Force, the Central Intelligency Agency, The American University and Catholic University. In more recent years he worked as an industrial consultant.

Kasson S. Gibson

Kasson S. Gibson, a distinguished physicist at the National Bureau of Standards from 1916 to 1955, died on 5 January two days before his 89th birthday. Gibson earned world-wide recognition in two important fields, spectrophotometry and visibility of radiant energy.

Gibson received his AB in 1912 and his PhD in physics in 1916, both from Cornell University.

GIBSON

Gibson was internationally recognized for his work in spectrophotometry and was a pioneer in applying photoelectric measurement techniques in this field. He was chief of the NBS colorimetry and spectrophotometry section from 1933 to 1941 and chief of the photometry and colorimetry section from 1941 until he retired in 1955.

Early in his work at NBS he experimented with E.P.T. Tyndall on the relationship of the wavelength of radiation and its effectiveness for illumination. The luminous efficiency curve applicable to this relationship was adopted by the International Commission on Illumination in 1924 and remains to this day as the basis for the objective definition of illumination.

Another important contribution was his development with Raymond Davis of an optical filter to transform radiation from an incandescent lamp to that having spectral distributions simulating sunlight and daylight.

Gibson held the following offices in the Optical Society of America: President

obituaries

(1939–41), Secretary (1957–59), and Associate Editor (1928–57) and served as a member of the AIP Governing Board (1942–48), and Advisory Committee for PHYSICS TODAY (1948–50).

L. E. BARBROW
National Bureau of Standards
Gaithersburg, Maryland

Josef Ausländer

Josef S. Ausländer, professor emeritus at the University of Karlsruhe, died in that city on 16 June 1978 at the age of 67.

Born in the province of Bukowina (at that time part of the Austro-Hungarian empire, later taken over by Romania, now part of the USSR), he was educated in Vienna, Berlin (until 1933), and Zurich, where he received his PhD with Paul Scherrer in 1938, in spectroscopy. At that time he belonged to a close-knit group including, among others, Valentine Bargmann, Nicholas Kemmer, Marcel Schein, and Victor Weisskopf. In 1938 Ausländer returned to Czernowitz (then Romania) for military service. He was prevented by the war from taking up an assistantship he had been offered at Princeton.

As a Jew he could not expect an academic career in monarchic Romania, and as a "nonproletarian" he faced the same adversity after Czernowitz was "liberated" by the USSR in 1940. Thus, he ended up teaching physics at a Yiddish high school in that city and finally, doing forced labor, when the city was reoccupied in 1941 by Romanian and German troops.

He moved to Bucharest in 1944 and after 1945 he taught at the University and at the Polytechnic Institute there; from 1949 to 1962 he also headed the Cosmic Ray Laboratory of the Institute for Atomic Physics in the same city. He was able to emigrate to the West only in 1965, and after a brief interlude at CERN, he joined the Institute for Experimental Nuclear Physics of the University of Karlsruhe, from which he retired in 1977.

Ausländer was responsible, directly or indirectly, for several generations of nuclear physicists in Romania. His scientific interests were widespread, ranging from atomic spectroscopy and chemical physics, through radioactivity and its applications, to elementary particle physics and detection methods. He had an unusual ability for extracting information from scant data.

He successfully used nuclear emulsions to measure the extremely low vapor pressure of thorium. In his words: "it was like hunting on a moonless night in a region notoriously devoid of birds." The methods his group developed for estimating and eliminating psychotechnical