

the physics community

AIP and Soviets agree on copyright questions

Copyright questions between the American Institute of Physics and appropriate Soviet copyright agencies are being resolved with two tentative agreements that regulate royalty payments and distribution of translated and reproduced physics literature. Written notification of Soviet intentions to conclude the agreements reached AIP on 25 November. The agreement covers 1973-74; the second runs from 1 January 1975 through 1977. They specify a single royalty per page for all translated and reproduced material and stipulate that while worldwide sale of translations is permitted, Soviet-copied AIP material may be sold only within the USSR and conversely, AIP-copied Soviet literature may be sold only within the US. The terms of the agreement are flexible enough to allow cover-to-cover photocopying and translation as well as publication of collections of articles; selected articles must be reproduced in their entirety. To avoid confusion that could arise from differing type and page sizes, a standard page formula was established.

AIP translates approximately 25 000 pages per year of Soviet physics material. Before signing the Universal Copyright Convention in May 1973, the USSR had reproduced about 70 000 pages per year from AIP journals without securing publication rights or paying royalties. According to H. William Koch, Director of AIP, such unau-

thorized sales pose a serious threat to nonprofit publishers such as AIP—those sales represented \$300 000 that the Institute would have earned had it sold the copies. He indicated that the 1973-74 agreement provides for payment by the Soviets of a "good fraction" of the amount.

Under the tentative agreement for 1975, the Soviets indicate that they will no longer systematically photocopy AIP-published journals for distribution as in 1973-74. It is therefore expected that the number of Soviet subscriptions to AIP journals will accordingly increase. The extent of that increase should demonstrate how much photocopying continues in accordance, presumably, with the principle of fair use. This legally accepted principle allows photocopying of individual articles for personal use only. The Soviets have also indicated their plans to continue translating the *Review of Scientific Instruments*.

Women astronomers face obstacles in profession

Women seeking careers in astronomy must overcome consistently tougher odds than men. This was the verdict of the American Astronomical Society's working group on "the status of women in astronomy—1973," as reported to the AAS council. The group studied women's AAS participation, employment, research productivity and graduate study, and formulated recommenda-

tions that would help to achieve its goal, equality of the sexes in all phases of education, employment and society activity. Copies of the report may be obtained from H. M. Gurin, AAS, 211 FitzRandolph Rd, Princeton, N.J. 08540.

AAPT and NASA prepare Skylab physics films

The AAPT and NASA are cooperating to produce physics films from Skylab film footage. Robert Fuller and Thomas Campbell of AAPT are now editing NASA film and will make 13 short, single-concept movies available by Spring 1975. They will be mounted in super 8-mm cartridges and may be obtained from the AAPT Film Repository, Drawer AW, Stony Brook, N.Y. 11790.

NASA has already produced five 16-mm films. "Skylab: Space Station I" shows repair operations, experiments on the medical effects of weightlessness, solar flares and Comet Kohoutek; "Spaceship Skylab: Wings of Discovery" concentrates on solar phenomena and earth resources and "ASTP Status Report—August 1974" shows preparations for the Apollo-Soyuz Test Project scheduled for launch during 1975. The other films are "Conservation Laws in Zero-g" and "Magnetic Effects in Space." All five films may be borrowed for a limited time from the NASA Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center, PTD Audiovisual and Motion Picture Production Office, Houston, Tex. 77058.



Victor F. Weisskopf—physicist, virtuoso. MIT held a two-day symposium in honor of Weisskopf, formerly director-general of CERN and Institute Professor at MIT, who has retired after 28 years at MIT. Six of the speakers participating in this tribute were Nobel



laureates, with topics ranging from "The Energy Problem" to "How Aristotle Discovered DNA." Displaying another facet of his creativity, Weisskopf joined a chamber concert as pianist, and later conducted a performance of Bach's Brandenburg Concerto No. 3.