

# 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

BEYER



MIKHALEVSKY

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.

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

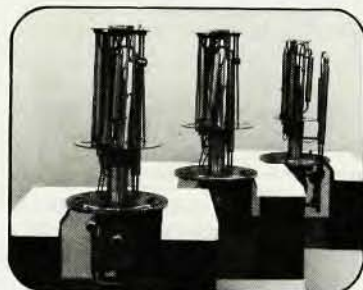
professor of geophysics at the University of Arizona.

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

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spent a year with the European operations of the Office of Scientific Research and Development, headed by Vannevar Bush, and then served, from 1946 to 1953, as assistant to NBS Director Edward U. Condon.

Odishaw devoted the greater part of his career to his several positions at the National Academy of Science and its National Research Council in Washington. At the Academy, he took a leading role in planning and later in directing US participation in the International Geophysical Year (1957-58). He served as Secretary of the US National Committee for IGY 1953-56 and as Executive Director 1957-66. IGY was an extraordinary program involving the active participation of approximately 60 000 scientists from more than 60 nations. The US, through the US National Committee, was active in guiding and coordinating this complex effort to understand and document simultaneously interacting geophysical phenomena in all areas of the Earth, its atmosphere and its oceans. During and after the formal "year," Odishaw was in large measure responsible for establishing and guiding the IGY World Data Centers to record and organize the enormous quantity of data from IGY and from succeeding programs for the benefit of international geophysical research.

IGY was sponsored by the International Council of Scientific Unions, which subsequently sponsored many international programs in geophysics that were modeled on it. Odishaw was an active participant in many of these programs, both internationally and through the corresponding US national committees in the National Academy of Sciences. To help preserve the momentum and unity of geophysics that resulted from IGY, the National Academy created the continuing Geophysics Research Broad (1960) under Odishaw's staff direction.

In addition, Odishaw, as Executive Director, helped to organize and direct the efforts of the NAS Space Science Board, which continues to serve as the science advisory body to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration and plans and coordinates the efforts of thousands of US scientists in planetary and space research.

In all of these programs, Odishaw sought to communicate research findings to a wider audience beyond the current generation of geophysicists. Accordingly, he devoted much of his effort to the preparation of a series of popular 13 half-hour films and related posters to bring the IGY program to students in the US and abroad.

Odishaw wrote and edited many publications, including *Science in Space* (with Floyd V. Berkner) in 1969,

the *AIP Handbook of Physics* (with Condon) in 1958, *Research in Geophysics* (Proceedings of a 1963 NAS Symposium at UCLA) in 1964, and a critical study of UFOs with Condon, carried out under NAS auspices at the request of the US Air Force.

In 1965 he became Executive Secretary of the NRC Division of Physical Sciences, with administrative oversight for its more than 100 committees and programs. In 1972 he left this position for the University of Arizona.

JOHN S. COLEMAN  
Arlington, Va.

## Issai Lefkowitz

Issai Lefkowitz, a physicist at the Army Research Office, died on 29 November 1983 following a courageous five-year fight with cancer.

Prior to commencing his graduate studies in 1960, he worked as an engineer for Gulton Industries designing fuze systems and represented the United Kingdom at the European Atomic Energy Commission in Vienna. After he received his PhD in physics in 1964 from Cambridge University, he joined the US Army's Frankford Arsenal in Philadelphia. While there, he published numerous papers, principally on the effects of nuclear radiation and short-range order.

He left Frankford Arsenal in 1974 to found the Princeton Materials Science Corporation. He raised venture capital, authored and co-authored early patents on liquid-crystal displays, did research and development of liquid-crystal displays and established a small production facility.

When Princeton Materials Science was acquired by Fairchild Electronics in 1975, he joined the Army Research Office to generate a contract research program in ferroelectrics and other solid-state research and engaged in research on short-range order in specialized glasses and on the use of liquid crystals for high-speed spatial light modulators.

He was cited by the Army for solving problems with premature artillery rounds and remote-set fuzes, and for assisting Army laboratories in acousto-optics, superconductivity, and all-optical telephone technology. As an Army Research Office program manager, he developed a high-quality and robust program of ferroelectrics and other solid-state physics research.

Lefkowitz was an outspoken advocate for fundamental physics in a mission agency. His enthusiasm for science and technology had a lasting effect on all of us.

ROBERT LONTZ  
US Army Research Office □