

Official inauguration

A ceremony of inauguration took place in the afternoon of 26 September at the Aula Magna of the University of Geneva.

The Rector of the University, D. van Berchem, expressed his pleasure at the foundation of the EPS and at the part the University had played in bringing it into being. The head of the scientific section of the international department of the Swiss Ministry of Foreign Affairs, E. Valloton, conveyed sincere congratulations to all those who had taken "this happy initiative" and wished the Society every success.

The following is taken from the reply of the President of the Executive Committee of the Society, G. Bernardini: "The formation of the European Physical Society with such a wide membership is a further demonstration of the determination of scientists to collaborate as closely as possible in order to make their positive contribution to the strength of European cultural unity.

Nowadays, "collaboration" is a magic word. It is applied in almost all aspects of human life from economy to religion. But it is often quite hard to convert the ideal of collaboration into something really effective, rather than a utopia.

It may be that we who joined the European Physical Society this morning are utopians. But I am inclined to believe that the Society is based on practical and objective grounds and that it will become capable of contributing significantly to European physics.

To take a few practical examples of where the Society can contribute — There are already fields of physics which call for resources beyond the capacity of individual countries. This is likely to become more and more common in the future. The European Physical Society will provide a forum where such supra-national problems can be discussed, involving the whole physics community in evolving the best approach.

The physics publications in Europe are numbered in their hundreds, yet very few are journals which thoroughly represent a subject, such as say astrophysics or solid state physics. The Society can help to co-ordinate publishing efforts to produce specialized journals of very high standard.

European "Summer Schools" exist in profusion and often cover the same subjects, competing with each other to obtain the more distinguished scientists. The Society could oversee a reasonable and harmonious distribution of these summer schools.

In the co-ordination of European meetings and conferences the Society could play a similar role.

The complex problem of physics teaching throughout Europe is another subject where the European Physical Society can play a central role in exchanging experience and information. A related activity is to encourage and organize the exchange of students and young physicists between European Laboratories and Universities.

These are a few of the more obvious practical activities which avoid the charge of creating a utopia. But what may be considered utopian in the foundation of the European Physical Society is the implicit belief in 'Europe'.

Geographically, Europe is a defined continent. Historically, it is the cradle

On the platform at the inauguration ceremony (left to right) G. Bernardini (President of the Executive Committee of the EPS), D. van Berchem (Rector of the University of Geneva) and E. Valloton (Representative of the Swiss Authorities).

of the world's greatest civilization, which has been a powerful force in human progress for centuries. Despite present appearances, the deep cultural and intellectual affinities on which this civilization is grounded still exist; they exist "in spite of our wars and even because of our wars". It is to this cultural unity that the European Physical Society is intended to make a small but tangible contribution in the years to come.

Our century is seeing radical changes in the economical, political and spiritual structures of human society. New countries are being born which develop technically up to high standards, but without the roots of a broad culture, which can be the source of great strength for the country and for the individual. It is Europe that has most to offer in the formation of the structure of human society in the future where Science could take the role of a new humanism. The European Physical Society is founded in these hopes".



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Florence Conference

The Inaugural Conference of the European Physical Society will take place in Florence, 8-12 April, 1969. The theme of the Conference will be "The Growth Points of Physics".

In addition to an Inaugural Session on the afternoon of 8 April, the meeting will consist of three half days of parallel sessions and four half days of plenary sessions. Topics for discussion in the parallel sessions will be selected from the following categories :

- a) Astronomy, astrophysics, cosmology and relativity ;
- b) Nuclear and elementary particle physics ;
- c) Physics of condensed matter ;
- d) Atomic, molecular and plasma physics ;
- e) Quantum electronics and optics.

The topics of the plenary sessions will consist of Astrophysics; Condensed state of matter ; Physical aspects of molecular biology ; Quantum electronics ; Trends in high energy physics; Physics and Industry; Physics and education, and possibly Data handling and automation. Whereas the plenary sessions are intended for all participants to the Conference, the lectures at the parallel sessions will be of a more specialized character. A more detailed programme will appear in the next issue of Europhysics News.

Attendance at the Conference is open to all physicists, non-members as well as members of the European Physical Society. The organizers are particularly keen to attract young physicists.

If you wish to attend, please write for an application form to :

**Main Secretariat
European Physical Society
P. O. Box
7, route de Drize
1227 Carouge - Geneva, Switzerland.**

The application form will contain information concerning hotel accommodation; this part of the organization will be handled by the Italian Tourist Agency, CIT. Participants themselves will be responsible for travel arrangements.

Publications

The Publication Committee has made a first detailed examination of the problem of co-ordinating the various physics journals in Europe. A written inquiry was instigated to obtain information on the existing journals, published by Societies and Academies or published commercially.

It has been decided that the EPS will **not** attempt to create a new set of physics journals published by the EPS, but will begin realistically on the basis of the existing situation. For the time being, the EPS will concentrate on the European physics journals which contain primary articles, and which are not published by Societies.

The EPS will try to achieve eventually, through free negotiations with the various interested Societies and publishers, a satisfactory and co-ordinated publication scheme in Europe, in which all journals, satisfying certain essential criteria, can participate.

These criteria have to be drawn up by the EPS in the near future. They concern such things as the languages of publication, the composition of the editorial committees, the abstracts, the refereeing system, the time-lag before publication.

Other agreements will be necessary to achieve co-ordination ; for example, agreements connected with specialization, regional character, etc... Finally, agreements will be necessary about matters like page charges, special subscription rates for members of the EPS, standardization of size and covers, and technical details such as methods of quoting references, etc...

It is intended to call together a representative group of editors of primary physics journals in Europe before arriving at final decisions.

Physics journals, published in Europe, which fulfil the criteria drawn up by the EPS and which are willing to participate in the scheme of co-ordination and unification, will then be considered as physics journals published under the sponsorship of the EPS.

How do I join ?

In accordance with Article 4 of the Constitution, membership of the EPS is in three categories :

- a) **Individuals (membership being open to all physicists irrespective of nationality or place of residence);**
- b) **Societies, Groups or Laboratoires ;**
- c) **Individuals affiliated to a Society which itself has joined the European Physical Society.**

Individual members vote directly for delegates on the Council of the Society. They receive all documentation concerning the EPS directly from the Secretariat in Geneva and not via a National Society. It is envisaged also that they will have certain privileges, in connection with meetings organized under the auspices of the EPS and special subscription rates to journals published under the auspices of the EPS.

**The membership fees for individual members in 1969 are :
for category (a) above - 72 Swiss francs
for category (c) above - 18 Swiss francs**

**All applications for individual membership should be addressed to :
Main Secretariat
European Physical Society
P. O. Box
7, route de Drize
1227 Carouge - Geneva, Switzerland.**

An application form is included in this issue of Europhysics News.

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