George Papp

Physics Today **18** (1), 155–156 (1965);
https://doi.org/10.1063/1.3047135

in Durham, N.C. She had lived and worked in Durham since her retirement in 1952.

Dr. Kohn was born in Breslau, Germany, and was educated at the University of Breslau, where she received her PhD in physics in 1913. A student and associate of O. Lummer, E. Pringsheim, Clemens Schäfer, and R. Ladenburg, her work was concerned with the nature of the light emission from metal vapors in flames. In 1930 she became lecturer in physics at the University of Breslau. Forced to leave Germany in the late thirties, she ultimately arrived in the United States and in 1940 was appointed instructor in physics at the Woman's College of the University of North Carolina in Greensboro. She joined the staff of Wellesley College as a lecturer in physics in 1942, received an appointment as associate professor in 1945, and was named a full professor in 1948. After her retirement, Dr. Kohn joined the staff of the Physics Department of Duke University in Durham, where she directed the research of several graduate students and research associates. She was the author of numerous publications on flame photometry and optical spectroscopy.

She was a member of the American Physical Society, the American Association of Physics Teachers, and Sigma Xi.

George W. Downs

George W. Downs, a director and former officer of Applied Physics Corporation and a former president of Research Instrument Corporation, died on November 8, 1964, in Pasadena, Calif. He was 53 years old.

Mr. Downs was born in Mt. Vernon, S. D., and studied at the California Institute of Technology. He was named chief engineer of the Lansing Manufacturing Company in 1935 and joined the William Miller Corporation in 1939 as a development engineer. In World War II, he served for a time as a physicist in the University of California's War Research Division, and then returned to Caltech in 1943, as a development engineer on torpedo and rocketry projects carried out by the Institute's Office of Scientific Research and Development. At the end of the war, he rejoined the William Miller Corporation as a vice-president of the firm. He remained there until 1954, and in the following year he helped organize the Applied Physics Corporation. He retired as the company's vice-president in 1963, but continued to serve as a director until the time of his death. He was named president of Research Instrument in 1948.

Mr. Downs was a fellow of the Acoustical Society of America and a member of the Optical Society of America and the American Physical Society.

John S. Foster

John S. Foster, a Canadian nuclear physicist who was founder and first director of McGill University's Radiation Laboratory, died on September 9, 1964, in Berkeley, Calif. Dr. Foster, who had been living in Berkeley since his retirement four years ago, was instrumental in obtaining a cyclotron for the McGill Laboratory in 1949 from the University of California in Berkeley. The cyclotron is still the largest nuclear accelerator in Canada.

Dr. Foster was born in Canada on May 28, 1890. He was graduated from Acadia University in Nova Scotia and received his PhD from Yale University. He became an instructor at Yale in 1920. In 1924, he joined the faculty of McGill as an assistant professor and was promoted to professor in 1930. He was named MacDonald professor of physics in 1935 and became director of the Radiation Laboratory in 1946. From 1952 to 1955, he served as chairman of the University's Physics Department and, in 1955, was named Rutherford research professor. In 1931, he took a leave of absence from McGill as a visiting professor of physics at Ohio State University. During World War II, he served as scientific liaison officer at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology Radiation Laboratory.

Dr. Foster was a fellow of the Royal Society of London, the Royal Society of Canada, and the American Physical Society. He was awarded the Levy Medal of the Franklin Institute in 1930, the Tory Medal of the Canadian Royal Society in 1946, the US Medal of Freedom in 1947 for his war-time work at the MIT Radiation Laboratory and the medal of the Canadian Association of Physicists in 1958.

Francis H. Nadig

Francis H. Nadig, professor of physics at Temple University and a member of that University's physics staff for more than forty years, died on November 20, 1964, at the age of 64.

A native of Allentown, Pa., he entered Temple University as a student in 1921 and served as an undergraduate assistant to the late Claude S. McGinnis, head of the Physics Department. He received his bachelor's degree from Temple in 1925. The University of Pennsylvania awarded him the master's degree in 1929, and he pursued further graduate studies at the University of Chicago during the period from 1932 to 1936.

After graduation, he was named as an instructor in Temple's Physics Department, and from 1925 until the time of his death he was a member of the University's faculty. He was appointed professor of physics in 1958.

He was honored by Temple last February during the celebration of the institution's eightieth anniversary, when he was cited for his long years of service and for his research in the fields of upper-atmospheric physics and exploding wires. At the time of his death he was engaged in a research program for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration involving the Mariner C project.

Professor Nadig was a member of the American Association of Physics Teachers.

George Papp

George Papp, a physicist on the senior staff of the ITT Industrial Laboratories in Ft. Wayne, Indiana, died on September 1, 1964, of complications following an emergency operation. He was 51 years old.

Dr. Papp was born in Szamosujvar, Hungary, and was educated at the University of Budapest, where he received his PhD in 1937. He spent the following year as a lecturer in physics at the Baron Lorand Eotvos College in Hungary and as an assistant

in the Biochemistry Institute of the University of Szeged. Later in 1938, he became an assistant in the Institute of Atomic Physics at the Technical University of Budapest. In 1946, he was named docent and in 1948, associate professor. From 1938 until he left Hungary in 1949, he also served as a consultant to the Tungsram Lamp Factory.

After coming to the United States in 1949, Dr. Papp joined the faculty of George Washington University as a research associate in electronics. He became associated with the ITT Laboratories (then the Farnsworth Electronics Company) as a principal engineer in 1952. He was named as a consultant to the firm in 1960. From 1956 to 1960 he also served on the Purdue University faculty, first as a lecturer and later as affiliate professor.

Frederick H. Seares

Frederick H. Seares, retired assistant director of the Mt. Wilson Observatory of the Carnegie Institution, died in Honolulu on July 20, 1964. He was 91 years old.

He was born in Cassopolis, Michigan, and graduated from the University of California in 1895. He pursued graduate studies at the University for the next four years, during which time he also served as an instructor in astronomy. He studied at the University of Berlin in 1899 and at the University of Paris during the following year. In 1901 he was appointed professor and director of the Laws Observatory at the University of Missouri. He left Missouri in 1909 to become superintendent of the computing division and editor of publications at Mt. Wilson. In 1925 he was appointed assistant director of the Observatory, a post which he held for the next fifteen years. He was named a research associate of the Observatory in 1940, and he retired from academic life in 1946.

Dr. Seares served as a collaborating editor on the *Astrophysical Journal* during the periods 1927-34 and 1941-45. During the intervening period, from 1934 to 1941, he was an associate editor. He was chairman of the Committee on Stellar Photometry of the International Astronomical Union from 1919 to 1938. A member of the Astronomical Society of the Pacific, Dr. Seares was the organization's president in 1929. Three decades earlier he had served as its vice president for two terms (1897-98), and in 1940 he received the Society's Bruce Medal. He was also a member of the American Astronomical Society and a foreign associate of the Royal Astronomical Society.

Charles E. Porter, Jr.

Charles E. Porter, Jr., a physicist at Brookhaven National Laboratory, died on August 14, 1964, at the age of 37.

Born in St. Paul, Minn., Dr. Porter received his bachelor's and master's degrees in mathematics in 1947 and 1949, respectively, from the University of Minnesota. He was awarded his doctorate in physics at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1953, and spent the next three years as an associate physicist at Brookhaven. In 1956, he went to Finland for a year as a Fulbright lecturer. There he gave lectures at the University of Helsinki as well as at the physics institutes in Turku. Upon returning to the United States, he joined the Los Alamos Scientific Laboratory as a consultant. The following year, he was appointed a lecturer at the University of Minnesota. He returned to Brookhaven in 1960 as a staff physicist and remained there until his death.

Dr. Porter was most interested in nuclear reactions and statistical physics. He was the author of some 25 papers, mainly treating various aspects of the compound nucleus. The Feshbach, Porter, and Weisskopf article, "Model for Nuclear Reactions with Neutrons" [Phys. Rev. **96**, 448 (1954)], provided an early theoretical framework for understanding low-energy, neutron-nuclear interactions. Two years later, Porter and Thomas published "Fluctuations on Nuclear Reaction Widths" [Phys. Rev. **104**, 483 (1956)], the first appearance of the Porter-Thomas distribution. Recently, Dr. Porter finished editing *Statistical Theories of Spectra: Fluctuations*, which is scheduled for publication by Academic Press this year.

Dr. Porter was a member of the American Physical Society.