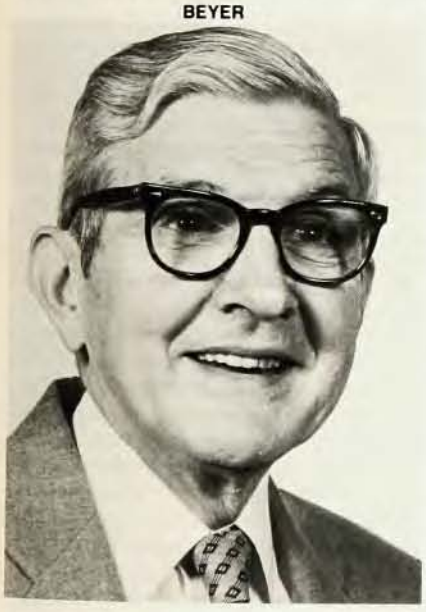
ASA Gold Medal and Biennial Award

The Acoustical Society of America has presented its annual Gold Medal to Robert T. Beyer "for contributions to acoustics through his teaching, research and translations, and for his dedicated service" to the Acoustical Society. The Society also presented its Biennial Award to Peter N. Mikhalevsky "for significant contributions to understanding the propagation of sound in the ocean and the role of fluctuations in signal-detection modeling." The Gold Medal is presented annually to a member of the Society for contributions to acoustics; the Biennial Award is given to a member of the Society who is under 35 years of age.

Beyer received his AB in mathematics from Hofstra College in 1942 and his PhD in physics from Cornell in 1945. He subsequently joined Brown University, to work with R. Bruce Lindsay on physical acoustics, and has remained there since. He became a full professor in 1958 and has served as department chairman and executive officer of the department at Brown.

From his thesis work on magnetic amplifiers, Beyer went to measurements of acoustics propagation in conventional liquids. Since then, he has studied suspensions, condensed gases, liquid metals and semi-metals, electrolytic solutions, organic crystals, and rough surfaces. Beginning in the late 1950s he has also become increasingly interested in nonlinear acoustics.



BEYER

MIKHALEVSKY

In addition to his research papers and two advanced treatises on acoustics, Beyer has written a college text *College Physics* (1957, with Arthur O. Williams) and has translated several monographs from the German and Russian. He has also served as the editor of translation journals (including the pilot project for *Soviet Physics JETP*) from the Russian and Chinese.

Mikhalevsky received his AB and AM (1972) degrees from Harvard University and his PhD from MIT in 1979. His career has been with the Navy; after his PhD he was assigned to the Naval Underwater Systems Center in New London, Connecticut; he is currently at the Pentagon.

Underwater acoustics has been the focus of Mikhalevsky's research, which has included work on long-range signal propagation, stochastic descriptions of signals and noise, partially saturated multipath processes, and signal propagation in the Arctic Ocean.

obituaries

Hugh Odishaw

Hugh Odishaw, who directed US participation in the International Geophysical Year, died on 4 March in Tucson. He was 67 years old and had been Dean of the College of Earth Sciences and professor of geophysics at the University of Arizona.

Following his studies at Northwestern University (AB 1939 and MA 1941) and the Illinois Institute of Technology (BS 1944), he worked at Westinghouse Electric Corporation for two years. He