

# Polish Physical Society

## H. Chęcinska, General Secretary

The Polish Physical Society (Polskie Towarzystwo Fizyczne) was founded in 1919. Its seat is in Warsaw and there are 15 regional branches throughout Poland. The greatest and the oldest are branches in Krakow, Poznań and Warsaw. After the Second World War, there came into existence, in the chronological order, the branches in Gdańsk, Wrocław, Lublin, Łódź, Toruń, Szczecin, Gliwice, Białystok, Opole, Katowice, Koszalin and Rzeszów, cities which have Universities or other institutions of higher education. The main objective of the Polish Physical Society is to pursue and propagate physics and related fields of science, taking into consideration their didactics, history and applications. Among its other activities, the Society arranges scientific meetings and debates, lectures, exhibitions and competitions, and organizes summer schools in physics. The general meeting of the Society is called every second year. In 1973 it will be held between 4-7 September in Krakow, the seat of one of the oldest Universities in Europe. The Society also holds conferences specifically intended for physics teachers, as well as lectures for young students, presenting advances in recent research work. Since 1951, the Polish Physical Society has held yearly competitions in Physics, called Physics Olympics, in which all secondary-school students may take part. The principal aims of the Olympics are the following: to stimulate the interest of young people in physics, to increase their knowledge of physics and to develop their abilities, to select the most talented students, to encourage them to enter science departments of colleges or universities and to guide them into careers suited to their abilities. There are approximately 2000 students participating in these Olympics every year. Several of the winners of the competitions have achieved considerable success in science and technology.

Although only a small number of students eventually become winners, there are no losers, for each student derives benefit from competing in the Olympics: he increases his knowledge and skills in physics. The first five winners may take part in the 'International Physics Olympics' organized by Czechoslovakia, Hungary and

the German Democratic Republic.

The Polish Physical Society publishes some periodicals. The permanent organ of the Society *Postępy Fizyki* is devoted to the diffusion of the knowledge of physics all over Poland. It is edited in the Polish language every two months. The second periodical is *Acta Physica Polonica*, printed in foreign languages and edited by the Society jointly with the Physical Institute of the Polish Academy of Sciences. The third journal, a quarterly *Reports on Mathematical Physics* is edited jointly by the Polish Physical Society and the Institute of Physics, Nicholas Copernicus University in Toruń. The two last journals are devoted to the publication of the original scientific works and articles. In the second half of 1973, the Polish Physical Society intends to publish jointly with the Polish Mathematical Society a new periodical *Delta*, intended to stimulate the interest of young people in physics and mathematics. Jointly with the Polish Academy of Sciences, the Polish Physical Society edits in foreign languages, a series of books *Polish Men of Science* devoted to outstanding Polish scientists who have passed away.

The Polish Physical Society arranges the exchange of scientists between Poland and other countries and the delegates abroad who represent the Society. Every year, about 25 scientists come to Poland from Bulgaria, Hungary, Czechoslovakia and the German Democratic Republic.

At present, the Society has 1480 members. The present Executive Committee elected in 1970 is as follows: President: W. Rubinowicz; Vice-Presidents: A. Jabłoński and A. Trautman; General Secretary: H. Chęcinska; Treasurer: K. Rosiński; Editors: Z. Zieliński and W. Czyż; and four more members: J. Auleytner; K. Leibler; M. Suffczyński and J. Petykiewicz.

Each year, the Polish Physical Society awards several prizes in recognition of major contributions to physics in Poland, as well as prizes for the physics teachers. The most distinguished award of the Society is the Marian Smoluchowski Medal. M. Smoluchowski, a famous Polish scientist, lived from 1872 to 1917. This medal has been awarded to W. Rubinowicz (1967), A. Jabłoński (1968), M. Danysz

and J. Pniewski (1969), M. Miesowicz and J. Gierula (1970) and L. Sosnowski (1972).

Honorary members of the Polish Physical Society have been, among others, Maria Skłodowska Curie, Irene and Frideric Joliot-Curie. The living honorary members of the Polish Physical Society are: W. Rubinowicz, A. Jabłoński, A. Hastler and S. Mrozowski, who, in 1970, made a gift of many books and scientific periodicals to the Society library, which was opened in 1972 in Toruń.

The Polish Physical Society has been an Ordinary Member of the European Physical Society since 1972. The delegates to the Council of EPS are M. Miesowicz, J. Kolodziejczak and H. Chęcinska.

## Computational Physics Group

The Proceedings of the First European Conference on Computational Physics, organized by the EPS Interdivisional Group at CERN, 10-14 April 1972, have been published with the title *The Impact of Computers on Physics*. The volume was edited by G.R. MacLeod and is available from North-Holland Publishing Company, P.O. Box 1270, Amsterdam, The Netherlands.

## THE PROPERTIES OF LIQUID METALS

edited by  
Sakae Takeuchi

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### Contents

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