



BLOKHINTSEV

of IUPAP in 1966 and a corresponding member of both the Soviet and Ukrainian Academies of Science and a foreign member of numerous East-European Academies. He was awarded the Stalin Prize in 1952 and the Lenin Prize in 1957.

Blokhintsev graduated from Moscow University in 1930 and received his doctorate in theoretical physics in 1937. During the 1930's he was interested in atomic and solid-state physics (phosphorescence of solids, fluorescence of complex molecules, semiconductors and magnetism). During World War II he was involved in research on underwater acoustics and submarine detection (which resulted in a postwar book on propagation of sound in a moving medium). He became a member of the Communist Party in 1943 and was always interested in reconciling Marxist ideology and the principles of quantum mechanics (as illustrated by the appendices to the various editions of his text on quantum mechanics and a later book on the philosophical problems of quantum mechanics). He was an outspoken advocate of the view that the wave function is to be associated to an ensemble, but his views otherwise differed little from those of many Western physicists, and he strongly objected to the ideologically inspired attempts by some French physicists to modify quantum mechanics; he seemed inclined to adapt dialectical materialism to the facts of quantum mechanics, rather than vice versa.

In addition to his contribution to the development of fast-pulsed reactors and coordination of the first nuclear power plant in the world, he was deeply interested in elementary-particle physics, a field in which he became actively involved after becoming director of Dubna.

In 1957, when I was at Dubna, he was

concerned with the role weak interactions play in elementary-particle physics, and together we investigated "weak corrections" to electromagnetic interactions. Blokhintsev headed a small group of theorists involved with problems of multiple-particle production, nonlocal-field theories and related topics.

In spite of his multiple administrative duties and his research, teaching and writing activities, Blokhintsev had a wide range of other interests. He was interested in genetics, for example, and apparently made it possible for real genetics to be pursued at the nuclear power station, sheltering some Soviet geneticists from the (now discredited) Lysenko purges; Lysenko had no access to the "closed" institutions of the Atomic Energy Committee, whose head was none other than the dreaded Beriya.

Contrary to initial impressions, Blokhintsev, on closer acquaintance, turned out to be a warm personality, with interests in art, literature and philosophy (not only Marxist). In his library one could find manuscript versions of Pasternak's poetry, as well as the latest American best sellers. He had a fine sense of humor and worked hard for more open exchanges of scientists between the USSR and the West.

MEINHARD E. MAYER

University of California, Irvine

C. Paul Boner

C. Paul Boner, well-known physicist and acoustical consultant, died in Austin, Texas on 12 April. He was 79 years old. A former president of the Acoustical Society of America, Boner was a leading expert on underwater sound defense. He was twice recognized by the US government for his work on anti-submarine weapons and special torpedoes at Harvard University's Underwater Sound Laboratory during World War II.

Boner was associated with The University of Texas throughout most of his professional career. He earned three physics degrees there—a BA in 1920, a MA in 1922, and a PhD in 1929. Appointed a physics assistant at the Austin campus of the university in 1919, Boner joined the faculty as an instructor in 1922. From 1949 to 1954, he became dean of the College of Arts and Sciences and added the title of dean of the university faculty in 1953. Boner held the post of vice president of the university from 1954 to 1957. He founded the university's former Defense Research Laboratory (now Applied Research Laboratory) in 1945, served as its director until 1965 and was a consultant thereafter. Boner also established the Office of Government Sponsored Research (now Office of Sponsored Research) in 1949 and was its executive director from 1949 to 1954, and again from 1957 to 1965. □

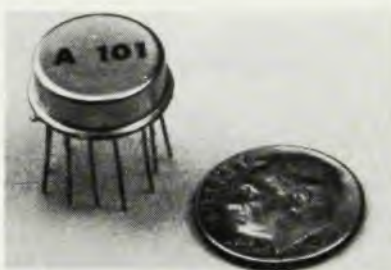
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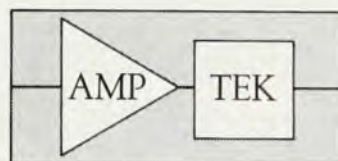
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