

Stephens wins Acoustical Society Gold Medal

Raymond W. B. Stephens has been named the recipient of the 1977 Gold Medal of the Acoustical Society of America. The Gold Medal, which is the highest honor of the Society, is presented in the spring of odd-numbered years. Stephens was cited for his contributions to the advancement of acoustics, both in his own country of England and in many others, "as a physics teacher and experimentalist; as an author and editor; as a founder and leader of acoustical societies, and above all as a research supervisor who has taught and inspired a generation of acoustics students..."

Born in England, Stephens earned his doctorate at Imperial College in 1934. He had received his first appointment at Imperial College several years earlier, in 1929, when he became a demonstrator in the physics department. This was the first in a series of positions he held there over a period of 45 years, which culminated in his appointment as reader in acoustics in 1959. Following his retirement in 1970, he retained a post as re-

search fellow at Chelsea College.

Among his many contributions to the field of acoustics, Stephens was the leader of the Acoustics Research Group (Imperial and Chelsea Colleges), which was organized in the late 1940's. In addition to students, many professors and scientists from abroad visited the Acoustics Research Group to do original research under Stephens's supervision. Stephens was also a founding member and officer of the acoustics group of the (British) Physical Society, the British Acoustical Society and the Institute of Acoustics.

His research interests include experimental work in sound propagation in liquid metals and anisotropic solids, finite-amplitude waves in liquids, gases and solids, the optic-acoustic effect, ultrasonic attenuation at low temperatures and acoustic emission in stressed materials. As an editor and author, Stephens has contributed to scientific literature in six books and more than 50 journal articles—his latest volume is *Sound: Dictionary in Eight Languages*. He has been honored



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with awards of professional scientific societies in England and France and holds honorary memberships in several acoustical societies.

APS Forum award honors Primack and von Hippel

The American Physical Society's Forum on Physics and Society has chosen Joel Primack and Frank von Hippel as the co-recipients of its Award for Promoting Public Understanding of the Relation of Physics to Society. The award was presented at the spring meeting of the APS in Washington, D.C., where Primack and von Hippel were cited "for their book, *Advice and Dissent* (published in 1974 by Basic Books, New York), which is a detailed examination of the recent interactions of the scientific community with groups responsible for Federal policy on scientific and technological issues."

Primack is assistant professor of physics at the University of California, Santa Cruz. He earned his doctorate at Stanford University in 1970 and then took up a post as junior fellow of physics at Harvard University. In 1973 he joined the faculty of the University of California, Santa Cruz. In addition to his interest in national technology policy, Primack's

specialties include nuclear structure, plasma kinetic theory, astrophysics and high-energy theoretical physics, especially weak interactions and field theory.

A PhD from Oxford University (1962), von Hippel now works as a research scientist at the Princeton University Center for Environmental Studies. During his career he has worked at the University of Chicago, Cornell and Stanford Universities and Argonne National Laboratory; von Hippel also worked as a consultant on nuclear-energy policy to the Office of Technology Assessment in 1975. His research interests concern energy policy in general.

Vacuum Society presents Welch Award to Holland

The American Vacuum Society has presented its annual Medard W. Welch Award to Leslie Holland, who is head of the Unit for Plasma Materials Processing at the University of Sussex. The award consists of a gold medal, \$1000 and a

citation that noted his distinguished contributions to vacuum technology and thin-film and surface sciences.

Holland first came into contact with high-vacuum technology in 1938 when he worked at a laboratory developing large-screen television. During World War II he was engaged in aircraft instrument design and high-vacuum process systems. In 1944 he joined Edwards High Vacuum Ltd, where he remained until 1973. There he was responsible for applied research and engineering design in numerous aspects of the vacuum field—Holland also organized a laboratory for research on vacuum deposition technology. He held concurrent positions first at Brunel University and then at the University of Sussex, where he was appointed Whitworth Fellow in 1974. At Sussex he conducted research on surface reactions and ion-impact effects occurring in low-pressure plasmas.

Holland is now serving as the president-elect of the International Union for Vacuum Science, Techniques and Applications.