

letters

in April 1979, the book was published in *December* of the same year and, according to our records, a review copy was airmailed to *PHYSICS TODAY* one week later.

We are, therefore, shocked about the last statment of the review which asserts that our book appeared two years after it had been written. This statment cannot be left without critique, since it adversely affects the reputation of Springer-Verlag.

Though it was stated in the Preface that the origin of this book goes back to the lectures given by the authors at the various schools and conferences, the book manuscript had been revised and updated before it went into print. Thus it really cannot be said that the book was published with a two-year delay.

H. K. V. LOTSCH
Springer-Verlag

12/1/80

Heidelberg, F. R. Germany

THE REVIEWER COMMENTS: The authors and publisher of *Electron-Positron Interactions* have done a creditable job of preparing a well-written summary of the status of the field in a time which for the textbook industry must be considered short. It remains true, however, that in August 1980, when I received the book for reviewing, it was not an up-to-date survey. Although about 4% of the references are indeed from early 1979, the bulk of the book is essentially the same as the DESY 78/23 report of May 1978. Important recent work on gluon bremsstrahlung, the η_c , higher Υ states, and the B mesons could not be included. It would have been a disservice to the potential consumer not to have pointed this out in the review.

It is of course not the fault of the authors or the publisher that this is such a rapidly moving field of physics. I apologize if my final statement gave the impression that I was chastizing them for being dilatory. It was merely meant to point out an unfortunate fact of life in this field. It would also have been fairer to the publisher if I had rounded the time lapse down to one year instead of two, especially in light of the several possible interpretations of the age of the book.

KARL BERKELMAN
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12/11/80

Librarians beware

We recently ordered the book "Bibliography of Fiber Optics Technology and Applications," published by Information Gatekeepers, Inc. The price of this publication is \$90.00, and for this

amount we received a booklet that must have been published by a local high school. The information given in the booklet leaves a lot to be desired, the pages were xerox copies, and they were numbered incorrectly and poorly connected.

Therefore, we suggest to all other libraries to watch out before they purchase any publication from Information Gatekeepers.

TAMAR HARARI
Tel-Aviv University
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12/15/80

Interviews in Asia

The Physics Interviewing Project, in its twelfth year of operation, is planning for its next interviewing trip which will take place in the Fall of 1981. Informational material on the program, together with participation forms, has been mailed out to all chairmen of US physics departments which have a PhD program, and also to selected institutions in Canada, Britain and Australia. The interviews will again cover Asian countries ranging from South Korea to Pakistan. The objective of the program is to generate, through individual interviews with applicants to US graduate schools in physics, reliable information on such applicants regarding their preparation and potential for graduate study. For further information contact M. J. Moravcsik (U. of Oregon) or M. Scadron (U. of Arizona).

MICHAEL J. MORAVCSIK
University of Oregon
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12/29/80

Home for accelerators

The interview (November, page 61) with John Deutch on his experiences in DOE included a discussion of the proper agency setting for high-energy accelerator physics (HEAP). The presence of that program in DOE is clearly a matter of historical accident, or, as Deutch said, "it may not make great sense in principle."

The only alternative to the DOE considered in the interview was the NSF, and it was found wanting on several counts. The purpose of this letter is to raise again the question raised previously at a meeting of GAO consultants, of placing HEAP in the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA).

NASA has the expertise in management of large facilities which NSF lacks. Its scientific programs in cosmic rays and high-energy astrophysics, for which it provides essential support, embrace scientific interests which overlap those of high-energy accelerator physics. And the scale of NASA activities is so large that the absorption

of HEAP would not create the lopsidedness which would result from transfer to NSF. NASA's present programs in astronomy are very similar in dollar size to the present high-energy accelerator physics programs—about one-third of a billion dollars per year.

Bringing HEAP into the same fold as other programs which are similar in scale and in general scientific-philosophic purpose should make the processes of resource allocation in pure science—always a problem of formidable difficulty—somewhat less formidable, and should encourage cross-fertilization of programs which are now under very different management auspices.

With the future of DOE itself in question, the NASA option is a timely alternative.

LAWRENCE CRANBERG
Austin, Texas

12/24/80

Anonymous refereeing

Christopher Sherman's letter (January, page 15) may arouse support for a principle of "equal anonymity" for authors and referees. But perhaps his suggestion does not go far enough.

Some artists make a living in circumstances which in some ways resemble those of physicists. The artists sell their works and gain recognition at art shows. In invitations to submit work for shows one commonly sees the names of the jury members who will choose objects for display and special recognition at the shows. It is also common that names of artists are concealed from juries until after the selections have been made.

Is it possible that artists are smarter than physicists, and have consequently achieved a more open and just arrangement?

1/26/81

DARYL REAGAN
Palo Alto, California

Mirages

I read with interest your news story on the Novaya Zemlya effect and optical ducting of objects beyond the horizon (January, page 21). I have on several occasions seen similar effects on Lake Michigan, such as lingering of the last bit of the sun until well past when it should have set. On one occasion I even recall its brief reappearance. The appearance of over-the-horizon land points as floating islands (Gunnbjorn's "skerries") is also a very common sight.

These effects seem to occur most frequently on cool, clear days. Undoubtedly they are associated with air temperature gradients near the water surface.

J. C. VAN DER VELDE
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2/2/81