retirement in 1984. In addition to elucidating the properties of zinc sulfide phosphors, Shionoya was the codiscoverer of cooperative luminescence in rare-earth solids. He pioneered the application of laser-spectroscopic methods to the study of the dynamics of impurity-activated glasses. Recently he has employed picosecond and coherent techniques in his studies of highly excited systems and ultrafast relaxation phenomena.

## Lusztig receives Frank Nelson Cole Prize in Algebra

At its January meeting in Anaheim, California, the American Mathematical Society presented the 1985 Cole Prize in Algebra to George Lusztig of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology for "his fundamental work on the representation theory of finite groups of the Lie type." Lusztig has classified the complex irreducible representations of a reductive group $G(F_q)$ over a finite field $F_q$; based on his work, he says, one can now hope that the full character table of $G$ can be determined in the near future. Much of the cited work appeared in his book *Characters of Reductive Groups Over Finite Fields*, published in 1984.

A native of Rumania, Lusztig received his PhD in 1968 from Princeton University. He worked as a visiting member of the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton (1969–71) and as a research fellow and professor at the University of Warwick in Coventry, England (1971–78) before joining the faculty of MIT in 1978. The Cole Prize is awarded every five years for a notable research memoir in algebra published in the previous five years.

# obituaries

## Heinz Pick

Heinz Pick, emeritus professor of the University of Stuttgart, died on 20 September 1983. He was born in 1912, and studied physics in Cologne, Munich and Göttingen, carrying out his thesis research under Robert Pohl at Göttingen and obtaining a PhD in 1937. His thesis, "On the influence of temperature on the excitation of color centers," was one of the landmark publications of the work on color centers in the alkali halaides in Pohl's laboratory.

World War II took him into industrial research but he returned to Göttingen after the war and did much to reestablish the tempo and quality of

PICK

research in color-center physics at that institution.

In 1954 Pick was offered an exceptional opportunity to start a new institute in experimental physics at the Technical University in Stuttgart, which had been all but destroyed during the war. From meager beginnings, but with the support of one of the wealthier German states, he was able to build up an outstanding institution that became the focal point of much solid-state research in Central Europe. He had a large number of distinguished students and many visitors from home and abroad. The very productive research atmosphere he helped to establish in Stuttgart made it a natural place for the creation of a Max Planck Institute for Solid State Physics in the same community.

He was deeply interested in the international program for developing the history of solid-state physics and he contributed much to planning the European component of the work.

Pick was a quiet, thoughtful individual who had a great love of music along with physics and a pleasant sense of humor. He was devoted to his students and did his very best to create a warm family spirit in the Institute. The home he built in the hills outside the city became the place of many gatherings that combined business with a relaxed social atmosphere.

FREDERICK SEITZ
*The Rockefeller University*
*New York, New York*

## Brian K. Thomas

Brian K. Thomas, associate professor of physics at Brooklyn College of the City University of New York, died 19 November 1984 at the age of 41. In his short career he made notable contributions to atomic scattering theory.

Thomas was born in Fairbanks, Alaska in 1943. He received his bachelor's degree in physics in 1965 from Reed