



TRIVELPIECE

has spent the last five years working with high technology in industry, three years with Science Applications and two years with Maxwell Laboratories.

From 1973 to 1975 he was assistant director of research in the AEC Division of Controlled Thermonuclear Research. From 1966 to 1976 he was professor of physics at the University of Maryland and from 1959 to 1966 he was professor of engineering at the University of California at Berkeley. His specialties include plasma physics and fusion, particle accelerators, microwave devices and electromagnetic waves.

Giacconi is director of space telescope institute

Riccardo Giacconi became the first director of NASA's Space Telescope Science Institute on 1 September. He was selected by a committee headed by E. Margaret Burbidge (University of California, San Diego) of the Association of Universities for Research in Astronomy, a consortium of 16 universities that will establish and operate the Institute (PHYSICS TODAY, March 1981,

page 59). A building to house the Institute will be constructed on the campus of Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore.

The 96-inch telescope, a cooperative venture by NASA and the European Space Agency, is now two-thirds built. It is scheduled to be put in orbit in early 1985.

Giacconi (see PHYSICS TODAY, May 1981, page 76) since 1973 has been professor of astronomy at Harvard University and associate director of the High Energy Astrophysics Division of the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics. In accepting the new appointment he explained: "The results from the Space Telescope should be the most important development in astronomy during the next decade. . . . I accepted this worthy challenge because I have long held the view that astronomers should take more responsibility for the operation of the facilities they use, both scientifically and managerially."

the physics community

AIP gives four awards at 50th anniversary meeting

On its fiftieth anniversary, the American Institute of Physics will award Melba Phillips the Compton Medal and Pierre Aigrain the Tate Medal. The presentations will take place at next month's 1981 AIP Corporate Associates Meeting, where, in addition, the AIP-US Steel Foundation Science-Writing Prize will be awarded to Eric Chaisson and the Prize for Industrial Applications of Physics will go to Alec N. Broers.

The Karl Taylor Compton Prize, last awarded in 1974, recognizes distinguished statesmanship in science. Melba Newell Phillips, the present winner, is cited "for distinguished service to physics. Her research has added significantly to the knowledge of physics. A scholar, teacher, and author, she has, by inspiration and by example, touched generations of students and both illuminated the understanding and sharpened the insights of her colleagues."

Phillips was educated at Oakland City College (AB, 1926), Battle Creek (MS, 1928) and University of California at Berkeley (PhD, 1933). After teaching at Berkeley, Connecticut College, Brooklyn College, and the University of Minnesota, she was assistant professor at Brooklyn College 1944-52. She was associate director, Academic Year Institute, Washington University from 1957 to 1962, when she started a ten-year tenure as professor at the University of Chicago. In organizational ser-

vice to physics, she was a member of the AIP Governing Board (1965-68, 1975-77) and was acting executive officer (1975-77) and president (1966-67) of the American Association of Physics Teachers.

She wrote, with W. K. H. Panofsky, *Classical Electricity and Magnetism* and, with F. T. Bonner, *Principles of Physical Science*. Her research interests have been in theory of complex spectra, theory of light nuclei and history of physics education. She receives \$3000 with the prize.

Pierre Raoul Roger Aigrain is the winner of the John T. Tate International Medal for distinguished service to the profession of physics. The \$3000

prize was last awarded in 1978. Aigrain, born in Poitiers, France, received a PhD in electrical engineering at the Carnegie Institute of Technology in 1948 and a DSc in 1950 from the Faculté des Sciences de Paris. Currently the scientific and technical director-general of the Groupe Thomson, he is recognized by the prize committee for his contributions to the growth of science on an international scale. His own research and that of the groups he created and led have had a major impact on the advance and application of solid-state physics throughout the world, according to the committee.

Aigrain was director of the French Armed Forces Ministry 1961-65, direc-

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