

Bice Sechi-Zorn

Bice Sechi-Zorn, professor of physics at the University of Maryland, died 10 December 1984 while on sabbatical leave to the DESY laboratory in Hamburg.

Sechi-Zorn received her *Dottore in Fisica* from the University of Cagliari. She then worked at the University of Padua and Brookhaven National Laboratory before joining the staff of the University of Maryland in 1962; she became a full professor there in 1976.

Sechi-Zorn made many contributions to our present understanding of the properties and interactions of strange particles: first, with nuclear emulsions, culminating in the G stack collaboration; and later, with bubble chamber pictures. Her work on the decay of hyperons into leptons helped trigger and then confirm Nicola Cabibbo's theory of weak interactions, which has since been incorporated into the standard model of electroweak interactions. After 1978 she continued her research with the colliding-beam machine, PETRA, at DESY; first in the PLUTO group and then, in 1984, in the JADE group. She made significant contributions to the massive counter experiments that now dominate the high-energy research scene, including a definitive new work on the decay of the η meson as observed in the JADE detector, which she completed in the last months of her life.

At the University of Maryland, Sechi-Zorn was also a dedicated teacher, not only of undergraduate and graduate students, but also of her colleagues on the high energy staff. She had an abiding interest in modern dance and the visual arts; she and her sister, Vanina Sechi, founded the art gallery Vita Nuova Ltd, of Alexandria, Virginia.

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