



Photos by Len Kovars

# AIP *at work*

THE photographs on these pages give a small idea of what the American Institute is for—what it does for physics, for physicists, and for the Member Societies. It is a large business operation. Like any business it has to have good management and a trained staff—obtained in competition with other businesses.

Such operations as are here depicted must not be a burden to physicists. The officers, especially, of the Member Societies should be free of managerial and other time-consuming functions so that they can devote themselves to discharging those responsibilities for policy determination and general leadership for which they were elected.

These pictures and their captions give some indication of the value and necessity of the AIP. By joining in the Institute for their work, the five Member Societies share space, equipment, staff, and supervisory administration. One addressograph machine can serve two societies as well as one and so for many other examples. Economy and efficiency are the aim. Physicists pay less for their services because of the existence of the AIP.

The volume of work is growing: there are more members, more subscribers, more pages, more everything in proportion to the growth of physics. This fact, not any aggrandizement of the AIP nor any change in its assignment as a joint operating agency of the Societies, is the real reason why the AIP requires the larger office building which is to become its headquarters in June 1957.

In 1944 some 2000 physicists contributed more than \$70 000 to buy the present AIP building, an average of \$35 in gifts ranging from \$1 to \$1000. Now in 1956 there are over twice as many physicists and the dollar is less valuable, but nevertheless the same average amount from the same fraction of all physicists will attain the goal which has been set—\$150 000 from individual members.



*AIP Placement Service brings together physicists and potential employers. Above, AIP receptionist greets physicist who seeks information on job openings. At right, he examines listings of available positions in industry, education, and government.*







*Mail Room (above left), one of the busiest spots at AIP headquarters, handles several thousand pieces of mail per day. At right is a general view of three different operations being carried on in a single, cramped room, including information and public relations, part of the circulation work, and mail handling.*

*The Institute's Circulation Department handles membership records and all journal subscriptions. The crowded quarters of the general clerical room are shown at right. Sorting operation (lower right) is but one of the Department's many routine activities. Because of space limitations, the Circulation Department has to be split up in five offices on two floors.*







*"As physics has grown in our generation, specialization on the one hand and team effort on the other have also developed. In the days of Benjamin Franklin, scientists were called natural philosophers for the interests of individuals ranged over the whole field of natural science. Today, there is so much known and the frontiers of science are so extensive that no individual can hope to be competent in more than a tiny area. As a natural consequence, the pursuit of science is now largely a team effort where the specialized skills of each member of the team are brought together on the solution of problems.*

*"The American Institute of Physics is contributing in many ways to the coordination of the various specialties of physical science and promoting team work in scientific pursuits. The Institute clearly needs more adequate facilities for this important work and it is to the interests of everyone that adequate quarters be provided as soon as possible."*

Ernest O. Lawrence  
University of California at Berkeley



*Stacks in narrow corridor adjoining Circulation Department contain bound reference volumes of all journals published by the Institute through the years.*

*Addressograph installation in Circulation Department (above and at left) handles mailing operations concerned with 17 000 memberships and 69 000 subscriptions to journals published by the AIP. This section also takes care of other special AIP mailings.*





Above, Mrs. Alice Mastro, Head of the Circulation Department, confers with assistant in basement office through which passes a large volume of clerical material, including subscriptions, orders for back issues of journals, and requests for special information and services.



Special Services Department, directed by Mrs. Emily Wolf, takes care of the Institute's Placement Service, the Register of Physicists which the AIP maintains for the National Science Foundation, and the purchasing of supplies and equipment for the Institute.

Accounting Department of the AIP, headed by Miss Kathryn Setze, is responsible for all bookkeeping functions, including billing, collections, and payroll. Total volume of business handled by the Institute amounted to more than \$1.2 million last year.







*AIP Advertising Department, headed by T. Vorburger, sells and places an annual total of more than 1400 pages of advertising in Institute and Member Society journals. Advertising is one of the AIP's main sources of income.*



The function of the Editorial Department is to relieve editors and other physicists of as much as possible of the work of publishing which does not require their specialized knowledge. Manuscripts are prepared for the printer, cuts are ordered, proofs are corrected, and issues are made ready for publication. The Department, under the direction of Ruth F. Bryans, handles the bulk of the 19 000 journal pages published annually by the American Institute of Physics.



Physics Today staff. All editorial production work for this journal is done in the Institute offices.



Executive Committee of the AIP meets frequently to review and to guide the actions of the Institute. Shown during a recent session are R. A. Sawyer, F. Seitz, M. Zemansky, H. A. Barton, E. Rodgers, and A. Astin.

(photo by W. Waterfall)

"Clearly, physics is in a period of crisis. Over the years it has become more and more unified and interconnected so that one can hardly understand any part without to some extent understanding the whole. Yet new physics is being produced so rapidly that it is almost impossible for anyone to keep abreast of developments in more than one or two narrow fields. This situation is the direct result of the recent successes of physics in penetrating deeply into the nature of matter and in its many applications to industrial and military problems; and of the consequent increases in the number of physicists and in their support. It calls for radical changes in our system of publications; probably the inauguration of new summarizing journals and of special journals for longer papers which are now being buried in nondescript semi-public reports. It will take vigorous and imaginative efforts to solve these problems of publications and the others which are consequences of the rapid growth and importance and recognition of our science. It is inconceivable that we should allow their solution to be prevented by the lack of such mundane factors as working space and money."

F. W. Loomis  
University of Illinois

