
The first 50 years of *Acta Physica Polonica*

The name *Acta Physica Polonica* appeared in 1932 on the journal founded in 1920 by the Polish Physical Society. The following note on the first page explained what happened:

Communiqué de la Redaction. A partir de l'année 1932 le journal de la Société Polonaise de Physique paraissant jusqu'à présent sous le titre de "Compte Rendus des Séances de la Société Polonaise de Physique" (volumes I–V, 1920–1931) sera intitulé à l'avenir

Acta Physica Polonica.

Le présent numéro est le premier de cette nouvelle série de notre journal; quatre numéros feront, comme auparavant, un volume.

So, in fact, it was merely a change of name. The first Editorial Board in 1920 reads: Władysław Natanson, Stanisław Kalinowski, Czesław Białobrzęski, Stefan Pieńkowski, Mieczysław Pożaryski, Witold Pogorzelski. There was no Chairman, no Editor. Articles were in Polish with longer or shorter summaries in German, French or English. The same style of editing was kept in the first issues of *Acta Physica Polonica*.

Later on, however, the format of editing started to change, and the following information was printed on the cover of each issue: "The manuscripts of papers in English, French or German preceded by a short abstract in the same language should be sent to the Editor": here the name and address of the Editor was provided.

For instance, the last issue of *Acta Physica Polonica* which appeared before the Second World War was Vol. VIII, Fasc. 1, Wilno 1939, Editor: Szczepan Szczeniowski, Zakład Fizyki Teoretycznej U.S.B., ul. Nowogrodzka 22. Editorial Board: Aleksander Jabłoński, Józef Patkowski, Waclaw Staszewski (all from Wilno).

The first issue of *Acta Physica Polonica* after the war (Vol. IX, Fasc. 1) was published in 1947 in Kraków, although the material for publication was prepared earlier. For instance, the introductory text by Konstanty Zakrzewski "After six years of war" was dated: Cracow, May 1945. Also, the first paper by J. Weyssenhoff and A. Raabe "Relativistic Dynamics of Spin-Fluids and Spin-Particles" had a note: "The main contents of this paper and the next one, as well as most of the results of the three following were a subject of a lecture at a secret meeting of physicists at Prof. Pieńkowski's home in Warsaw, October 1942".

The new editor of *Acta* was then Jan Weyssenhoff, and the members of the board of editors were: Jan Blaton, Mieczysław Jeżewski, Marian Mięslowicz, Konstanty Zakrzewski (all from Kraków).

And so it went, with some highlights along the way like the fundamental paper by R. Feynman “Quantum Theory of Gravitation” in Vol. XXIV, p. 697 (1963) which got published thanks to heroic efforts of Andrzej Staruszkiewicz who reconstructed it from a recording and a mess of notes that Feynman left behind after the “Conference of Relativistic Theories of Gravitation”, Jabłonna, July 1962.

Jan Weyssenhoff served as Editor of APP until his death in 1972. In 1973 the writer of this note became the Editor (for the next 20 years). A little earlier, in 1970, to improve service to different branches of physics, *Acta Physica Polonica* split into two series, *A* and *B*. Subsequently, in a few years, two independent Editors and Editorial Boards were formed for these two series.

Since, as I argued at the beginning of this note, there was really no difference of substance between “Comptes Rendus...” and “Acta...”, the real beginning of *Acta* occurred in 1920 at the first meeting of the Polish Physical Society and the division of *Acta* into two series happened 50 years after it was founded.

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