matter phenomena, mostly related to dielectric polarization of liquid and solid systems. His research was distinguished by clever design of equipment, thorough understanding of the physics involved, and insightful attention to important details.

In 1941 he completed the work for which he is most widely known, a pioneering textbook on atomic, nuclear and particle physics that with characteristic foresight he entitled *The Particles of Modern Physics*. This extremely well-documented and timely textbook became widely used by young physicists throughout the country. Because he was an excellent writer and perceptive critic, he was called upon to serve as associate editor of the *American Journal of Physics*. For his achievements in physics, he was designated fellow of the American Physical Society and of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

At the outbreak of World War II, he became a leader in providing basic scientific education to large groups of students sent by the US Signal Corps, Army and Navy.

In addition to his administrative duties, teaching and research, Stranathan served as a consultant to the petroleum industry, using his experience with electronics to develop ultrasensitive electrometers and ionization chambers rugged enough to measure radioactivity in the oil fields. He also served as the leader of a group of physicists, chemists, engineers and mathematicians from the University of Kansas to fulfill the need to the US Navy in the early 1950s for a comprehensive analysis of all conceivable methods for launching and landing carrier aircraft.

GORDON G. WISEMAN
University of Kansas

Jean-Pierre Jan

Jean-Pierre Jan died on 23 March 1981, after a seven-year fight with leukemia. He was born in Lausanne, Switzerland, in 1925 and received his doctorate from the University of Lausanne in 1952. After spending three years in the US and Canada he returned to Switzerland, where he worked in the Laboratoire Suisse de Recherches Horlogères, in Neuchatel, for seven years. In 1962 he returned to Canada, rejoining what was then the Low Temperature and Solid State Physics Group in the Pure Physics Division of the National Research Council. There he became involved with Fermi-surface studies in intermetallic compounds and ordered alloys, which was his main area of interest for the next eighteen years. □