

Stockholm (2004), Amsterdam (2008) and Kraków (2012). The 7<sup>th</sup> ECM will be in Berlin, on July 18-22, 2016. The scientific committee of an ECM is appointed by the EC. It is responsible for the selection of plenary and invited speakers, and special sessions. The local organisers contribute to shaping the programme with the organization of poster sessions, panel discussions and outreach activities, like public lectures and exhibitions. With the co-operation of member societies, the EMS runs *Joint Mathematical Weekends*, and other special activities. In the framework of collaborative agreements, it also organizes Summer Schools, one of them with the International Association of Mathematical Physics. The EMS nominates distinguished speakers at prestigious mathematical conferences and an EMS lecturer every year.

### Prizes

The EMS Prize was established at the very early times of the Society. At most ten laureates are chosen and presented at each ECM. The Prize consists of an award to a young researcher not older than 35 years, in recognition of excellent contributions in Mathematics. As for today, about 20% of laureates won later the prestigious Fields Medal.

In co-operation with the European Consortium for Industrial Mathematics (ECMI) and the Fraunhofer Institute for Industrial Mathematics (ITWM), the EMS awards the Felix Klein Prize to a young scientist (or a group) in recognition of excellent contribution in Industrial Mathematics. Recently, a new prize funded by Springer Verlag was established: the Otto Neugebauer Prize in the History of Mathematics. It was firstly awarded in 2012.

### Closing

This is a schematic description of basic facts on the EMS. In the global world, international learned societies are more that ever of strategic importance to support the advances of disciplines and to promote indispensable interactions. The current political structures in Europe and its strong historical identity, provide full meaning to and show the strong necessity for the existence of solid scientific umbrellas, platforms and networks within Europe. We can proudly state that EMS is playing this role for mathematics in Europe.

### Websites references

EMS: [www.euro-math-soc.eu/](http://www.euro-math-soc.eu/)

EMS Publishing House: [www.ems-ph.org](http://www.ems-ph.org)

EMS Newsletter: [www.ems-ph.org/journals/journal.php?jrn=news](http://www.ems-ph.org/journals/journal.php?jrn=news)

Historical reference: [www.ems-ph.org/journals/journal.php?jrn=news](http://www.ems-ph.org/journals/journal.php?jrn=news)

## [ Letter to the Editor ]

by Herman C.W. Beijerinck

Eindhoven University of Technology, Eindhoven - The Netherlands

DOI: 10.1051/epn/2013403

## 'Crossing borders'

Scientists are overwhelmed by publications in their field. We do our very best to keep up with literature and barely achieve this goal. Meetings with a wide scope are an excellent means of picking up new ideas. Even a 10-minute talk can be enough for an *'Aha Erlebnis'* that inspires for further thought. It is not the time invested that is important; it is the open mind that sets the stage for this moment of inspiration.

General physics journals like Europhysics News should fill their niche in providing information to physicists. Keep in mind that EPS members are busy people, with little time for additional reading. Papers should be very well phrased, concise and have excellent illustrations.

Columns are a special class in such a journal. Their predictable appearance in every issue, their consistency in style and format, and their challenging content are ingredients that are highly addictive in a positive sense. Look at the successful column 'Physics in daily life', and at the new column 'Opinion'. Both tease the reader into thinking about issues that are somewhat off the beaten track. At a general interest level, columns serve the same purpose as meetings. The next step for EPN is to stimulate the discussion on crossing borders to fields like theater, art, and music. Where do they meet, how do they interact? Think of the play on the Heisenberg/Bohr discussions in the middle of WW II. Did we discuss it in EPN? I can't remember we did. Think of the recent book and play 'In free fall' by Juli Zeh, which has two physicists in the lead role. Who has read this wonderful book? Has it been discussed by physicists? These examples are very important for our profession, because they convey an image of physics to society. Like our Forum on Physics and Society, it represents an outreach into the public domain that we cannot neglect.

I propose a new column in EPN, tentatively called 'Crossing borders'. It could be a broad link to society, by informing our readership on these interesting and important new developments. Culture is surely not the only neighboring field we can link to physics. What about psychology, philosophy, history and even religion? Would it not be interesting to see where we meet, what we agree on and how we disagree? Just think of the important role that paradigms have in our peer review system for new projects. 'Crossing borders' can have a major impact, both within EPS and in society at large.

EPN, I dare you to cross this line! ■