



AIP Director H. William Koch celebrates the renewal of the Physics Briefs agreement with German officials on 19 July at AIP headquarters in New York. FIZ codirectors Werner Rittenberger and Ernst-Otto Schultzi are at the far left and right, respectively; standing between Koch and Schultzi is Hans Donth, an official with Germany's Federal Ministry of Science and Technology.

gie, Physik, Mathematik GmbH—Technical Information Center for Energy, Physics and Mathematics). Chemical Abstracts Service and FIZ are responsible for building files and marketing the service in North America, Japan and Europe.

The *Physics Briefs* database contains more than 750 000 bibliographic entries, including abstracts of some 130 000 items published worldwide each year—journals, books, conference proceedings and a variety of other articles. Under its agreement with FIZ, AIP supplies the records of its own publications and other US materials to the *Physics Briefs* database at the same time as the original items are being prepared for Institute and Member Society journals. As a result, current bibliographic information on articles published by AIP becomes available in the *Physics Briefs*—STN database sooner than in any other comprehensive database. The AIP abstracts will continue to be available as *Current Physics Index* and on the SPIN tape.

The STN database was launched late last year with two major files, *Physics Briefs* ("PHYS") and Chemical Abstracts Service. Previously, *Physics*

Briefs was available online only as part of the FIZ "INKA" network, and persons in the United States who wished to use *Physics Briefs* online had to gain access through an international carrier.

North American users now have the options of leasing the *Physics Briefs* tape directly from AIP for internal use only or subscribing to the STN network via Telenet or Tymnet for a modest one-time fee and then making payments only for whatever search time is used. The STN network is currently being expanded with additional files from the INKA service, including Mathematics Abstracts (*Zentralblatt für Mathematik*), National Technical Information Service (government reports), VTB (German chemical-engineering reports), DETEQ (DECHEMA Environmental Technology Equipment Data Bank) and DEQUIP (DECHEMA Equipment Suppliers Data Bank for apparatus in biotechnology and chemical engineering).

More detailed information about STN and *Physics Briefs* can be obtained from Marketing Services, AIP, 335 East 45th Street, New York, NY 10017.

—WILLIAM SWEET

to publish works on the history of computers and grew into a publisher of more general physics history.

The first new books to be published in the joint AIP-Tomash venture are Henry Guerlac's *History of Radar in World War II* (a history of the MIT radar lab) and a collection of physics papers given at the St. Louis Congress of 1904. AIP also will market four books already printed by Tomash: *Allos*, by Samuel A. Goudsmit; *Project Y: The Los Alamos Story*, by David Hawkins (Part I) and Edith C. Truslow and Ralph C. Smith (Part II); *American Physics in Transition*, by Albert E. Moyer, and *The Question of the Atom*, by Mary Jo Nye.

Negotiations are in progress for the acquisition of additional titles for the Tomash series, for original monographs, and for reprints and translations from Russian and Japanese. Definite plans have been made to publish three Russian books, the first of which will be *Nonlinear Theory of Sound Beams* by N. S. Bakhvalov, Ya. N. Zhileikin and K. A. Zabolotsky. The first reprint volume is to be *Theory of Plasma Waves* by Thomas H. Stix. The first, or one of the first, original monographs will be a book by Finn Aaserud, currently a staff member with the AIP Physics History Division, tentatively called *Scientist and Administrator: Niels Bohr and his Institute in the 1930s*.

A number of reprint volumes with articles from a variety of sources are being assembled. One will be *Physics of Sports*, edited by Angelo Armenti Jr, and another will be *Gallium Arsenide*, edited by John Blakemore.

Last but not, we hope, least, are the PHYSICS TODAY reprint volumes. *History of Physics*, edited by Spencer R. Weart and Melba Phillips, has just appeared. The first, *Astrophysics Today* (edited by A. G. W. Cameron), appeared last year before the Book Division was formally established. John Howard, editor of *Applied Optics*, is currently editing a third PHYSICS TODAY reprint volume on optics.

—WILLIAM SWEET

AIP Book Division getting organized

The AIP Book Division, which was established last January under the management of Rita G. Lerner, is off to a strong start with a diversified program of publications that includes article reprint volumes, reference books, original monographs, translations and reprints of monographs, and conference proceedings. Publication of conference proceedings already was a well-

established AIP activity when the Book Division was set up, but otherwise Lerner has had to start almost from scratch.

A significant advance occurred in July, when AIP reached an agreement with Tomash Publishers in Los Angeles to publish jointly a series of books called "The History of Modern Physics, 1800–1950." Tomash was established

Education

Texas teacher honored by AAPT is forced to resign her job

Katherine Mays, a Texas high-school teacher selected to be 1985–86 Visiting Fellow by the American Association of Physics Teachers, was required by her local school board to resign her job when she requested a one-year leave of absence to take advantage of the fellowship. Mays has been a high-school physics teacher for 28 years, and she has worked for the last 15 years in Bay

City, Texas, the community that is now penalizing her for having received an outstanding honor from the major national professional organization in her field.

In a letter dated 6 August to William P. Hobby, the lieutenant governor of Texas, AAPT Executive Officer Jack Wilson complained in the following terms: "Each year we select one National Visiting Fellow to work in our office. The Fellows are outstanding university professors or high-school teachers of physics. This year we selected an outstanding physics teacher from Bay City, Texas, Mrs. Katherine Mays. . . . Bay City Independent School District not only refused to grant an unpaid leave, they forced Mrs. Mays to resign. . . . The first National Visiting Fellow from the state of Texas was forced to resign! Previous Fellows from Pennsylvania, Nebraska, California, New York and Massachusetts (to name just a few) were honored, rewarded and publicized." Wilson, himself a Texan, feels not merely indignant but embarrassed as well.

Undeterred by the Bay City board, Mays joined the AAPT staff in College Park, Maryland, in September, where she is responsible this year for administering the Physics Teacher Resource Agents Program (PHYSICS TODAY, June 1985, page 72). She also is coordinating development of national guidelines for high-school physics programs and accreditation of teachers. She is involved in the continuing-education program and will serve as a representative physics teacher on national advisory boards and committees.

Even if she is hired back at Bay City after her year with AAPT, Mays will lose her seniority and have to start back at the bottom of the career ladder, she reports. The superintendent of the Bay City School Board did not return phone calls from PHYSICS TODAY.

—WILLIAM SWEET

Education

Hein of South Dakota State is named outstanding SPS adviser

The Society of Physics Students has announced the selection of physics professor Warren W. Hein of South Dakota State University as the first recipient of the Outstanding SPS Chapter Adviser Award (PHYSICS TODAY, December 1984, page 65).

Hein is described by his students and colleagues as a person who knows how to recognize and work with good ideas from students. He is said to have a special talent for helping students develop leadership skills. In 1979, when Hein became chapter adviser at South

Dakota State University, the local chapter had been virtually dormant for a number of years. Each of the following six years, South Dakota State University received an Outstanding SPS Chapter Award. Last year the chapter was granted a Bendix Award to support a research project.

South Dakota State University will receive \$500 from SPS to support a talk by a distinguished speaker in November, when the citation is formally presented to Hein.

European Physical Society launches *Europhysics Letters*

Starting at the beginning of next year, a new journal called *Europhysics Letters* will be published twice monthly under the auspices of the European Physical Society. The journal actually is only partially new in that it replaces two well-established publications, the *Journal de Physique Lettres* of the French Physical Society and *Il Nuovo Cimento Lettere* of the Italian Physical Society. Nicholas Kurti of the University of Oxford is to be the first editor-in-chief.

The "Euro" prefix to *Europhysics Letters* should not be taken too literally, Kurti says. "It [the journal] will be a truly international publication," he said, and "we hope that both readers and authors will span all countries and all continents."

Kurti notes that publishing results in the shortened form of letters has had the unfortunate disadvantage that there often is a long delay before the complete account appears. "We hope to evolve some methods whereby readers may obtain full experimental data and details of experimental or mathematical techniques quickly and at only minimal cost," he said.

The editorial board of *Europhysics Letters* consists of 15 coeditors appointed

KURTI



ed by the European Physical Society. The journal is to be published by a partnership consisting of the French Physical Society, the Italian Physical Society, Britain's Institute of Physics and the European Physical Society. The Institute of Physics is contributing initial working capital of 150 000 Swiss francs (roughly \$60 000). Additional capital, should the need arise, has been guaranteed by eight other national societies, which are Associate Partners in the project: Austrian Physical Society, German Physical Society, Hungarian Physical Society, Portuguese Physical Society, Scandinavian Physical Societies (as a group), Swiss Physical Society, Turkish Physical Society and Yugoslavian Physical Society. The journal will have its headquarters at the Secretariat of the European Physical Society in Geneva, where a staff editor will manage operations.

Letters may be submitted to *Europhysics Letters* in English, French, German or Russian, and they will be published in the original language. Submissions should be addressed to: Staff Editor, *Europhysics Letters*, European Physical Society, P.O. Box 69, CH-1213 Petit Lancy 2, Switzerland.

—WILLIAM SWEET

Education

More physics degrees awarded at all levels in 1983-84

The numbers of students enrolling in physics programs and obtaining physics degrees are rising at all levels of higher education in the United States, it was found in AIP's latest survey of enrollments and degrees. The number of master's degrees awarded in 1983-84 rose by an especially marked 6.7% over the previous year, but doctoral degrees also were up quite sharply. Compared with the slumps of the late 1970s, many more degrees were conferred at all levels. There were 10.5% more bachelor's degrees in 1983-84 than in 1978-79, when they hit a low. Master's degrees were up 10% last year from 1979-80, and doctoral degrees were 6.5% higher than in 1979-80.

The number of juniors and seniors majoring in physics was 12 610 last year, higher than in any year since 1972-73, when there were 11 818 physics majors. The number of students that took introductory physics courses at institutions that confer physics degrees held steady at about 300 000 last year. Introductory physics courses also are offered at another 1000 colleges and universities that do not offer a bachelor's degree in physics.

Currently, 745 institutions grant physics degrees, and of these, 168 offer doctoral degrees—three more than last