

Optical Society selects 1978 award recipients



HOPKINS



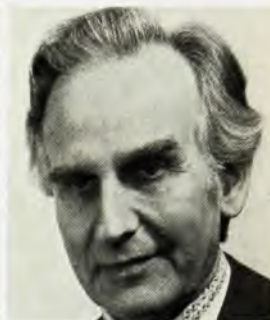
JOHNSON



YABLONOVITCH



WESTHEIMER



FELGETT

The Optical Society of America has selected the recipients of its 1978 series of awards, prizes and medals. The honors to be presented this year are the R.H. Wood Prize, the Frederick Ives Medal, the Adolph Lomb Medal, the David Richardson Medal and the Edgar D. Tillyer Award.

The R.H. Wood Prize will be given to Peter Fellgett, professor and head of the department of cybernetics at the University of Reading in the United Kingdom. Fellgett will be cited at the award ceremony, scheduled for 10 September at the Eleventh Congress of the International Commission for Optics in Madrid, for his discovery of the multiplex advantage, an innovation that has led to a modern renaissance in Fourier transform spectroscopy.

Fellgett joined the University of Reading in 1965, after having worked at the Royal Observatory in Edinburgh.

The Wood Prize, established in 1975, recognizes outstanding achievement, scientific or technological discovery or invention in the field of optics. The Prize is awarded annually and consists of a scroll and a cash award.

The 1978 Frederick Ives Medal will be given to Harold H. Hopkins, professor of applied optics and also of the University of Reading. The Medal will be presented at the annual fall meeting of the Society to be held in San Francisco starting 31 October. Hopkins was selected for his many unique contributions to the field of optics, including advances in aberration theory, optical design, image evaluation, coherence theory, interferometry and fiber optics. He was a member of the faculty at Imperial College for twenty years prior to joining the University of Reading in 1967.

The Ives Medal is the Society's highest award and is given for overall distinction in the field of optics. The annual award consists of a silver medal and a scroll.

The Adolph Lomb Medal will go to Eli Yablonovitch of the Division of Applied Sciences at Harvard University. Established in 1940 to honor a person who has made a noteworthy contribution to optics before reaching the age of thirty, the Medal will be presented to Yablonovitch for his pioneering work in laser physics and technology. His work has focussed on the understanding of the optical breakdown strength in laser window material, the development of ultrashort CO₂ laser pulses and the identification of laser plasma heating processes.

Yablonovitch was a staff scientist at Bell Laboratories before his appointment at Harvard. The award, a medal and a scroll, will be presented to him at the fall meeting of the Society in San Francisco.

Thomas J. Johnson, chairman of the board of directors of Celestron International, will receive the David Richardson Medal for 1978. The Richardson Medal was established in 1967 to honor individuals for distinguished contributions to applied optics. Johnson will be cited for his design and manufacture of high-quality, low-cost Schmidt-Cassegrain telescopes. His design production equipment used for fabricating and testing Schmidt corrector plates has led to the creation of a series of telescopes well-suited for amateur and educational astronomy.

Johnson's early career was in electronics, where he founded his own company, Valor Electronic Components, in 1954. Celestron International was established as a division of Valor, but has since displaced all electronics manufac-

turing activities of the parent company. The award consists of a medal and a scroll and will be presented with the previously mentioned honors.

The Edgar D. Tillyer Award will be given to Gerald Westheimer of the department of physiology-anatomy of the University of California at Berkeley. The Tillyer Award is given biannually and was established in 1955 to honor an individual who has performed distinguished work in the field of vision.

Westheimer will be cited for his contributions to the understanding of linear systems, vergence movements and modulation transfer functions in the eye. His early graduate work was done in physiological optics at Ohio State University, and prior to joining the University of California he held appointments at the University of Houston and Ohio State University. The award consists of a medal and a scroll and will be presented at the San Francisco meeting.

Malvern Correlator team wins MacRobert Award

The 1977 MacRobert Award, Great Britain's major engineering prize, was presented to a five-person team, three of whom were physicists, for their development of the Malvern Correlator, an extremely sensitive instrument for measuring the movement of particles and molecules. The Award, sponsored by the Council of Engineering Institutions on behalf of the MacRobert Trust, is given in recognition of an outstanding contribution or innovation in engineering or physical technology that serves to enhance the prestige or prosperity of the United Kingdom.