appendix D on the Fourier integral and in appendix K on time-dependent perturbation theory. In appendix L on the Born approximation, it would be preferable to have the interesting discussion of the validity of the approximation at the beginning rather than the end of the appendix. Finally, to add a note of social criticism, it is a shame that after all these years of attempts to include women in our universe, the student is still referred to as "he"; however, this may reflect on the editors rather than the authors.

In conclusion, those who liked the first edition of this book will like the second edition even more. Those who objected to the exclusion of certain traditional topics in the first edition will find them included in the new appendices. And those who felt the beauty and elegance of quantum mechanics were drowned in a sea of words in the first edition will find the situation unchanged.

> JUDITH BROWN Wellesley College

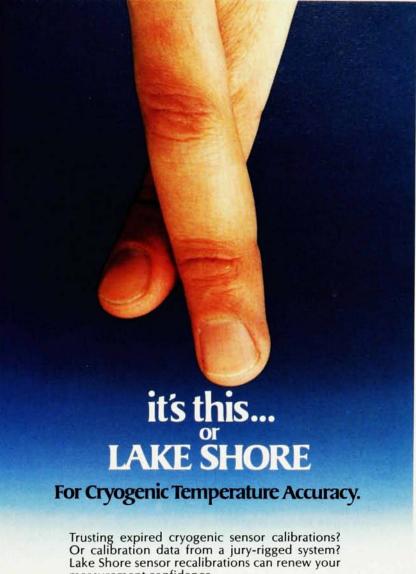
## Radiant Science, Dark Politics: A Memoir of the **Nuclear Age**

Martin D. Kamen 348 pp. Univ. California P., New York, 1985. \$19.95

"May you live in interesting times." In the 20th century we are all subject to this traditional curse, but some times and places are more interesting than others. Martin Kamen's have been very interesting indeed.

The decades from about 1930 to 1960, which saw World War II, the development of big science, and the advent of the atomic bomb, the computer and molecular biology, produced their share of folktales, heroes and villains among scientists. It is remarkable that so few of the legendary figures—Ernest Lawrence, Enrico Fermi, Harold Urey, Robert Oppenheimer, Leo Szilard and Edward Teller, for example—have given or left us memoirs or autobiographies, yet we are curious to learn why and how they played their roles.

Kamen is himself something of a legend. He is a biochemist whose achievements, particularly the discovery of carbon-14, clearly put him in the same class as the more publicly celebrated persons mentioned above. His career developed among them. He is also a musician on a par with the best. ("I am really a better violist than a biochemist," he said once, a matter difficult for most of us to judge.) In the critical years covered by this memoir he was singled out by Congressional committees, the FBI and the Chicago Tribune as an appropriate victim of the security hysteria of the period. It turns



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\*Wordstar TM Micropro, Perfect Writer TM Perfect Software, PC-Write TM Quicksoft out they were wrong in their suspicion of him.

As the story unfolds we are led from his life as a child of an immigrant family in the 1920s, through his time at the University of Chicago in the 1930s and to his work at the Radiation Lab at Berkeley under Lawrence's hard-driving leadership in the late thirties and into the war period. Kamen describes how his skill in working with radioactive tracers drew him toward biology, and how his work gradually transcended a particular technique and moved toward an understanding of energytransfer processes in living cells. He also gives entertaining glimpses of his musical life and a perceptive account of the great events going on around him.

The last chapters are the most remarkable. I have not seen before a commentary on Lawrence and Oppenheimer that so clearly brings them into focus. They were simpler men than we supposed. But the most impressive person portrayed in these chapters is the author himself. Here he was, passionately busy with photosynthetic bacteria, while at the same time fighting off Congressional investigators and media types determined to get him fired or jailed, as well as the Department of State, which sought to deprive him of the right to travel. Yet meanwhile he still played quartets now and then and kept his sense of humor. As he makes clear, he could not have won his battles without strong friends and supporters. But the victories could not have been achieved by, and for, a lesser man, and they have benefited us all.

A reader looking for a portrait of this critical era through the eyes of a participant could hardly do better. The brief introduction by Edward McMillan is also well worth reading.

JAMES R. ARNOLD University of California, San Diego Scientific, Singapore (US dist. Taylor and Francis, Philadelphia), 1985. \$75.00

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