

the physics community

AIP and German group to publish new journal

The American Institute of Physics and the German Fachinformationszentrum Energie, Physik, Mathematik GmbH (National Information Center for Energy, Physics, Mathematics) have agreed to pool their resources to produce a journal containing timely abstracts of nearly all physics material published in the world and magnetic computer tapes containing the same information for world-wide distribution. The journal will be called *Physics Briefs/Physikalische Berichte* and will be published by Fachinformationszentrum in English. The subscription price is \$480 per year.

According to the terms of the new agreement, the German Fachinformationszentrum will provide English-language abstracts of journal articles and reports assembled from their own sources and will combine that material with abstracts furnished by AIP to produce the tapes and printed journals.

Fachinformationszentrum will start production of the semi-monthly publication in January 1979. AIP will distribute the journal in North America, and Fachinformationszentrum will distribute it elsewhere in the world.

The Fachinformationszentrum was formed in 1977 by bringing together existing information and documentation institutions. It is a corporation founded by the Federation and the States of the Federal Republic of Germany charged with the task of providing scientific and technical information services in energy, nuclear research and technology, aeronautics and astronautics, space research, physics, mathematics, astronomy and astrophysics.

History projects at DOE national laboratories

Several projects are now under way to preserve the historical documentation of Department of Energy government-contract laboratories.

A Brookhaven study, a project of the American Institute of Physics Center for History of Physics, was begun October 1977 with funding from the National Science Foundation. Allan Needell, a historian of 20th-century physics, is compiling skeleton histories of the laboratory's physics-related divisions, inventories of records located and descriptions of record-keeping procedures. To guide this project, the AIP has established an Advisory Committee on the Documentation of Postwar Science; it consists of seven individuals experienced in archives and records management and seven

scholars eminent in fields such as history and sociology.

The AIP has received a two-year contract from DOE to extend its project to the Argonne and Oak Ridge National Laboratories and Lawrence Berkeley Laboratory. For further information on the AIP project, contact Joan Warnow (project director) at the AIP Center for History of Physics.

To contribute to the documentation of the history of particle accelerators, Fermilab is collecting significant documents (such as reports, photographs, drawings and pivotal log and data books) and key pieces of equipment. The laboratory is also tape-recording lectures by and discussions with historical figures in accelerator development such as Herbert Anderson, William Brobeck and I. I. Rabi. The lectures and discussions focus on the developments with which these individuals have been involved. A committee of Fermilab scientists guides the project.

A pilot history project began in January at Los Alamos. Principal documentary sources are being identified and oral history interviews are in preparation. Among other things, the project will illustrate the historical research problem of dealing with classified documents and will focus on apparently valuable historical documents located within uninventoried and classified files held by the Theoretical Division since World War II. Lillian Hoddeson (University of Illinois) is conducting both the Fermilab and Los Alamos projects.

The Lawrence Livermore Laboratory is currently considering recommendations that it establish an archival program.

Survey of PhD graduates in mechanics 1972-76

Over forty percent of the mechanics-related PhD recipients who were hired in the United States between 1972 and 1976 were foreign, according to a survey of PhD graduates in mechanics recently completed by the US National Committee on Theoretical and Applied Mechanics. The survey, which was prepared by Jan Achenbach of Northwestern University (civil engineering), was sent in January 1977 to 102 institutions with PhD programs in mechanics-related fields. Of these, 89 institutions responded with data on 1535 graduates, 45% of which had received their bachelor's degree outside the US.

In addition to information on how mechanics-related PhD's are distributed over various origins, the report also gives information on how their employment is distributed over the various employment sectors. Of the 1404 that remained in the US after receiving their degrees, 58%

found jobs in industry, 29% at universities and 12% with the government. Free copies of the report can be requested by writing Ronald Rivlin, Center for the Application of Mathematics, Lehigh University, Bethlehem, Pa. 18015.

AIP selects new editors for Soviet translations

New editors have been chosen for two of the Soviet translation journals published by the American Institute of Physics. N. M. Queen of the department of mathematical physics at the University of Birmingham (UK) will replace Clark Robinson as editor of the *Soviet Journal of Particles and Nuclei*. Robinson will continue as editor of the *Soviet Journal of Nuclear Physics* and as chairman of the Translation Advisory Committee of the AIP. Frederick Tappert of the department of physics at the University of Miami is the new editor of *Soviet Physics—Doklady*, a translation of the physics sections of the *Proceedings of the Soviet Academy of Sciences*. Wendell Furry of Harvard University previously held the position.

in brief

The 96th Meeting of the Acoustical Society of America, which will be held at the University of Hawaii at Manoa 27 November-1 December, will set a precedent; for the first time the ASA will meet jointly with the Acoustical Society of Japan. Technical sessions, awards ceremonies and exhibit programs will all be combined.

The American Vacuum Society is inviting applications for scholarships for the 1979-80 academic year. The grants are offered to assist graduate work in vacuum science and technology, vacuum metallurgy, surface physics and thin-film research. Completed applications are due by 31 March 1979. Information may be obtained by writing to: American Vacuum Society, 335 East 45th Street, New York, N.Y. 10017.

The deadline for the submission of applications for National Science Foundation Graduate Fellowships is 30 November 1978. Further information and application materials may be obtained from the Fellowship Office, National Research Council, 2101 Constitution Avenue, Washington, D.C. 20418.

Expenditures for Scientific Activities at Universities and Colleges Fiscal Year 1975 is available for \$2 per copy (NSF 77-307) from the US Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C.