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served on the program committees of many international conferences and was, at the time of his death, a member of the editorial board of the *Journal of Physics*, of the Solid State Physics Subcommittee of the Institute of Physics, of the SERC Physics Committee and the editor of the Prentice-Hall International Series on Optoelectronics.

M. S. SKOLNICK

*Royal Signals and Radar Establishment
Malvern*

Hans Ekstein

Hans Ekstein, a physicist at Argonne National Laboratory for many years known for his work on scattering theory and the foundations of symmetry, died on 6 January 1984.

Ekstein was born in 1908 in what was then the eastern part of the Austrian Empire and grew up in Vienna. He began his scientific education in Berlin, obtaining his PhD in physical chemistry with M. Polanyi. A refugee from Hitler's Germany, he worked in France, then came to the US in 1941. He first settled in Kansas City and worked to prepare crystals for radio and navigational use in the war.

After the war, he worked at the Armour Research Foundation and then moved to Argonne, where he was a senior physicist from 1956 until 1973. His interests shifted to fundamental theoretical physics, in particular, to scattering theory. After retirement from Argonne he moved to southern France and continued to work at the Centre de Physique Théorique in Marseille, where he stimulated interest in scattering theory in the group.

He was the first to put the theory of rearrangement collisions and scattering in quantum field theory on a sound conceptual basis (1955–56). His work on "presymmetry" provided a starting point for the distinction between kinematical and dynamical aspects in relativistic theories. As time went on he focused more and more on fundamental problems on the borderline between physics, mathematics and philosophy. At the time of his death he was engaged in a long quest to understand the operational significance of gauge invariance. "I wanted to understand why the sky is (sometimes) blue" was his paraphrase for his motivation. Indeed, for those of us who had the chance of pursuing discussions with him, his freshness of approach, his relentless pursuit of truth, his complete lack of any personal vanity made knowing him a rare pleasure, one that we shall sorely miss.

A. GROSSMANN

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