

BUILDING THE GRG COMMUNITY DURING THE COLD WAR

**COMMUNICATION CHANNELS AND INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORKS
IN TRANSITION (1955-1975)**

Roberto Lalli

A Century of General Relativity

**The “Renaissance” of General Relativity in History:
Assessing Einstein’s Legacy in Post-World War II Physics**

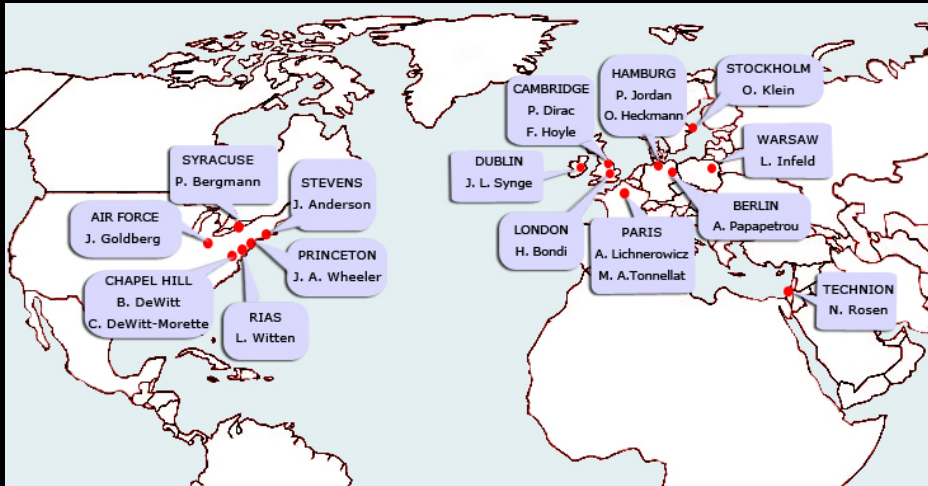
Harnack Haus, Berlin, 4 December, 2015



Max Planck Institute for the History of Science

Explicit Community Building

Research centers active in GRG around 1955



The Reinvention of General Relativity: A Historiographical Framework for Assessing One Hundred Years of Curved Space-time

Alexander Blum, *Max Planck Institute for the History of Science*
Roberto Lalli, *Max Planck Institute for the History of Science*
Jürgen Renn, *Max Planck Institute for the History of Science*

Abstract: The history of the theory of general relativity presents unique features. After its discovery, the theory was immediately confirmed and rapidly changed established notions of space and time. The further implications of general relativity, however, remained largely unexplored until the mid 1950s, when it came into focus as a physical theory and gradually returned to the mainstream of physics. This essay presents a historiographical framework for assessing the history of general relativity by taking into account in an integrated narrative intellectual developments, epistemological problems, and technological advances; the characteristics of post-World War II and Cold War science; and newly emerging institutional settings. It argues that such a framework can help us understand this renaissance of general relativity as a result of two main factors: the recognition of the untapped potential of general relativity and an explicit effort at community building, which allowed this formerly disparate and dispersed field to benefit from the postwar changes in the scientific landscape.



July 2013
GR20/Amaldi10
844 participants

GRG Chronology

1955 Bern Conference – GR0

GRG Chronology

1955 Bern Conference – GR0

1957 Chapel Hill Conference – GR1

1959 Royaumont Conference – GR2

GRG Chronology

1955 Bern Conference – GR0

1957 Chapel Hill Conference – GR1

1959 Royaumont Conference – GR2

1959 International Committee on GRG

GRG Chronology

1955 Bern Conference – GR0

1957 Chapel Hill Conference – GR1

1959 Royaumont Conference – GR2

1959 International Committee on GRG

1962 Bulletin on GRG

GRG Chronology

1955 Bern Conference – GR0

1957 Chapel Hill Conference – GR1

1959 Royaumont Conference – GR2

1959 International Committee on GRG

1962 Bulletin on GRG

1970 Journal General Relativity and Gravitation

GRG Chronology

1955 Bern Conference – GR0

1957 Chapel Hill Conference – GR1

1959 Royaumont Conference – GR2

1959 International Committee on GRG

1962 Bulletin on GRG

1970 Journal General Relativity and Gravitation

1971 Decision International Society on GRG

GRG Chronology

1955 Bern Conference – GR0

1957 Chapel Hill Conference – GR1

1959 Royaumont Conference – GR2

1959 International Committee on GRG

1962 Bulletin on GRG

1970 Journal General Relativity and Gravitation

1971 Decision International Society on GRG

1974 Establishment International Society on GRG

GRG Chronology

1955 Bern Conference – GR0

1957 Chapel Hill Conference – GR1

1959 Royaumont Conference – GR2

1959 International Committee on GRG

1962 Bulletin on GRG

1970 Journal General Relativity and Gravitation

1971 Decision International Society on GRG

1974 Establishment International Society on GRG

1975 IUPAP Affiliated Commission on GRG – AC.2

Straightforward process?

Straightforward process?

The process of *international* institutionalization of GRG was peculiar

Straightforward process?

The process of *international* institutionalization of GRG was peculiar

Controversial steps embedded in the Cold War



Contexts

Contexts

Post-war re-establishment of international collaboration

International
Astronomical Union

International Union of
Biological Science

International Union of
Pure and Applied Chemistry



International Union of
Radio Science

International Union
of Pure and
Applied Physics

International
Geographical Union



International
Astronomical Union

International Union of
Pure and Applied Chemistry

International Union
of Pure and
Applied Physics

International Union of
Biological Science



International Union of
Radio Science

International
Geographical Union



1954



1945

UNITED NATIONS
Educational, Scientific, Cultural Organization


International
Astronomical Union

International Union of
Pure and Applied Chemistry



International Union of
Biological Science

International Union of
Radio Science

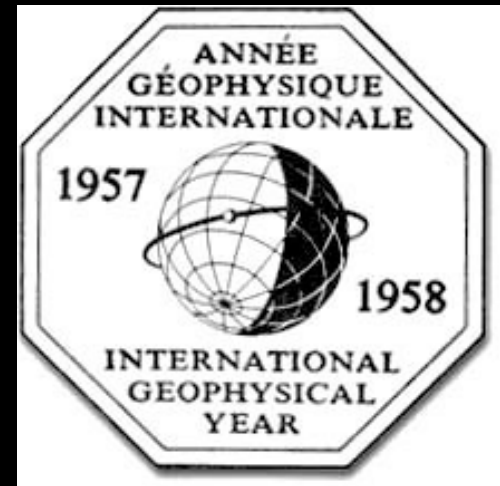


International Union
of Pure and Applied Physics

1957

International
Geographical Union

1958
COSPAR
Committee on Space Research



International
Astronomical Union

International Union of
Pure and Applied Chemistry

International Union
of Pure and Applied Physics

International Union of
Biological Science



International Union of
Radio Science

International
Geographical Union

National Memberships

1931 Statutes ICSU

Art. 3 The International Council of Scientific Unions consists of a national scientific organization from each country which has adhered to the Council and of the International Unions.

Art. 4 A country may join the International Council either through its principal Academy, or through its national Research Council, or through some other national institution or association of institutions, or, in absence of these, through its Government.

IUPAP Structural Transformations

1947 International Commissions on specific fields

1947 Affiliated Commissions

Group of scientists recognized by the IUPAP General Assembly,
but appointed by different scientific bodies

1948 Affiliated Commission on Optics - AC. 1

National membership

Contexts

Post-war re-establishment of international collaboration

Contexts

Post-war re-establishment of international collaboration

Progressive *anglophonization* of the scientific language

Scientific Language(s)

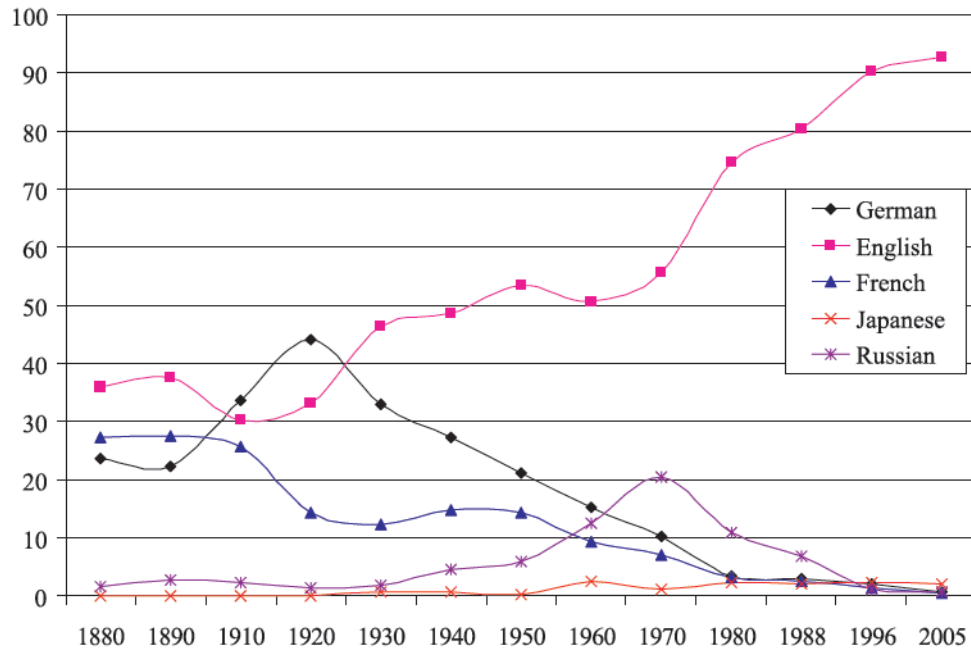
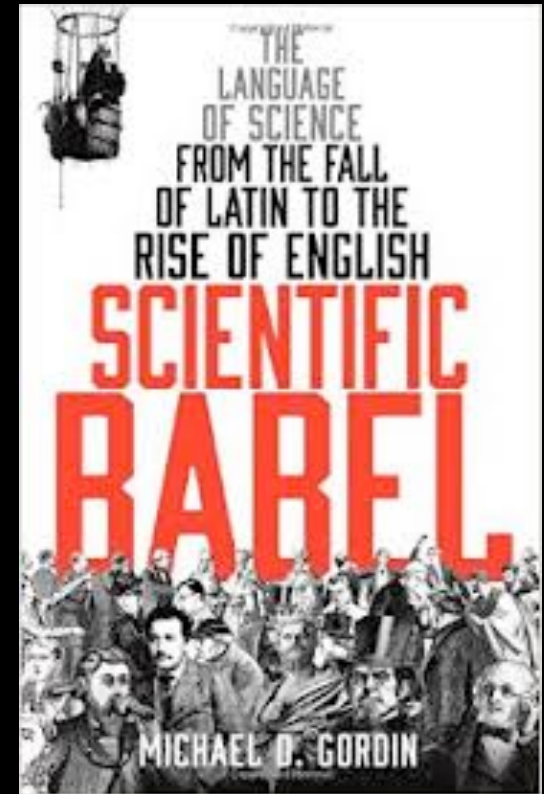


Fig. 2: Proportions of languages in publications of the natural sciences worldwide 1880–2005 (Sources: Tsunoda 1983; Ammon 1998a; beyond 1996, analyses by Ammon and Vanessa Gawrisch based on *Biological Abstracts*, *Chemical Abstracts*, *Mathematical Reviews*, *Index Medicus* and *Medline*, and *Physics Abstracts*)



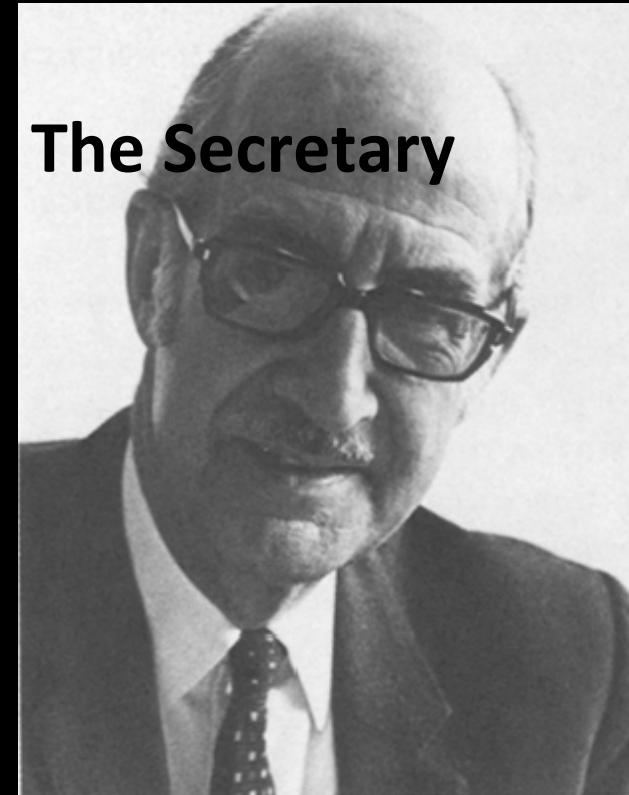
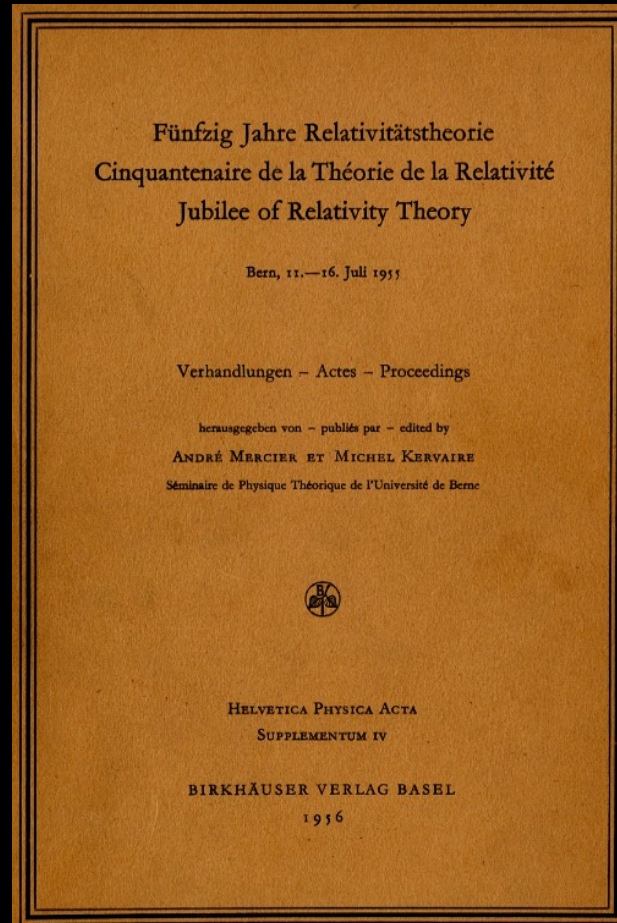
The Starting Point

Bern Conference 1955



The Chairman

Wolfgang Pauli



The Secretary

André Mercier

Criteria

Authority

Personal relationships

Further international collaboration

POLOGNE, Message prononcé par L. INFELD, Délégué de L'Académie Polonaise des Sciences à Varsovie.

Before I open the meeting, allow me to say a few words in the name of the Polish Academy of Science, which I have the honor to represent here. I should like to express its great appreciation of the work of the organizing committee in preparing this splendid meeting. I should also like to express the Polish Academy's best wishes for the great scientific success of this meeting to commemorate 50 years of Relativity Theory and the death of its great founder.

RÉPUBLIQUE FÉDÉRALE ALLEMANDE, Message prononcé par O. HECKMANN, président de la Gesellschaft Deutscher Naturforscher und Ärzte.

Verschiedene Teilnehmer dieser Konferenz haben im Auftrage der nationalen Akademien ihrer Länder oder anderer gleichbedeutender Organisationen Begrüßungsworte an die Konferenz gerichtet oder Adressen verlesen.

Es ist vielleicht für die Situation in unserem Lande bezeichnend, daß dort schwer eine Organisation zu finden ist, die einen solchen Auftrag hätte geben können.

So spreche ich nicht mit einem eigentlichen Auftrag und doch als Vorsitzender der Gesellschaft Deutscher Naturforscher und Ärzte im Namen vieler.

Die Möglichkeit, Fragen der Relativitätstheorie frei zu behandeln, war unserem Lande durch eine Reihe von Jahren genommen. Wir sind den Veranstaltern dieser Konferenz dankbar, daß wir an ihr teilnehmen und daß wir in Freiheit wieder jene Probleme erörtern können, deren Behandlung damals in unserem Lande – von außen unsichtbar – gleichsam in Katakomben weiterlebte.

Wir haben die Hoffnung und bitten um Ihrer aller Hilfe, daß die Arbeit in dem Felde, das ALBERT EINSTEIN eröffnete, auch in unserem Lande wieder zu kräftigem Leben gedeihen möge.

URSS, Message prononcé par V. A. Fock, Délégué de l'Académie des Sciences de l'URSS.

En ouvrant la séance que j'ai l'honneur de présider je voudrais présenter les salutations de la part de l'Académie des Sciences de l'Union Soviétique et de mes collègues russes. Je suis convaincu que notre réunion sera non seulement très intéressante en elle-même, mais aussi qu'elle donnera naissance à des liens scientifiques qui seront durables.

Criteria

Authority

Personal relationships

Further international collaboration

Fifty Years of Relativity

Peter G. Bergmann

concepts of space and time. We shall begin with a brief survey of the situation at the turn of the century.

Newton had established that within the framework of his mechanics it was impossible to discover any "absolute" motion that was purely translatory and free of acceleration (the classical principle of relativity). All "inertial" frames of reference were to be considered equivalent. This principle is usually illustrated by the example of a laboratory aboard a moving vehicle. As long as there is no acceleration, the passengers cannot discover evidence of their motion by means of experiments wholly carried

NATURE

August 20, 1955 VOL. 176

JUBILEE OF RELATIVITY THEORY

CONFERENCE AT BERNE

ALBERT EINSTEIN published his famous first paper on relativity theory in 1905, during the time when he was employed in the Swiss Patent Office in Berne. In celebration of the jubilee of that event, a conference was held at Berne during July 11-16 this year. It was organized by a special committee of professors in the Swiss universities under the chairmanship of Prof. Wolfgang Pauli (Zurich) and with Prof. André Morcier (Berne) as secretary; Prof. Pauli also presided over the conference itself. Almost one hundred mathematicians, astronomers and physicists from some twenty different countries were present as guests of the organizing committee.

Fifty Years of Relativity

Peter G. Bergmann

concepts of space and time. We shall begin with a brief survey of the situation at the turn of the century.

Newton had established that within the framework of his mechanics it was impossible to discover any "absolute" motion that was purely translatory and free of acceleration (the classical principle of relativity). All "inertial" frames of reference were to be considered equivalent. This principle is usually illustrated by the example of a laboratory aboard a moving vehicle. As long as there is no acceleration, the passengers cannot discover evidence of their motion by means of experiments wholly carried

The Role of Gravitation in Physics

Report from the 1957 Chapel Hill Conference

Cécile M. DeWitt and Dean Rickles (eds.)

1957



NATURE

August 20, 1955 VOL. 176

JUBILEE OF RELATIVITY THEORY

CONFERENCE AT BERNE

ALBERT EINSTEIN published his famous first paper on relativity theory in 1905, during the time when he was employed in the Swiss Patent Office in Berne. In celebration of the jubilee of that event, a conference was held at Berne during July 11-16 this year. It was organized by a special committee of professors in the Swiss universities under the chairmanship of Prof. Wolfgang Pauli (Zurich) and with Prof. André Morcier (Berne) as secretary; Prof. Pauli also presided over the conference itself. Almost one hundred mathematicians, astronomers and physicists from some twenty different countries were present as guests of the organizing committee.

1959 - International Committee on GRG

P.G. Bergmann, Syracuse University (N.Y.)

H. Bondi, King's College London

C. Cattaneo, University of Rome

B.S. DeWitt, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill (N.C.)

P.A. Dirac, University of Cambridge

V.A. Fock, University of Leningrad

L. Infeld, University of Warsaw

D. Ivanenko, University of Moscow

A. Lichnerowicz, College de France, Paris, **Co-President**

A. Mercier, University, of Bern, **Secretary**

Chr. Moeller University of Copenhagen

N. Rosen, Israel Institute of Technology, Haifa

L. Rosenfeld, Nordita, Copenhagen

J.L. Synge, Institute for advanced Studies, Dublin

M.-A. Tonnelat, Professor at the Sorbonne, Paris, **Co-President**

J.A. Wheeler, Princeton University (N.J.)

1961 - Bulletin on GRG

Editor: André Mercier

22 Topics of GRG and their abbreviation

Can	Canonical formalism, Lagrangians, Variation principle etc.
Cons	Conservation laws, energy-momentum tensor etc.
Coord	Questions of coördinates, special coördinates, etc.
Cosm	Cosmology
Eldyn	Electrodynamics, questions of-, Maxwell's equations etc.
Exp	Experiment(s), experimental proposals or checks, redshift etc.
General	Generalities, fundamentals etc.
Geomdyn	Geometrodynamics (and topology, if not under Math)
Lin	Linearized equations
Math	Questions of Mathematics (Mathematical methods, Differential geometry, Riemannian geometry, Affine geometry, Finslerian geometry, Axiomatics etc.)
Matter	Hydrodynamics, Thermodynamics, Interior case, Gases, Fluids, Rigid frames etc.
Motion	Equations of motion, special motions (Kepler and other)
n-body	n-body Problem.
Other	Other theories of gravitation
Part.sol	Particular solution(s), Classifications, Empty spaces etc.
Phil	Philosophy (of special or of general Relativity, Causality, Time, Space etc.)
Q	Quantization
Rad	Radiation and gravitational waves
SpR	Special Relativity Theory
Spin	Spinors in GRG
Star	Stellar models, questions of stellar astronomy or astrophysics
Unif	Unified field theories (5-dim., skew-symm., Finslerian etc.)
Unif(5)	Five-dimensional unified field theory
Unif(as)	Anti- (skew-) symmetric, i.e. Einstein-Schrödinger unified field theory

ANDERSON James L.	pp: Associate Professor of Physics
ad: Department of Physics Stevens Institute of Technology HOBOKEN U.S.A. (N.J.)	s/c: P.G. Bergmann, J. Weber, H. Bondi c/c: Chapel Hill, Royaumont
fr **: Math., Can, G, Unif, Coord	
ARNOWITT R.	pp: Dr. Professor
ad: Department of Physics Syracuse University SYRACUSE 10 (New York)	c/c: Royaumont
fr **: General, Unif, Can, G, Rad, -- Quantum field theory	
ARZELIÉS Henri	pp: Professeur à la Faculté des Sciences Bordeaux (France), détaché à Rabat (Maroc)
ad: Le TRUËL France (Lozère)	c/c: Royaumont (see 28)
fr **: General	

BULLETIN General Relativity and Gravitation No. 6/3

ADDENDA TO LIST OF PUBLICATIONS Part I - Part IV

ADAM Madge G.

(Discussion: J.L.Syngé, M.G.
Adam, S. Mandelstam, L.Essen,
D.W.Sciama, G.J.Whitrow,
S. Weinberg)
The observational tests of gravita-
tion theory (Proc.Roy.Soc. A270, 297(304),
1962)

ADAMSKI V.B.

Local invariance and the theory
of compensating fields (Soviet Phys.-Uspekhi 4, 607, 1962)

AHMAVAARA Y.

On the combination of probability
and relativity (Ann.Acad.Sci.fenn.(A)VI(Phys.)
3, 1962)

IAU NEWS BULLETIN

1 — Tuesday, August 15, 1961

Berkeley, California

With the Exhibits

On display in Room 100, Wheeler Hall, is a 1/12-scale model of the 36-inch reflecting telescope to be flown by balloon next year by Princeton University Observatory astronomers under the leadership of Prof. Martin Schwarzschild. This project, named Stratoscope II, is a sequel to the Stratoscope I ascents in 1957 and 1959, when a 12-inch telescope was used for solar photography at 30,000 feet.

The flying telescope, under construction by the Peckin-Elmer Corp., has been designed to resolve 0.1 second of arc on an hour exposure. An electronic-optical servo system will automatically provide precise guiding.

Observations from 30,000 feet, well above the turbulent lower atmosphere, will permit photographs of a clarity impossible to attain from the earth's surface. Among the first Stratoscope II observations is a study of the divisions in Saturn's rings. A careful examination of Venus is proposed to search for possible breaks in the cloud cover. There will also be detailed observations of density fluctuations in the Orion and planetary nebulæ.

The 36-inch 1/4 primary mirror is of fused silica; a Gregorian secondary and two enlarging lenses raise the effective focal ratio to $f/100$. Images will be recorded on 70-mm. film, up to 1,000 frames being exposed by ground control. A pair of attached television cameras will enable scientists on the ground also to control the setting of the instrument.

About 4,500 pounds of equipment have required the development of a new especially large balloon made of Mylar plastic reinforced with Dacron mesh. In flight, the telescope assembly, parachute, and balloon will measure over 500 feet

high. To insure a soft landing for the instruments, a helicopter is to capture the descending balloon and payload.

During the early part of the week, M. Schwarzschild was photographed while preparing the scale model of the Stratoscope II for display. The project is being carried on by Princeton University Observatory astronomers with National Science Foundation aid.



IAU NEWS BULLETIN

1 — Tuesday, August 15, 1961

Berkeley, California

With the Exhibits

On display in Room 100, Wheeler Hall, is a 1/12-scale model of the 36-inch reflecting telescope to be flown by balloon next year by Princeton University Observatory astronomers under the leadership of Prof. Martin Schwarzschild. This project, named Stratoscope II, is a sequel to the Stratoscope I ascents in 1957 and 1959, when a 12-inch telescope was used for solar photography at 30,000 feet.

The flying telescope, under construction by the Peckin-Elmer Corp., has been designed to resolve 0.1 second of arc on an hour exposure. An electronic-optical servo system will automatically provide precise guiding.

Observations from 30,000 feet, well above the turbulent lower atmosphere, will permit photographs of a clarity impossible to attain from the earth's surface. Among the first Stratoscope II observations is a study of the divisions in Saturn's rings. A careful examination of Venus is proposed to search for possible breaks in the cloud cover. There will also be detailed observations of density fluctuations in the Orion and planetary nebulas.

The 36-inch 1/4 primary mirror is of fused silica; a Gregorian secondary and two enlarging lenses raise the effective focal ratio to f/100. Images will be recorded on 70-mm. film, up to 1,000 frames being exposed by ground control. A pair of attached television cameras will enable scientists on the ground also to control the setting of the instrument.

About 4,500 pounds of equipment have required the development of a new especially large balloon made of Mylar plastic reinforced with Dacron mesh. In flight, the telescope assembly, parachute, and balloon will measure over 500 feet

high. To insure a soft landing for the instruments, a helicopter is to capture the descending balloon and payload.

During the early part of the week, M. Schwarzschild was photographed while preparing the scale model of the Stratoscope II for display. The project is being carried on by Princeton University Observatory astronomers with National Science Foundation aid.



INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF SCIENTIFIC
UNIONS

MONTHLY BULLETIN

of

INFORMATION

CALENDAR

10-12 Oct. 1947	IGU	BRUSSELS	Commission on population
3-4 Nov. 1947	IGU	BRUSSELS	Commission on air photography
Nov. 1947	IUBS		Symposium "Rare elements in vegetables"
End Nov. 1947	IGU	P. PARIS	Commission on agrarian Geography
Dec. 1947	IUBS		Symposium "Organisation of biological control"
Beginning 1948	IUF.P	BRUSSELS	Commission on Thermodynamics
2-3 Feb. 1948	IUBS	GENEVA	Executive Committee
June 1948	IUBS	ALLES (France)	International Congress of Sericulture
Mid June 1948	IOSU	PARIS	"U.S.S.R."
21-22 June 1948	IUBS	MILAN	Conference on the interaction of eggs and sperm in animals (Invited guests)
23-30 June 1948	IUBS	MILAN	International Congress on the Physiology and Pathology of reproduction in animals
5-14 July 1948	IUBS	STOCKHOLM	VII International Genetical Congress
6-8 July 1948	IUFAP	AMSTERDAM	Symposium on the physics of metals
8-18 July 1948	IUFAP	AMSTERDAM	General Assembly Int. Union of PURE & APPLIED PHYSICS
15-16 July 1948	IUBS	STOCKHOLM	Conference on the Terminology of Genetics and Cytology (Invited guests)
21-27 July 1948	IUBS	PARIS	XIII International Zoological Congress
July 1948	IUFAP	AMSTERDAM	Executive Committee
10-17 Aug. 1948	I'N	ZURICH	General Assembly Int. Astronomical Union
9-14 Aug. 1948	IUBS	STOCKHOLM	VIII International Entomological Congress
15-21 Aug. 1948		Switzerland	Xth Annual Congress on Linnology
19-28 Aug. 1948	IUGG	OSLO	VIII General Assembly, Int. Union of GEOLOGY & GEOPHYSICS

1961 - Bulletin on GRG

Editor: André Mercier

22 Topics of GRG and their abbreviation

Can	Canonical formalism, Lagrangians, Variation principle etc.
Cons	Conservation laws, energy-momentum tensor etc.
Coord	Questions of coördinates, special coördinates, etc.
Cosm	Cosmology
Eldyn	Electrodynamics, questions of-, Maxwell's equations etc.
Exp	Experiment(s), experimental proposals or checks, redshift etc.
General	Generalities, fundamentals etc.
Geomdyn	Geometrodynamics (and topology, if not under Math)
Lin	Linearized equations
Math	Questions of Mathematics (Mathematical methods, Differential geometry, Riemannian geometry, Affine geometry, Finslerian geometry, Axiomatics etc.)
Matter	Hydrodynamics, Thermodynamics, Interior case, Gases, Fluids, Rigid frames etc.
Motion	Equations of motion, special motions (Kepler and other)
n-body	n-body Problem.
Other	Other theories of gravitation
Part.sol	Particular solution(s), Classifications, Empty spaces etc.
Phil	Philosophy (of special or of general Relativity, Causality, Time, Space etc.)
Q	Quantization
Rad	Radiation and gravitational waves
SpR	Special Relativity Theory
Spin	Spinors in GRG
Star	Stellar models, questions of stellar astronomy or astrophysics
Unif	Unified field theories (5-dim., skew-symm., Finslerian etc.)
Unif(5)	Five-dimensional unified field theory
Unif(as)	Anti- (skew-) symmetric, i.e. Einstein-Schrödinger unified field theory

ANDERSON James L.	pp: Associate Professor of Physics
ad: Department of Physics Stevens Institute of Technology HOBOKEN U.S.A. (N.J.)	s/c: P.G. Bergmann, J. Weber, H. Bondi c/c: Chapel Hill, Royaumont
fr **: Math., Can, G, Unif, Coord	
ARNOWITT R.	pp: Dr. Professor
ad: Department of Physics Syracuse University SYRACUSE 10 (New York)	c/c: Royaumont
fr **: General, Unif, Can, G, Rad, -- Quantum field theory	
ARZELIÉS Henri	pp: Professeur à la Faculté des Sciences Bordeaux (France), détaché à Rabat (Maroc)
ad: Le TRUËL France (Lozère)	c/c: Royaumont (ser: 28)
fr **: General	

BULLETIN General Relativity and Gravitation No. 6/3

ADDENDA TO LIST OF PUBLICATIONS Part I - Part IV

ADAM Madge G.

(Discussion: J.L.Syngé, M.G.
Adam, S. Mandelstam, L.Essen,
D.W.Sciama, G.J.Whitrow,
S. Weinberg)
The observational tests of gravita-
tion theory (Proc.Roy.Soc. A270, 297(304),
1962)

ADAMSKI V.B.

Local invariance and the theory
of compensating fields (Soviet Phys.-Uspekhi 4, 607, 1962)

AHMAVAARA Y.

On the combination of probability
and relativity (Ann.Acad.Sci.fenn.(A)VI(Phys.)
3, 1962)

1965 - London Conference (GR4)

PROCES-VERBAL SUCCINCT DES SEANCES DU COMITE GRG
tenues à Londres les 30 juin et 7 juillet 1965 à l'Imperial College

Première séance, 30 juin à 17 h

Sont excusés: les prof. Dirac (rendu à la session des Prix Nobel de Lindau)
et Ivanenko (retenu professionnellement à Moscou).

Présidence jusqu'aux élections: le prof. Infeld.

Sont en outre présents: les prof. Bergmann, Bondi, Cattaneo, DeWitt, Fock,
Géhéniau, Lichnerowicz, Möller, Petrov, Rosen, Rosenfeld,
Synge, Mina Tommelat, Utiyama, Wheeler, Mercier.

Ordre du jour: Les divers points de l'ordre du jour risquant d'empiéter en
partie les uns sur les autres, il est convenu, sur proposition du président,
de procéder à l'examen des points dans l'ordre suivant (au lieu de l'ordre
du jour annoncé) :

1. Prochaine Conférence internationale
2. Elections et nouveaux membres
3. Relations avec l'UIPPA
4. Autres réunions
5. Cinquantenaire de la RG
6. Bulletin et secrétariat. Questions connexes.
7. Divers

Increasing of the membership (24)

Include relativistic astrophysics (V. Ginzburg)

Equal number Soviet and US scientists

Relations with IUPAP

Communication channels: Coordinated monographs



« Une affiliation à l'Union de physique pure et appliquée risquerait de faire de nous des physiciens purs et appliqués seulement, alors que GRG ressortit aussi et nettement aux mathématiques, à l'astronomie et à la mécanique, qui ont chacune leur union internationale »

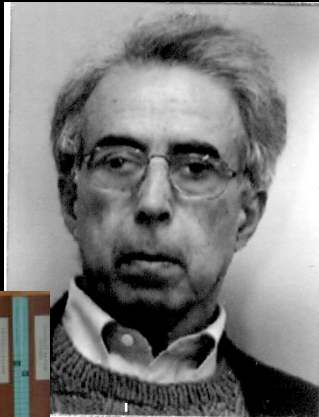
André Lichnerowicz

September 1968 - Conference Tbilisi GR5

List of scholars to be invited:



Nathan
Rosen



Moshe
Carmeli



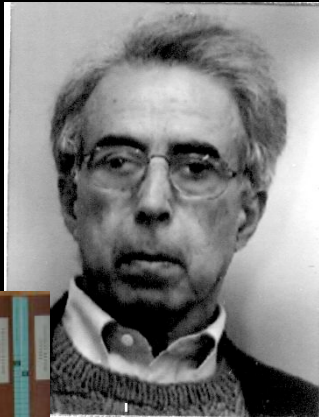
Asher
Peres

September 1968 - Conference Tbilisi GR5

List of scholars to be invited:



Nathan
Rosen



Moshe
Carmeli



Asher
Peres



Six-Day War 5-10 June 1967

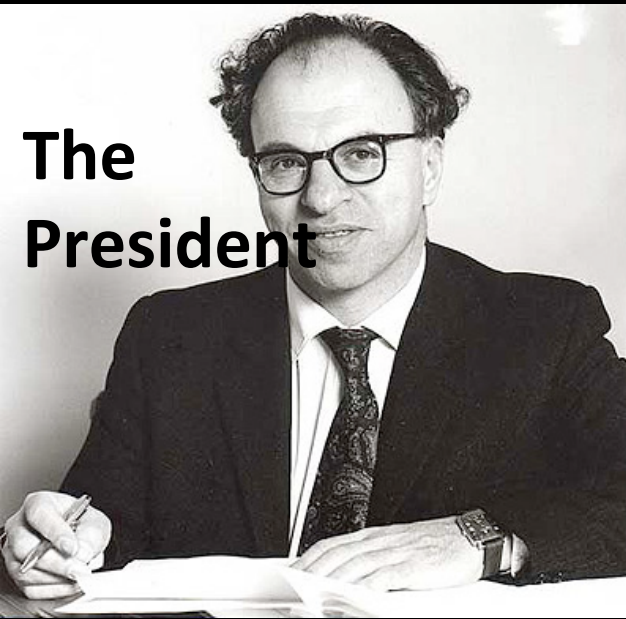
September 1968 - Conference Tbilisi GR5

List of scholars to be invited:



Six-Day War 5-10 June 1967

Crisis and Negotiation



The
President

Hermann Bondi

12th July 1968

CONFIDENTIAL

To all members of the Committee on
General Relativity and Gravitation.

Dear Colleague,

This is a brief report on what I have done in relation to the problem of the invitation of our Israeli colleagues to the Tbilisi conference. I am deeply concerned in case there is any suspicion of any of our colleagues being excluded for political reasons. As you know, in our last conferences all difficulties due to the lack of diplomatic relations between certain countries were overcome. Thus at the Jablonna conference many scientists from the German Federal Republic were present, and at the London meeting our organizing committee made it possible for several scientists from the German Democratic Republic to attend. Given the leadership so vigorously exerted by the U.S.S.R. Academy of Sciences in establishing international scientific relations without regard to political difficulties, I feel sure that any difficulties due to the lack of diplomatic relations between the U.S.S.R. and Israel will be overcome. Unfortunately, however, it is true that at the moment of writing no invitation has been received by any of our Israeli colleagues, although three of them were on the lists agreed on in Paris in June 1967, namely Nathan Rosen, Asher Peres and Moshe Carmeli.

Since I heard of this problem I have written to our Soviet colleagues, as you know, and have reinforced the letter with telegrams. Moreover I have spoken to Fock on the telephone in early July. He had then not received my letter of June 17th, though he had heard about it. He had requested the U.S.S.R. Academy of Sciences to invite Peres, though this was a little awkward because of the lack of diplomatic relations with Israel. He was not, however, prepared to make such a request for Rosen, who had stated that he was not going to accept an invitation, nor for Carmeli, whom I think he did not regard as sufficiently eminent.

I deeply regret the arbitrary exclusion of Carmeli, but I think the really vital matter now is to demonstrate that political difficulties must not stand in the way of scientific meetings. I therefore do not feel that any drastic action is called for provided, as an absolute minimum, that Peres is invited.



The
Organizer

Vladimir Fock

September 1968 - Conference Tbilisi GR5

List of Israeli scholars to be invited:



Asher
Peres

“[The Tbilisi Conference] cannot at present be regarded as truly international and is therefore not the foreseen meeting sponsored by the international Committee on GRG but a Soviet organized meeting to which numerous foreign scientists have been invited. To avoid misunderstanding I, as President of the international Committee, will not attend the meeting [...] I see no reason why the change in the character of the meeting should lead any other than myself to cancel his proposed attendance” Bondi to Bergmann, Aug 29, 1968

September 1968 Conference Tbilisi GR5



20 Aug 1968

Warsaw Pact troops invade Czechoslovakia

“In view of the armed intervention in Czechoslovakia recommend not to go to Tiflis Conference“

PROF BERGMANN 640 RIVERSIDE DRIVE NEW YORK NY 10031
IN VIEW OF ARMED INTERVENTION IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA RECOMMEND
NOT TO GO TO TIFLIS CONFERENCE
MERCIER
COLL 640 10031

Social Dispersion



Peter Bergmann

making the trip

~~Implications. Then one~~, It appeared unlikely that anyone within the Soviet Union would have the leisure to worry about resolving the problem of the Israeli invitations, ~~further~~ ^{And, further} ^{international} as the course of the crisis could not be foreseen, ~~an indeterminate~~ ^{increasing} numbers of relativists, ~~residing~~ ^{from} in various different countries, were bound to ~~ask themselves whether it was advisable for them to travel through~~ ^{question the advisability of traveling} ^{under the circumstances} ~~out Eastern Europe~~. By this time it was much too late ~~either~~ ^{to} for the International Committee, or for a national group in the United States, to ~~engage in an orderly~~ ^{initiate any a comprehensive} exchange of opinions on how to meet this new situation.

On August 25th and 27th, Professor A. Mercier, Secretary of the International Committee, sent out messages in which he advised postponement of the Conference to 1969. On August 28th, Professor Bondi sent cables to the members of the International Committee, in which he informed them that the conference ~~could not be considered to have~~ ^{no longer had} international stature, but would have to be regarded as a Soviet-organized meeting, to which numerous ~~scientists~~ ^{foreign} scientists had been invited. ~~xxxxxxx~~ Both Mercier and Bondi, ~~each in his~~ ^{their} ~~own~~ ^{respective} communications, indicated they would not go to Tbilisi, ~~though for different~~ ^{reasons}, Bondi because of the exclusion of the Israelis, Mercier on account of the Czechoslovak ^{vac} crisis.

~~xxxxxxx~~ Some of our American colleagues ~~cancelled~~ ^{proceeded} their travel plans, whereas others ~~decided to go~~ ^{had left} to Tbilisi. ~~Some~~ ^{Some} ~~had left~~ ^{had left} the United States ~~long~~ ^{long} before the scheduled starting date of the ~~Tbilisi~~ ^{Tbilisi} conference, and ~~it~~ ^{they} ~~could not~~ ^{could not} ~~xxxxxxx~~ ^{had no} ~~xxxxxxx~~ ^{had no} opportunity to consult with others. Everyone made his decision, one way or the other, as an individual, ~~and~~ ^{and} usually on the basis of incomplete information. Undoubtedly it will take time to make new plans for ~~another~~ ^{another} international conference, ~~with a heavy heart~~, ^{with a heavy heart}.

Perhaps we may be permitted to hope that ~~xxxxxxx~~ in the not too distant future the world will return to a state of peace and relaxation in which we can ~~xxxxxxx~~ resume planning ~~the~~ international conferences on gravitation and relativity, ~~xxxxxxx~~ to which all of us can contribute.

Institutional consequences

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE ON GRAVITATION
AND RELATIVITY MEETING AT TBILISI
15.00 THURSDAY 12 SEPTEMBER 1968

GR 5

Present: DeWitt, Fock, Ginzburg, Ivanenko, Miller, Petrov,
Trautmann, Wheeler.

Minutes

1. The meeting is called to order by Wheeler serving as chairman-pro-tempore at the request of Bondi.
2. Wheeler asks that Cécile DeWitt serve as secretary-pro-tem to take the minutes which will be given to Fock for distribution to and approval by the total membership (approved).
3. To send a condolence telegram to Mrs Infeld on the occasion of the death of Professor Infeld formerly President of ICRG.
4. Because of the limited number of members present, the decisions will be provisional until December 1st. They will then come into force unless a majority of members send their opposition to the President in writing.
5. The telegram of Bondi of September 6 is read and recorded below:

“It is understood that sponsorship of the conference by the International Committee implies that the host country makes timely entrance possible for every scientists recommended for participation by the International committee.”

“The Committee invites the Secretary to submit a statement on the responsibilities and the duties of the Secretary.”

Fock is elected President.

Proposal for discussing and deciding rules for the retirement of members and the elections of new ones.

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON GRAVITATION AND THE THEORY OF RELATIVITY
STATE UNIVERSITY CHAVCHAVADZE AV TBILISI 30 USSR ATTENTION
PROF WHEELER SHRILI TO THE SECRETARY USSR ACADEMY OF SCIENCE
MOSCOW

FULL INVITATION RECEIVED BY PERES COMPLETELY RESOLVES CRISIS
STOP TBILISI MEETING IS THEREFORE 5TH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
SPONSORED BY INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE TO BE RECOGNISED BY ALL
STOP CONGRATULATIONS AND BEST WISHES TO SOVIET COMMITTEE FOR OR
GANIZING THIS FINE MEETING AND FOR MAKING MAJOR CONTRIBUTION TO
SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION STOP ^{It} UNFORTUNATELY SUDDEN HEAVY BSRO DUTIES
PREVENT MY ATTENDANCE STOP THEREFORE I RESIGN AS PRESIDENT AND

1970 - Journal GRG

Editor: André Mercier

“[R]elativists have to look for their bread in **all sorts of bakeries** that sell mostly a lot of wares which are not what they seek. The literature is disseminated in a way unbearable in our day of functionalism” (Mercier 1970, p.6)

General Relativity and Gravitation, Vol. 1, No. 1 (1970), pp. 1-7.

EDITORIAL

Since the days when Einstein, in 1905, published his first results concerning the new relativity, there have occurred so many changes in science that one might be tempted to minimize the importance of this line of research. Yet there are several reasons why Einsteinian relativity is of utmost importance and why, in our times—in spite of the flow of periodicals which gave rise to what we like to call Gamow's paradox—it is reasonable and even desirable to found a new journal specifically devoted to studies in the field of what has become known as 'GRG' among specialists since the end of the 1950s.

As, apart from those who already have advocated, or will advocate, the publication of this new journal, there surely are some who will—possibly with vehemence—oppose to it, we think it desirable to explain here why, and how, the decision was taken to publish it. This will require three analyses. One will be concerned with the importance of relativity in science, the second with the recent history of physics and the development of schools of relativistic researches, and the third with the policy of publishing results of scientific nature.

After that, we shall have to explain more about the aims of the new journal, its scope, form, and contents.

A first aspect of the importance of the idea of relativity consists in its extraordinary invading power. Contrarily to Galilean relativity, which was believed, for centuries, to be the only possible one and therefore, so to say, silently dealt with in old textbooks, Einsteinian relativity revealed that one has to put the question as to which relativity appears to be valid in nature and this started the fundamental analysis of covariance, which, for two reasons, may not be completed yet; for, on the one hand, there is no final reason to believe that Riemannian geometry is *the most general one* to be used in physics (Why not Finslerian geometry? Why assume a metric? Why should space be continuous? etc.). On the other hand, the problem of the

† We may recollect here Gamow's argument, for it may not be known to everybody. In the year, say, 2000—he says—by extrapolating the rate of increase of publications, errand boys will have to bring new issues of physical journals at a tremendous speed, depositing them in the libraries like a wave which will travel faster than light. Now, Einstein has shown that nothing travels faster than light—unless ... it does not contain any information. The paradox is crying. Perhaps there are things travelling at a speed greater than c . The reader will read about them in one of the reviews published in the present issue. Perhaps, too, according to Terletskii, fluctuations make the transmission of information at hyperlightvelocity possible. (See book review in this issue.) Turning back to Gamow's argument, it can be extended to the medical field by saying: in the year, say, 2050, it will be found that everybody in the world suffers from some disease and will automatically be brought to hospital, including the doctors—and it will only remain a matter of chance if one comes out of hospital again.

1970 - Journal GRG

Editor: André Mercier

“[R]elativists have to look for their bread in all sorts of bakeries that sell mostly a lot of wares which are not what they seek. The literature is disseminated in a way unbearable in our day of functionalism” (Mercier 1970, p.6)

General Relativity and Gravitation, Vol. 1, No. 1 (1970), pp. 1-7.

EDITORIAL

Since the days when Einstein, in 1905, published his first results concerning the new relativity, there have occurred so many changes in science that one might be tempted to minimize the importance of this line of research. Yet there are several reasons why Einsteinian relativity is of utmost importance and why, in our times—in spite of the flow of periodicals which gave rise to what we like to call Gamow's paradox—it is reasonable and even desirable to found a new journal specifically devoted to studies in the field of what has become known as "GRG" among specialists since the end of the 1950s.

As, apart from those who already have advocated, or will advocate, the publication of this new journal, there surely are some who will—possibly with vehemence—oppose to it, we think it desirable to explain here why, and how, the decision was taken to publish it. This will require three analyses. One will be concerned with the importance of relativity in science, the second with the recent history of physics and the development of schools of relativistic researches, and the third with the policy of publishing results of scientific nature.

After that, we shall have to explain more about the aims of the new journal, its scope, form, and contents.

A first aspect of the importance of the idea of relativity consists in its extraordinary invading power. Contrarily to Galilean relativity, which was believed, for centuries, to be the only possible one and therefore, so to say, silently dealt with in old textbooks, Einsteinian relativity revealed that one has to put the question as to which relativity appears to be valid in nature and this started the fundamental analysis of covariance, which, for two reasons, may not be completed yet; for, on the one hand, there is no final reason to believe that Riemannian geometry is the *most general one* to be used in physics (Why not Finslerian geometry? Why assume a metric? Why should space be continuous? etc.). On the other hand, the problem of the

* We may recollect here Gamow's argument, for it may not be known to everybody. In the year, say, 2000—he says—by extrapolating the rate of increase of publications, errand boys will have to bring new issues of physical journals at a tremendous speed, depositing them in the libraries like a wave which will travel faster than light. Now, Einstein has shown that nothing travels faster than light—unless ... it does not contain any information. The paradox is crying. Perhaps there are things travelling at a speed greater than c . The reader will read about them in one of the reviews published in the present issue. Perhaps, too, according to Terletskii, fluctuations make the transmission of information at hyperlightvelocity possible. (See book review in this issue.) Turning back to Gamow's argument, it can be extended to the medical field by saying: in the year, say, 2050, it will be found that everybody in the world suffers from some disease and will automatically be brought to hospital, including the doctors—and it will only remain a matter of chance if one comes out of hospital again.

1

1

New York, October 8, 1969

Dear Hermann:

Yesterday I was in Princeton, for a seminar talk, and had occasion to talk to Wheeler, as well as to Komar, on the subject of the proposed journal on relativity.

As a result of these conversations I have come to the conclusion that at least most of the groups in the North East of the United States share my view that this journal will only do harm to our field. I have yet to meet a single individual who is favorably disposed.

I have previously written to Mercier and urged him to go slow, at least, summarizing all my misgivings. Obviously to no avail. I have pointed out beforehand that he cannot expect most of those opposed to the new journal and to his editorship to send him opposing views and votes. Having reviewed my earlier letter I have come to the conclusion that there is no point in my writing him another letter.

Clearly, Mercier is not a child, and he is entitled to open up a new journal, against the advice of his friends, if he wishes to do so. To do so in the name of the Committee is a different matter. I consider it a serious threat to the continuity of the Committee if Mercier can go ahead and proceed in the name of the Committee to enter into negotiations with North Holland, etc., basing his authorization on a mail vote arranged by himself, in which less than half of the membership voted.

It may not be possible to stop him from going ahead, in which case the consequences to the future of the Committee remain to be seen. The Committee is now too strong and well-knit an organization as it is, and its demise would not be the ultimate disaster to the world's well-being. But as you are still a member of the Bureau, and close to the European scene, I should like to urge you to consider the situation and to see whether you wish to intervene in any sense. Of course, I should be grateful if you would inform me of your own views in the matter. I have no objections to your mentioning my name and quoting my views if you find this useful in exploring the problem with others.

Warmest regards.

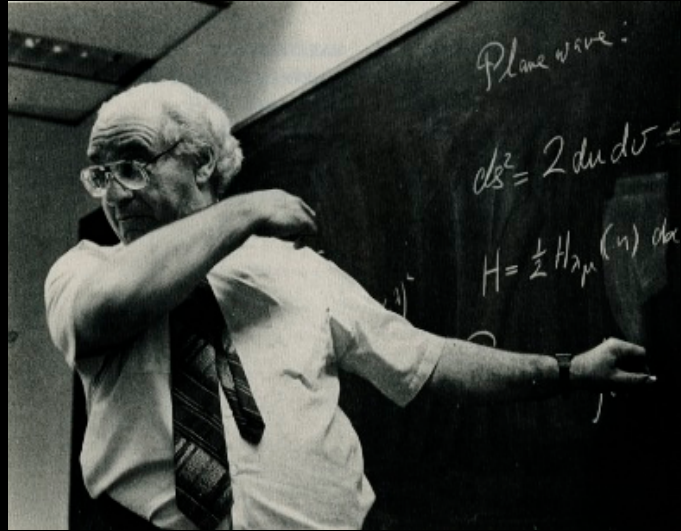
Sincerely,

Peter G. Bergmann

Professor Hermann Bondi, F.R.S.
Director General, ENSO
114 Avenue de Neuilly
92 - Neuilly sur Seine, France

“[Mercier] is entitled to open up a new journal, against the advice of his friends if he wishes to do so. To do so in the name of the Committee is a different matter. I consider it a serious threat to the continuity of the Committee if Mercier can go ahead and proceed in the name of the Committee [...] basing his authorization on a mail vote arranged by himself, in which less than half of the membership voted.” Bergmann to Bondi, 8 October 1969

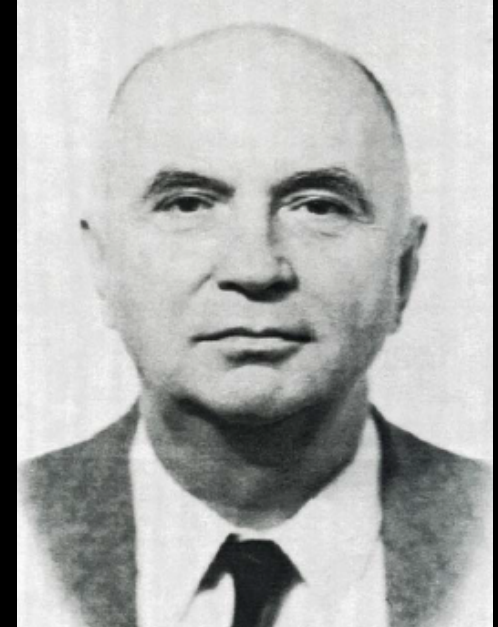
1971 - Copenhagen Conference GR6



Ivor
Robinson

Decision to found an
International Society

GR7 in Israel



Vladimir
Braginsky



Kip S.
Thorne

New Structures?



Hans-Jürgen Treder

DEUTSCHE AKADEMIE DER WISSENSCHAFTEN ZU BERLIN
Forschungsbereich Kosmische Physik - Der Leiter
1502 Potsdam-Babelsberg, Rosa-Luxemburg-Str. 17a, den 15.7.71
62/71

Prof. Dr. H.-J. Treder

Luftpost!

Herrn
Prof. Dr. A. Mercier
Universität Bern
Institut für Theoretische Physik
Sidlerstrasse 5

03000 Bern/Schweiz

Lieber Kollege Mercier!

Die Mitarbeiter meines Instituts haben mich über das organisatorische Geschehen während der Kopenhagener Konferenz unterrichtet. Ich muß offen gestehen, daß mich die Form dieses Geschehens sehr befremdet hat und das Ergebnis mich mit tiefer Sorge erfüllt. Offenbar ist das Gravitations-Komitee unter starkem Druck von außen in einer wenig schönen Form dezimiert und praktisch zerstört worden. Die neu projektierten Organisationsformen leiden schon unter der Tatsache, daß die bei der Kopenhagener Konferenz Anwesenden weder durch die Art der Einladung noch durch das rein zufällige Zahlenverhältnis repräsentativ dafür waren, über Bildung, Aufgaben und Zusammensetzung einer internationalen Organisation zu befinden.

Ich bin daher sehr dankbar, daß offenbar mein Brief an Sie und Möller sowie meine durch Peck mündlich übermittelte Ansicht als mein Verzicht auf weitere Mitwirkung in der ungebildeten Organisation aufgefaßt worden ist. In der Tat wäre mir eine Mitarbeit unter den neuen Bedingungen nicht mehr möglich und ich bestätige, falls es erforderlich sein sollte, nochmals ausdrücklich meinen Austritt. Ich muß Sie aber darauf hinweisen, daß diese Unmöglichkeit einer weiteren Mitwirkung nicht nur für mich persönlich, sondern auch für die Mitarbeiter

Negotiated Statute

This is a short note to you in your capacity as a member of the committee to draft a constitution for the international organization of relativity physicists. My message is simple: It seems to me that, to be viable, our organization must be composed of individual scientists and not of national delegations. On the other hand, the Soviet bureaucracy insists on regarding all such organizations as composed of national delegations. Somehow, a constitution must be drafted which makes it perfectly clear that ours is an organization of individual scientists; but the phraseology should probably be such that Soviet bureaucrats can misinterpret it if they wish. I had a deep discussion of this issue with Braginsky in Varenna last summer; and by now you may have discussed it with him yourself. He said that he would try to draft suitable wording. On the other hand, he will be under enormous pressure to produce a draft of the constitution which resembles constitutions for such organizations as the IAU and IUPAP. I regard such a constitution as unacceptable. If your committee comes up with such a constitution, I would expect to lead the vigorous fight, both in the International Committee, and on the floor of the "assembly" (presumably in Israel) to get it changed.

Individual
Scientists

National
Delegations

Location GR7



Dmitri Ivanenko

4) Now about most difficult point concerning the preparations of the GR 7 -conference in 1974. For my part I appreciate once more the invitation of Prof.H.Eisen (and would be obliged to You for conveying him my best regards and wishes),but repeating my arguments expressed in Copenhagen (and supported by Prof. V.A.Fock, as can be seen in the Minutes) I see no real possibility to organize the International Conference on Gravitation and General Relativity in Haifa (Israel) under present day conditions. I have had discussions on this important point with some leading colleagues here as well as abroad (in personal talks and via letter) including some members of the GRG-Committee, and many of us are finally convinced in the necessity of possessing some other place for GR 7-1974-conference which can be fully guaranteed in respect of normal conditions.

All respected efforts in preparing GR -7 of Prof.H. Eisen and his collaborators may not be lost, we can (as a preliminary proposal) for instance start to arrange a conference (or topical symposium) in Italy, following kind interesting suggestions of the leading people of the "Ettore Majorana" Centre (Bologna, University, Institute of Physics), letting Prof.H.Eisen to continue the preparation of a symposium (or conference); when delivering some lectures in Italy last may I convinced myself in the feasibility of this interesting proposal, anyhow we have yet some time to await !

Location GR7



Dmitri Ivanenko

4) Now about most difficult point concerning the preparations of the GR 7 -conference in 1974. For my part I appreciate once more the invitation of Prof.H.Eisen (and would be obliged to You for conveying him my best regards and wishes),but repeating my arguments expressed in Copenhagen (and supported by Prof. V.A.Fock, as can be seen in the Minutes) I see no real possibility to organize the International Conference on Gravitation and General Relativity in Haifa (Israel) under present day conditions. I have had discussions on this important point with some leading colleagues here as well as abroad (in personal talks and via letter) including some members of the GRG-Committee, and many of us are finally convinced in the necessity of possessing some other place for GR 7-1974-conference which can be fully guaranteed in respect of normal conditions.

All respected efforts in preparing GR -7 of Prof.H. Eisen and his collaborators may not be lost, we can (as a preliminary proposal) for instance start to arrange a conference (or topical symposium) in Italy, following kind interesting suggestions of the leading people of the "Ettore Majorana" Centre (Bologna,University, Institute of Physics), letting Prof.H.Eisen to continue the preparation of a symposium (or conference); when delivering some lectures in Italy last may I convinced myself in the feasibility of this interesting proposal, anyhow we have yet some time to await !



Erice, Sicily

First draft

November 1972

D r a f t

Constitution of The International Society
for
General Relativity and Gravitation

Article 1

The name of this Association shall be the International Society for General Relativity and Gravitation (GRG). Its objects shall be to promote the study of GRG and to exchange information in the interest of its members and the profession.

On its formation the Society is governed by this Constitution and the legislation of Switzerland governing private Associations.

Article 2

The Society shall hold regular General Assemblies, as a rule every three years, and in addition thereto hold or sponsor smaller symposia and publish a journal and other information of general interest to its members.

All notices addressed to the Secretary at his regular office are regarded to be duly served on the Society.

Article 3

Any person who is holding a University or equivalent position and is the author of one or more publications in the field of GRG shall be eligible to individual membership in the Society.

Scientific organisations such as Academies or University Departments whether corporate or not shall be eligible to corporate membership. They shall appoint at least three but not more than fifteen delegates who would be eligible to individual membership.

Applications for membership endorsed by 2 members whether corporate or individual shall be addressed to the Secretary.

The members shall pay annual Society dues in such amount as shall be from time to time determined by resolution in General Assembly. Corporate members shall pay one due per each delegate.

“Affiliation of our committee with IUPAP would be welcome and could be negotiated”

COMITÉ GRAVITATION ET RELATIVITÉ
COMMITTEE ON GENERAL RELATIVITY AND GRAVITATION

SECRETARIAT:
INSTITUT DE PHYSIQUE THÉORIQUE
DE L'UNIVERSITÉ

3012 BERNE (Städel)
Säckerstrasse 5

November 1972 M/eb

To Relativists
throughout the World

Dear Colleagues,

At the International Conference GR8 on General Relativity and Gravitation held at Copenhagen in July 1971, an ad hoc Assembly of Scientists adopted a Resolution according to which

- (i) The creation of an International Society on GRG was recommended,
- (ii) a Special Statute Committee was elected and instructed as to prepare a Draft Constitution (Statutes) of the said Society, which has been done - ,
- (iii) various other steps (election of 8 members of the International Committee on GRG, etc.) were taken.

The said Assembly expressed the wish that the Draft Constitution be circulated among all known interested scientists long before a new Assembly could formally approve the text, in order to allow for amendments to be taken into consideration.

The Statute Committee has instructed me as to submit the Draft to a lawyer in order to have a text which is in agreement with the legislation of the country where the seat of the Society is meant to be chosen. The necessity to have a juridically correct wording is urgent, for in case controversies should arise, - and we cannot exclude the case, even among scientists, - we must be in a position to apply the Statutes correctly.

It is my pleasure today to send you all a copy of the Draft Constitution as it stands now.

If a friend of yours unknown to us wants to have a copy, let him simply ask for it at the above address.

You are all invited to comment upon this Draft. But please think first that if I receive a few hundred amendments, the task will be quasi impossible to revise again. The Statute Committee has taken care of the general wishes of the Assembly and considered carefully the limit conditions under which such a Society shall work. The lawyer, who is juridic Counselor of one of the foreign Embassies at Berne (Switzer-

Responses

“After discussion with colleagues who received this draft we have found it in many respect inadmissible for Soviet gravitationists.” A. A. Sokolov to Mercier, 10 Jan 73

“There are grave doubts concerning the Draft and the nature of the proposed in this way Society. For our gravitationists the structure of the old Committee, may be [sic] extended in some natural way, would be much more welcomed.” N. V. Mitskiévič to Mercier, 11 Jan 1973

“Within the next couple of months some of us here in the United States will try to prepare a document summarizing comments or suggested modifications of the draft you sent out last December.” Bergmann and Goldberg to Mercier, 25 Jan 1973.

Mercier's negotiation

“The baby called International Society on GRG is far from being born yet. Not only you but Soviet Colleagues and others seem to prepare the attack against the draft, although we have done all we could in order to have a structure which would allow for everybody to join. [...] Thank for your wishes about a year of peace. If it proves one among relativists, then we shall be blessed, but I have the great fear that this will not succeed ...” Mercier to Bergmann and Goldberg, 1 Feb 1973

“I should like to call your attention that the present Draft has provision which should make it easy for Sovjet Scientists to collaborate through their belonging to official Institutions which could become corporate members. I do hope that you will understand that something must be set up which can satisfy all parties involved. I am making the greatest efforts to meet everybody's desires, but I wish everybody would also make own efforts to meet the others half-way. Actually the Draft is in my opinion very favourable to Sovjet Scientists.” Mercier to Sokolov and Mitskiévič, 1 Feb 73

How/Where Found the Society?

“I have the impression that we shall finally find a solution to our problems, but I’d like you to understand that many scientist do not agree that a political cause of unilateral nature should prevent the organization of our international scientific Conference at a place which has been by IUPAP been considered as perfectly acceptable.” Mercier to Ivanenko, 21 December 1972

By Mail!

COMITE INTERNATIONAL
GRAVITATION ET RELATIVITE GENERALE
INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE ON
GENERAL RELATIVITY AND GRAVITATION

MEMBERS: P. G. Bergmann (Syracuse), B. Bertotti (Frascati), V. B. Braginsky (Moscow), Mme Y. Choquet-Bruhat (Paris), J. Ehlers (Munich), V.A. Fock (Leningrad), J. Géhéniou (Brussels), M. Israel (Edmonton), D. Ivanenko (Moscow), C. W. Misner (London), A. Lichnerowicz (Paris), A. Mercier (Berne), Chr. Møller (Copenhagen), I. D. Novikov (Moscow), A. Papapetrou (Paris), N. Rosen (Haifa), L. Rosenfeld (Copenhagen), A. Schild (Austin), L. Schmutzer (Jena), D.W. Sciama (Oxford), J.L. Synge (Dublin), K.S. Thorne (Pasadena), A. Trautman (Warsaw), K. Utiyama (Osaka), P.C. Vaidya (Ahmedabad), J. Weber (College Park, Maryland).

SECRETARIAT:
INSTITUT DE PHYSIQUE THEORIQUE
DE L'UNIVERSITE

3012 BERNE (Suisse)
Sidlerstrasse 5

Berne, 10th October, 1973

To Relativists throughout
the World

Dear Colleagues,

The final text of a Constitution for the founding of the new INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY ON GENERAL RELATIVITY AND GRAVITATION has been accepted by the Committee on GRG. You will find it in the enclosure. Hence I am in a position to ask you whether you wish to join the new Society.

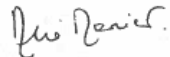
If this is the case, please fill in the enclosed Form and send it back to our Secretariat.

Should you know of anyone who did not receive a similar letter but wants to join as well, would you please have him fill in a similar Form. Thank you.

As soon as 150 applications from at least 10 nations have been received, I am entitled to declare the Society in existence.

With kind regards.

Sincerely,



André Mercier
Secretary

By Mail!

COMITE INTERNATIONAL
GRAVITATION ET RELATIVITE GENERALE
INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE ON
GENERAL RELATIVITY AND GRAVITATION

MEMBERS: P. G. Bergmann (Syracuse), B. Bertotti (Frascati), V. B. Braginsky (Moscow), Mme Y. Choquet-Bruhat (Paris), J. Ehlers (Munich), V.A. Fock (Leningrad), J. Géhéniau (Brussels), M. Israel (Edmonton), D. Ivanenko (Moscow), C. W. Kilister (London), A. Lichnerowicz (Paris), A. Mercier (Berne), Chr. Möller (Copenhagen), I. D. Novikov (Moscow), A. Papapetrou (Paris), N. Rosen (Haifa), L. Rosenfeld (Copenhagen), A. Schild (Austin), L. Schutzner (Jena), D.M. Sciama (Oxford), J.L. Synge (Dublin), K.S. Thorne (Pasadena), A. Trautman (Warsaw), K. Utiyama (Osaka), P.C. Vaidya (Ahmedabad), J. Weber (College Park, Maryland).

SECRETARIAT:
INSTITUT DE PHYSIQUE THEORIQUE
DE L'UNIVERSITE

3012 BERNE (Suisse)
Sidlerstrasse 5

Berne, 10th October, 1973

To Relativists throughout
the World

Dear Colleagues,

The final text of a Constitution for the founding of the new INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY ON GENERAL RELATIVITY AND GRAVITATION has been accepted by the Committee on GRG. You will find it in the enclosure. Hence I am in a position to ask you whether you wish to join the new Society.

If this is the case, please fill in the enclosed Form and send it back to our Secretariat.

Should you know of anyone who did not receive a similar letter but wants to join as well, would you please have him fill in a similar Form. Thank you.

As soon as 150 applications from at least 10 nations have been received, I am entitled to declare the Society in existence.

With kind regards.

Sincerely,

André Mercier
Secretary

COMITE INTERNATIONAL
GRAVITATION ET RELATIVITE GENERALE
INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE ON
GENERAL RELATIVITY AND GRAVITATION

MEMBERS: P. G. Bergmann (Syracuse), B. Bertotti (Frascati), V. B. Braginsky (Moscow), Mme Y. Choquet-Bruhat (Paris), J. Ehlers (Munich), V.A. Fock (Leningrad), J. Géhéniau (Brussels), M. Israel (Edmonton), D. Ivanenko (Moscow), C. W. Kilister (London), A. Lichnerowicz (Paris), A. Mercier (Berne), Chr. Möller (Copenhagen), I. D. Novikov (Moscow), A. Papapetrou (Paris), N. Rosen (Haifa), L. Rosenfeld (Copenhagen), A. Schild (Austin), L. Schutzner (Jena), D.M. Sciama (Oxford), J.L. Synge (Dublin), K.S. Thorne (Pasadena), A. Trautman (Warsaw), K. Utiyama (Osaka), P.C. Vaidya (Ahmedabad), J. Weber (College Park, Maryland).

SECRETARIAT:
INSTITUT DE PHYSIQUE THEORIQUE
DE L'UNIVERSITE

3012 BERNE (Suisse)
Sidlerstrasse 5

Berne, 7th January, 1974

Professor Christian Möller
Kirkoppel 5¹

BRD - 2300 Kiel 1

My dear President,

It is my pleasure to let you know that up to this date, including both individual members and as many votes as corporate members from 23 nations have paid for, there are 166 members of the International Society on GRG. Hence, the Society is to be declared in existence.

It is unfortunately just too late to allow for an invitation to a regular general assembly of the Society, for our constitution requires a six months notice and GR 7 will last 24 through 28 June 1974.

I shall therefore call for an ad hoc assembly, asking our members to accept this exceptional procedure. The list of nominees will in any case not be ready before a few weeks time, whereas it should also be circulated 6 months in advance!

Including votes for corporate members, the numbers per nation are the following:

USA: 62 - France: 20 - Canada: 16 - Italy: 10 - Australia: 7 -
United Kingdom: 7 - BRD: 6 - Japan: 5 - Switzerland: 5 - Austria: 4 -
Belgium: 4 - Brazil: 4 - URSS: 3 - Argentine: 2 - India: 2 - Ireland:
2 - CSSR: 1 - Denmark: 1 - Finland: 1 - Israel: 1 - Norway: 1 - South
Africa: 1 - Syria: 1.

I expect that more applications will still come (some have reached us but payments were not yet received).

Announcement

Berne, 1st February, 1974

To Members of the
International Society on GRG

Dear Colleague,

It is my pleasure to let you know that the International Society on GRG is now definitely constituted, and that you are a member of it. Thank you for your collaboration.

As you know, international business evolves very slowly. It was not possible to accelerate the process of our constitution. As a result, considering the contents of our statutes, we are too late to call for a regular General Assembly during the triennial GRG-Conference called GR 7 which is to be opened at Tel-Aviv on June 23rd, 1974 under the co-chairmanship of Nathan Rosen and Y. Ne'eman, because not only little less than 6 months are left (which could have been interpreted as 6:1), but also the main point to be put on the Agenda, viz. the election of 8 new members of the Committee, for this requires a procedure through a Nominating Committee which has not been elected yet (see Constitution, article 13).

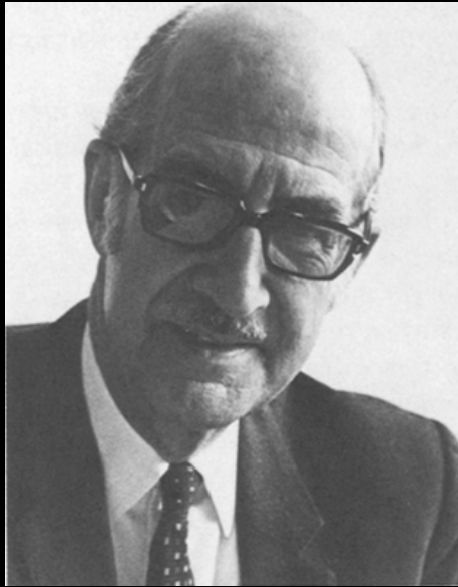
Therefore, after consulting our President Professor Miller (Copenhagen) and the members of the whole present Committee, the following has been decided:

1. The International Society on GRG shall be called to an ad-hoc Assembly during GR 7 at Tel-Aviv. The AGENDA shall be very simple:
 1. General Information. Financial Situation. (There is no Treasurer's report yet).
 2. Election of the new President of the Society.
 3. Election of 8 new members of the Committee.

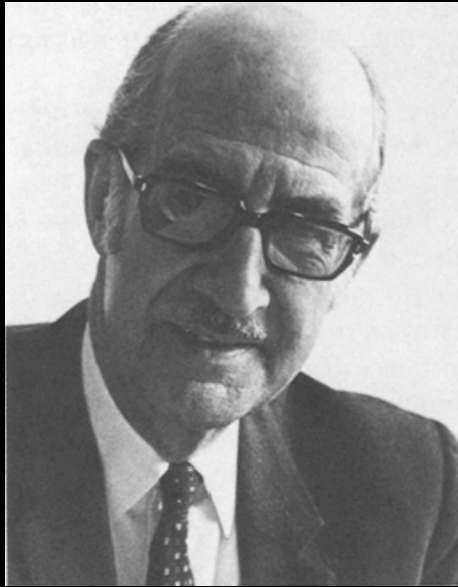
1975 Affiliated Commission of IUPAP – AC.2

Conclusions/Questions

The role of scientists-community builders



André Mercier
1913-1999

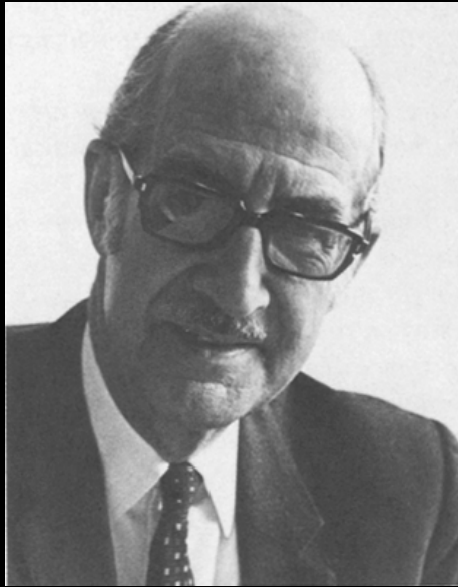


André Mercier
1913-1999



Karl K. Darrow
1891-1982

Secretary APS
1941-1967



André Mercier
1913-1999



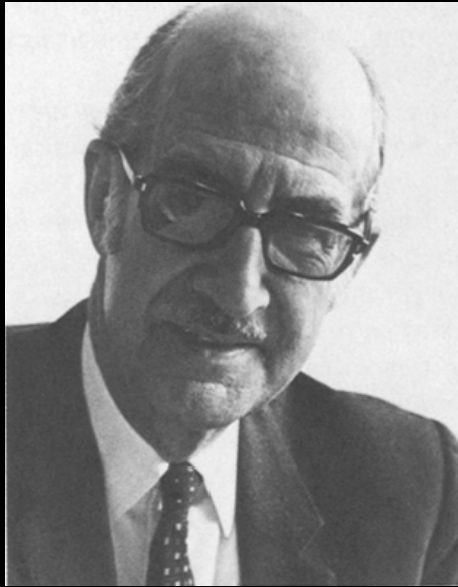
Karl K. Darrow
1891-1982

Secretary APS
1941-1967



John J. Tate, Sr.
1889-1950

Editor
Phys. Rev.
1925-1950



André Mercier
1913-1999



Karl K. Darrow
1891-1982

Secretary APS
1941-1967



John J. Tate, Sr.
1889-1950

Editor
Phys. Rev.
1925-1950



Henry Oldenburg
1619-1677)

Secretary
Royal Society
Founding editor
*Phil. Trans. Royal
Soc. 1665*

Conclusions/Questions

The role of scientists-community builders

Conclusions/Questions

The role of scientists-community builders

Why GRG?

Conclusions/Questions

The role of scientists-community builders

Why GR?

**Connection between socio-institutional history
and the mechanisms of production of knowledge**

Thank You for the Attention

Acknowledgments

Diana Kormos-Buchwald, Malcolm A. H. MacCallum, Donald Salisbury
for archival material

Alexander Blum, Jürgen Renn
for discussions