vice-president in charge of research there. At Bell Labs, Bown studied the various aspects of radio broadcasting, overseas telephony and microwave radio relay systems. He directed the development of the New York to Boston radio relay system, which was the first link in the transcontinental radio relay system.

Bown was a pioneer in the field of communications engineering, and in 1926 he was awarded the Morris Liebmann Memorial Prize by the Institute of Radio Engineers for his research in wave-transmission phenomena.

After his retirement from Bell Labs he was associated with the N. W. Ayer and Son advertising agency as a consultant in public relations in the scientific field.

William K. Ergen

William K. Ergen, a senior member of the reactor division of Oak Ridge National Laboratory, died on 19 February of a heart attack at the age of 58. He was an outstanding contributor to the physics of nuclear reactors, including the important problems of safety and siting. Particularly significant was his work on the kinetics of circulating-fuel reactors and on stability criteria, which led to original contributions to applied mathematics.

Before becoming a reactor expert, Ergen worked on a wide spectrum of problems in pure and applied physics:

for example, the thermal effects in small particles in electric fields, the electroviscosity of colloids, the optimal dimensions of the Clusius-Dickel isotope separator (published in 1940!) and uranium tetrafluoride.

A native of Austria, Ergen received his PhD at the University of Vienna under Hans Thirring. He came to the US in 1939 after serving on the staffs of the Universities of Uppsala (with Ivar Waller) and of Stockholm (with Lise Meitner). After several years as a physicist with a number of US firms, he joined the Nuclear Energy for the Propulsion Aircraft Project (NEPA) at Oak Ridge in 1947, soon taken over by Oak Ridge National Laboratory.

Eugene Guth
Oak Ridge National Laboratory
and Rice University

Lawrence Bragg

The death, on 1 July, of Sir Lawrence Bragg, at the age of 81, has robbed crystallography of the last of the three great physicists who started its development in 1912-13: Max von Laue, William H. (later Sir William) Bragg and W. Lawrence (later Sir Lawrence) Bragg. Each of these men lived to his early eighties and was fortunate in retaining his wide scientific interest and administrative responsibility well beyond retirement age.

Lawrence Bragg's childhood and adolescence was spent in Adelaide, Australia, where his father was then professor of physics and mathematics at Adelaide University. By the age of 15, Bragg was ready to enter the university; he said of himself that he took no great interest in sports and was a rather lonely boy. On his walks he sharpened his quick, keen observation of nature; his discovery of an unknown