

# Peter Preiswerk

It will be with a real sense of loss that members of the EPS hear of the death of the Chairman of the High Energy and Particle Physics Division - Peter Preiswerk. At the age of 65 he was due to retire in a few days' time from CERN where he had played an active part from its earliest days and had spent several years as head of the Nuclear Physics Division.

Preiswerk was born in Basle, Switzerland, in January 1907. He attended University in the same city and also in Berlin. In 1934 he joined the laboratory of M<sup>me</sup> Pierre Curie and later worked with Halban and Kowarski on slow neutron reactions. In 1937 he was back in Switzerland at the Eidgenössische Technische Hochschule in Zurich to build one of Europe's first cyclotrons.

He attended, in 1950, the first discussions which led to CERN and played a key part in bringing together the scientists interested in the joint European project and in reaching agreement on the location of the Laboratory in Geneva. He was one of the first staff members of the new organization; in the beginning as head of the Site and Buildings Division and then, after a time with the Synchrocyclotron Division, as head of Nuclear Physics.

A founder member of the EPS, Preiswerk believed deeply in the

importance of a wide intercommunication between scientists and felt that the EPS could play a vital role in this activity. Perhaps because he was not a very articulate person himself he was all the more sensitive to the need to canvass the views of a wide section of the people involved in an operation and to listen and understand them before arriving at a judgment. He was suspicious of 'power' men and of the persuasive talkers and he was nervous of the growing weight of the 'establishment' in physics, which he saw as a brake on progress and a source of injustice. His last public lecture at the Amsterdam conference in June/July 1971 was centred on his theme of the need to continually review our institutions to ensure that the new generation is not only heard but has the opportunity to influence and to act.

He believed that in his own particular field of particle physics the European Physical Society could provide a new forum for discussion amongst physicists of all ages and of many nations. He would ask no better epitaph than that in his work at CERN and latterly as first Chairman of the High Energy and Particle Physics Division he had made a real contribution to the means by which physicists of all sorts could participate in the shaping of the future research in their subjects.



## Meetings

Notification of the following meetings has been received. The meetings announced are in addition to those advertised in previous issues of Europhysics News. Those organized by Divisions of the EPS are printed in bold type and boxed; those sponsored by the EPS are printed in bold type; Europhysics Conferences (see Meetings Issue 2 (12 M) of Europhysics News) are marked by an  $\text{\textcircled{E}}$  preceding the date. These announcements are repeated. For a full list of events see the latest Meetings Issue of Europhysics News. The information is listed in this order: Date, title, venue, contact for information.

## Conferences

### 1972

#### 20 - 21 March

Semiconductor Injection Lasers and their Applications  
Cardiff, UK

M. J. Adams, Department of Applied Mathematics and Mathematical Physics, University College, POB 78, Cardiff, CF1 1XL

#### 20 - 25 March

Kernphysik  
Berlin, Federal Republic of Germany  
Th. Mayer-Kuckuk, Institut für Strahlen- und Kernphysik der Universität Bonn, Nussallee 14-16, D-53 Bonn

#### 21 - 23 March

International Medium Voltage Earthing Practices  
London, UK  
The Manager, Conference Department, The Institution of Electrical Engineers, Savoy Place, London WC2R 0BL

#### 27 - 30 March

1st International Seminar on Ferrite Devices  
Toulouse, France  
L. Thourel, CERT, Laboratoire du DERM, B.P. No 40 25, F-31 Toulouse

### CONDUCTION IN LOW-MOBILITY MATERIALS

Proceedings of the Second International Conference held at Eilat, Israel, 5-8 April 1971

*Sponsored by the European Physical Society (sponsored as a Topical Conference), Israel Physical Society, Israel Academy of Sciences and Humanities, and Technion — Israel Institute of Technology.*

**Contents:** Transition Metal Oxides; Low-Mobility Transport Theory; Amorphous Semiconductors; Selenium Compounds; Switching Processes; Organic Materials; Ionic Crystals and Liquids.

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