

**KARPACZ WINTER SCHOOLS
OF THEORETICAL PHYSICS**



**KARPACZ WINTER SCHOOLS
OF THEORETICAL PHYSICS
1964 – 2009**

University of Wrocław

Institute of Theoretical Physics

Wrocław, 2009

Karpacz Winter Schools of Theoretical Physics 1964–2009

Edited by Andrzej Pękalski

Data checked (when possible) with the directors of the Schools

All photos, except marked (*), by Leszek J. Pękalski (ZPAF)

Design and typesetting: Zbigniew Koza and Andrzej Pękalski

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ISBN: 978-83-7432-574-5

Oficyna Wydawnicza ATUT – Wrocławskie Wydawnictwo Oświatowe
ul. T. Kościuszki 51A, 50-011 Wrocław, Poland
tel. (+48) 71 342 20 56, fax (+48) 71 341 22 04, e-mail: oficyna@atut.ig.pl

REFLECTIONS ON THE BEGINNINGS OF THE KARPACZ WINTER SCHOOLS IN THEORETICAL PHYSICS

Andrzej Pękalski

The idea to organize a winter school of theoretical physics came into being during the Summer School of Theoretical Physics organized in 1963 in Zakopane by the Jagiellonian University. Together with my friend Wiesław Wasilewski, who later moved to Radom and became a rector at the Radom Institute of Technology, I approached prof. Jan T. Łopuszański, who was also at the Zakopane School. He liked the idea and supported us when we presented this concept to prof. Jan Rzewuski, the director of our Institute at the time.

As the site of the future schools Karpacz has been chosen. There were several reasons for that. Karpacz is a nice, not too large, resort town, not too far from Wrocław (about 120 km SW). Moreover, University of Wrocław has three boarding houses there. An additional asset, important for prof. Rzewuski who was an excellent skier, and for some of us, is that in Karpacz there are quite good ski slopes. The houses, called "Krokuses" are beautifully located, on the outskirts of town, close to a forest. Choosing the place and the time – winter of course, since there already was a very good Summer School in Zakopane and moreover you cannot ski in summer in Poland, was just the first step. Nobody at that time at our university had any experience in organizing an international conference or a school. It was nearly half a century ago, in the prehistoric times before fax, copying machines, email etc were commonly used. All these facilities were replaced by the so called Iron Curtain which quite effectively separated the West from the East. The problems were many. From finding physicists willing to come to a completely unknown place for an

unknown school, to finding funds. There was a problem even more difficult. Any larger scale gathering had to be approved by the so-called “authorities”, which means political officials from the Polish communist party. We had to convince them that invitation of Western physicists would be beneficial for building socialism in Poland. Of course, now it looks like a joke, but at that time there was nothing funny in it. We had no experience in organization of international meetings, but also those officials had none, so by persuasion, luck or else, we got the necessary OK from them. We had to complete the list of lecturers well in advance, since it also had to be approved and there was no internet, mobile phones etc. Yes, stationary telephones have been already invented and even in use, but the Iron Curtain screened them too. To get a connection to a foreign number one had to wait sometimes for a day or two. Letters sent, we waited for answers and the procedure took months.

Officially the director of the first school, held in 1964, was prof. Roman S. Ingarden (one of the founding fathers of what eventually became our Institute. Later he moved to M. Kopernik University in Toruń). However the person who was the heart, brain and who did nearly all the works, was Walerian Ziętek. (After 1968 he left our University for the Polish Academy of Sciences.) He was a true volcano of energy, full of ideas how to solve problems, never giving up. He had a group of dedicated, young coworkers around him, helping in many ways. People were arriving to Karpacz at that time either by bus or by train, as private cars were rare in Poland. Train station and bus stops are rather far away from Krokuses. Therefore a group of younger organizers were designated to go to the station or bus stop and fetch arriving lecturers. The guests were then escorted to Krokuses where another group was waiting with a cup of hot Polish tea (you may imagine what it means). Such a highly personalized treatment was not left unnoticed and it was setting from the very beginning a special atmosphere. Safe arrival of the lecturers did not mean the end of problems. The School lasted two weeks and after a few days electricity was disconnected in all Karpacz. Although at that time there was no multimedial or overhead pro-

jectors, light was needed. The problem was solved by Ziętek, who contacted the nearest military base and borrowed a field generator. It was quite noisy, but provided electricity and Krokuses were the only houses in Karpacz which had lights. Problems with electricity happened also at later Schools. When again power has been cut off, the director of the School addressed a friendly parish church and got from the priest a bundle of large candles. Our lecture room resembled a bit a church, but the lectures could go on. Improvisation was the motto of the School. Poles are rather good in this game, so the School was a success.

The first school had no definite profile and it reflected rather the spectrum of friends of our professors. We had therefore lectures about quantum field theory, mathematical physics, magnetism, superconductivity, elementary particles, and nuclear physics. The official language of the School was English, however not all lecturers were fluent enough to give a good lecture in that language. Sometimes a lecture started in English only to switch to Polish or Russian after half an hour and only then we could appreciate the skill of the lecturer. Some of the lectures were longer and had a tutorial character, others were more appropriate for a conference. The rule however was to leave ample time for discussions. They were held, of course, in the lecture room, but also during walks in the nearby forest or on the ski slopes and invariably ended in Krokuses over a cup of tea, or something stronger. Most of the lecturers were not experienced skiers, yet they enjoyed learning how to ski and were not afraid of falling into fresh snow. Night life in Karpacz at that time was practically non-existing, Krokuses are far away from the town, hence all activity was restricted to the three Krokuses and created very good conditions for long discussions and immediate contacts.

Later on, when more physicists from the West came, they were quite often surrounded by young Poles trying to improve their English. We had very few opportunities to talk to native speakers and since they were genuinely interested in the life behind the Iron Curtain, such discussions were lively and long. Younger people were, on one hand seeking Western physicists, but on the other hand were afraid of such contacts since the level

of their English was not very high. English was seldom taught at school and proliferating now private courses did not exist. Our professors, who wanted us to profit from the school in all aspects, invented a very clever stratagem. At the entrance to the dinning room a deck of playing cards was put. Each person entering the room had to draw a card, which showed him/her the place to sit, since on the tables another deck of cards was distributed.

The School ended with a banquet, a real feast prepared by Ms. H. Tyłowa, who was running the Krokuses. At the common table, after several rounds of “na zdrowie” toasts, a tournament of limericks was held. It became a tradition which lasted many years. Unfortunately practically no verses survived.

In the following, 1965, year the second Karpacz Winter School was organized. This time the official director was W. Ziętek and the topic was *Symmetries in Particle and Condensed Matter Physics*. The subject is so vast that again it was a cross section of nearly all theoretical physics glued together by the common denominator – group theory. The number of lecturers did not grow – there were 14 of them at the first School and 11 at the second. Proceedings of the School were not published, but printed as a collection of papers available to a very restricted readership. The third School was the first to be devoted to one branch of theoretical physics – statistical and many body physics. The School attracted more prominent lecturers. Later we had lecturers who got the Nobel prize after lecturing on our Schools and some who got it before. The proceedings of this and several subsequent Schools were published in *Acta Universitatis Wratislaviensis*. Only in 1974 Jerzy Przystawa, who was the director of the XI School, persuaded authorities, at the University and elsewhere, that the proceedings should be sent to a publishing house having world wide distribution network. Since that time, with some exceptions, the proceedings are published either as books (Plenum, Harwood, Springer, World Scientific) or as separate issues of leading scientific journals.

The topics of the School changed each year, reflecting scientific interests and research programs undertaken in our Institute. The School rather quickly became known in the international

scientific community. Karpacz was a very good meeting place for the Polish, Eastern and Western physicists, since at that time very few Russian physicists were allowed to visit Western universities. They were, in principle, able to come to Poland. This was not however quite clear and straightforward. It happened that we had invited from some institute professors X and Y. After a long time we received a nice letter from the head of that institute informing us that professors X and Y (both top physicists) are unable to come. Instead they are sending professors A and B (unknown to us). We politely declined that offer and kept insisting on X and Y. Sometimes it even worked. Karpacz Winter Schools were therefore a rare opportunity for the Western and Russian physicists to meet and discuss. That could be one reason for the success of the School. The other was a unique atmosphere, a kind of "home made" hospitality. We really enjoyed organizing the Schools, we looked forward to meeting people known to us as authors of important papers or our textbooks. We have not yet been "spoiled" by many contacts and traveling all over the world. Needless to say, the present day situation is normal and much better. Our guests probably felt that atmosphere and, as can be judged from the inscriptions they left in our memorial book, enjoyed it. Many of them came for the second or third time. Winter of 1979 was particular cold and snowy in Poland. Trains were running rather randomly and were much delayed. Our lecturers (N. Ashcroft, M. Ausloos, D. Mermin and some others) after arriving by plane to Warsaw had to wait there many hours (some even 16!). Our friends in Warsaw took care of them and finally put them into the train to Karpacz. We met them at the Wrocław station and provided the group with hot tea, sandwiches and an "emergency bottle". The party arrived to Karpacz in a "jolly good mood", as they described it.

One of the high points of the Schools was the excursions into the mountains. Usually the Sunday in the middle of the School was devoted either to skiing or to walking in the mountains. Sudety are not Alps, but sometimes a sudden storm may appear. This happened once to a group of participants guided by Maria Stęślicka on an excursion to the peak of Śnieżka. Every-

thing ended safely thanks to the experience of the guide. On the next day (but certainly not before) the excursion was a matter of pride for its participants, as their “raw meat” à la Jack London. A Norwegian church from the 13 century, situated nearby, has usually been the target of the less ambitious excursions. One or two evenings the participants spent on grilling sausages over a camp-fire near Krokuses or on a walk with torches to a mountain shelter for a glass of hot wine. When there was enough snow, an evening trip on sledges, also with torches, pulled by horses, was organized.

Politics entered into our Schools not only when we had to get permission from the local “White House” for invitation of Western physicists. In 1968 we have been preparing the next School. In March 1968 there were infamous actions taken by communist regime against Jews and intellectuals. To each invitation letter we have sent, a list of invited lecturers was attached. Among them was professor D. Mattis of the Yeshiva University. To our big concern, we got no answers to the letters. Finally one of our Russian friends showed us the letter which he received from Prof. Mattis. In it he called for a boycott of the School as an answer to the antisemitic actions taken by the government. His appeal was successful and from the West came only A. Cracknell from Essex and J.M. Zuckermann (then at the Imperial College in London) to, as he put it, “see the Polish antisemitism first hand”. It seems that he enjoyed his stay since at the time of leaving he was calling himself (in Polish) “bloody capitalist” and we stayed in touch for some time. As could be expected, the boycott of our School has no effect whatsoever on the communist officials, but spoiled a possibly good School. Next time when politics had a devastating effect on the School, was in 1982, when the martial law was declared in Poland. All gatherings were called off and of course the School was canceled. We had no way to communicate with the outside world and inform the lecturers.

Over the years the School gained a very good reputation all over the world and while inviting even the best specialists, we did not have to explain them what is the Karpacz Winter School of Theoretical Physics. Although the organizers got some ex-

perience, yet problems and place for improvisation remained. Starting from the late 70's shortage of food, specially meat, was endemic. People running the Krokuses put things clearly: "We can feed you decently, but you have to provide meat". Therefore we had to look for help in the official structure. Once it was a lady, friend of the director, a vice-president of the local government. Another time we contacted one of our friends, a physicist, who was an important person in the local party. He managed to get us a special permission to buy meat in Wrocław. Then we had to transport it to Karpacz, which at the time belonged to another voivodship and transporting meat across the border required again a special permission, which we could not get. Therefore we simply smuggled the meat in a car trunk.

After many years the Schools moved away from Karpacz, but still have it in its name, to other localities, always close to the mountains and ski slopes. Why did we move from the wonderful atmosphere of the Krokus houses, where every corner has a story to tell, like that of a very famous physicist dancing, at 3 am, a part of Swans Lake or a midnight ski trip to the mountains? Krokuses have no real lecture room, as you may see on the photos in this booklet. It could accommodate at most some 35 people and later on Schools have nearly 100 participants. Boarding houses themselves could also room about 40 people and the standard of the rooms was OK in the old pioneering times, but not later, when people are expecting much better conditions. We have tried various solutions to keep the Winter Schools in Karpacz, but nothing really worked.

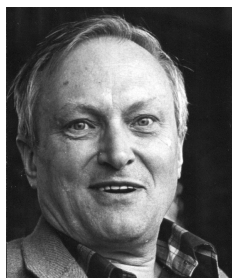
Now things are of course much easier and finding a place where a School could be organized is not a problem. Since the conservation of problems law holds, now it is much more difficult to find money for financing a School. Karpacz offers several possibilities of a good conference center, unfortunately not for our budgets. Improvisation is not needed anymore, so it is gone, but with it some of the "flavor" of the Schools vanished too.

Since many years together with the Karpacz Schools a Kindergarten of Theoretical Physics is organized. The aim is to give a chance for Polish and foreign students of theoretical physics to

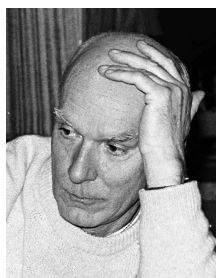
meet colleagues from other countries as well as known physicists, invite them for special lectures, and ask questions when no older people are around. Students organize their own seminars, where they feel more free to discuss than on the Schools. The Kindergartens were successful and many our lecturers were quite happy after meeting the students and discussing with them.

Many thanks to Monica and to Jerzy for their help.

THE FOUNDING FATHERS



Jan T. Łopuszański



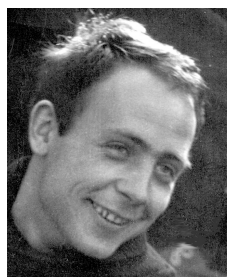
Jan Rzewuski



Walerian J. Ziętek(*)

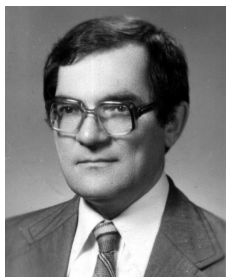


Wiesław Wasilewski (*)



Andrzej Pękalski (*)

DIRECTORS OF MORE THAN TWO WINTER SCHOOLS



Zygmunt Galasiewicz (*)



Jerzy Lukierski (*)



Jerzy Przystawa



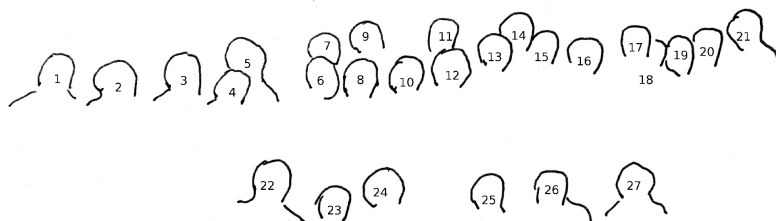
Piotr Garbaczewski (*)



Ludwik Turko (*)



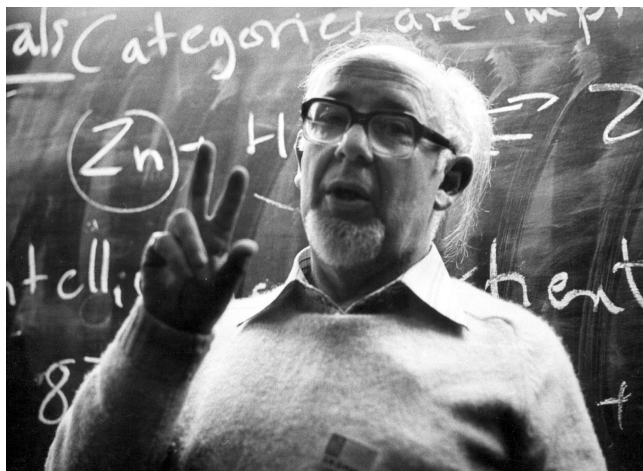
Andrzej Pękalski (*)



Lecturers and participants of the First Winter School ():*

1. A. Pawlikowski; 2 ?; 3. A. Myśliwski; 4 ?; 5. J. Rzewuski;
6. N. Sznajder; 7 ?; 8. Mrs J. Wess; 9. J. Tarski;
10. D. Galasiewicz; 11. A. Kossakowski; 12. Z. Galasiewicz;
13. R.S. Ingarden; 14. S. Tatur; 15. J. Namysłowski;
16. H. Bajorska; 17. Z. Bajorski; 18. J.T. Łopuszański;
19. B. Fechner; 20. M. Stęślicka; 21. H. Stachowiak;
22. J. Wess; 23. J. Przystawa; 24. W. Karwowski;
25. A. Pękalski; 26. F. Klejn;
27. W.J. Ziętek; 28. W. Wasilewski

MOST IMPORTANT WERE, OF COURSE, THE LECTURES



M. Ziman generally taught in a traditional way



sometimes however he did it in a less orthodox way.
The results were good in both cases



I.E. Dzyaloshinskii (top.)
and A.A. Abrikosov (bottom) lecturing in 1979



Lecture room was not very large, as seen
in the lecture of J. Schweitzer (top),
all lecturers, however, had full attention of the audience



In 2000 things look different. New teaching aids, larger rooms,
but the lecturers were still excellent
(S. Moss de Oliveira) (top) and G. Stanley (bottom)



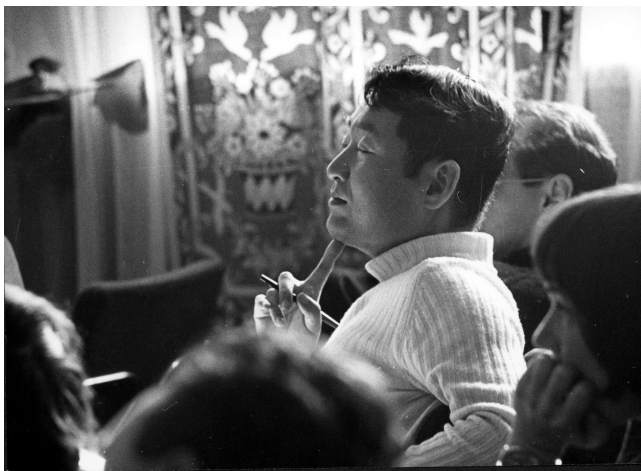
Lecturers were always very committed.
H. Taitelbaum (top) and M. Ausloos (bottom)



S. Galam was very focused

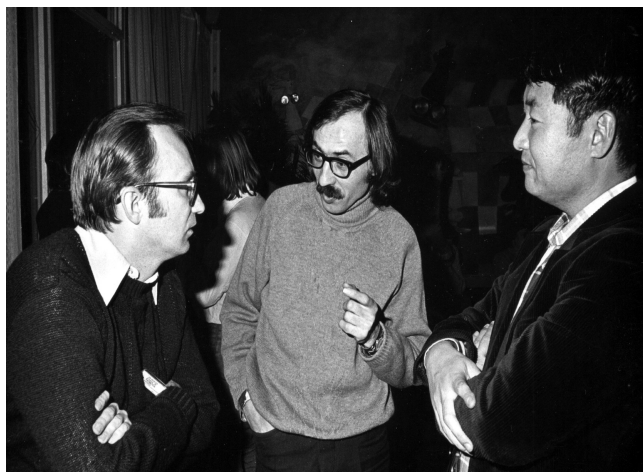


Seminars, too, were very popular (lecturer Z. Koza)

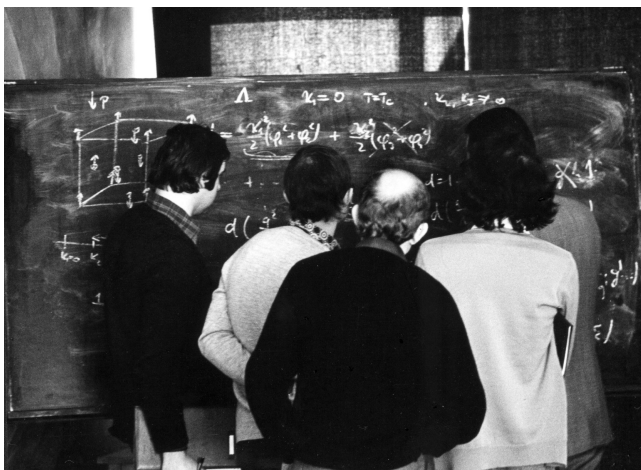


The audience listens with interest.
K. Maki (top) and K.W.H. Stevens (bottom)

DISCUSSIONS



Generally discussions were held in or close to the lecture room



The focal point was usually the blackboard (top)
but not always



Open-air discussions were also quite common



I.E. Dzyaloshinskii engaged in many discussions



Sometimes discussions were longer than average,
Dale Huckaby and Haim Taitelbaum



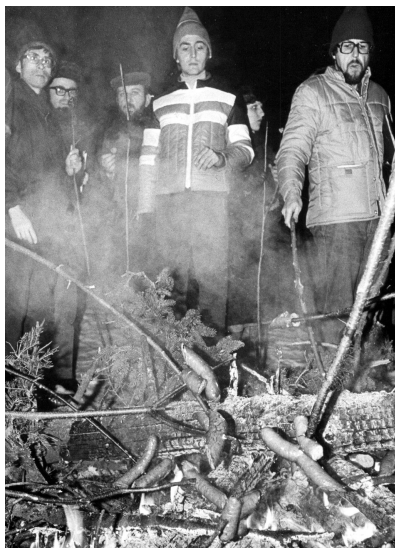
Marcel Ausloos explaining econophysics



After a question from Dietrich Stauffer,
Marcel has to think for a moment

FREE TIME

Grilling sausages accompanied by local drinks
was a very much appreciated event



Walking with torches to a nearby shelter was also popular



In the evenings singing with Franco Persico was great fun



Coffee breaks in the “good old times”



and in 2000



LECTURERS ON KARPACZ WINTER SCHOOLS OF THEORETICAL PHYSICS

(In alphabetical order within each School)

THE FIRST SCHOOL (1964)

Director: R.S. Ingarden

1. G. Białkowski (U. of Warsaw, Poland)
2. Z. Galasiewicz (U. of Wrocław, Poland)
3. R. S. Ingarden (U. of Wrocław, Poland)
4. J. T. Łopuszański (U. of Wrocław, Poland)
5. J. Rayski (Jagiellonian U., Cracow, Poland)
6. J. Rzewuski (U. of Wrocław, Poland)
7. L. Spruch (U. of New York, USA)
8. M. Suffczyński (U. of Warsaw, Poland)
9. J. Tarski (U. of New York, USA)
10. A. Uhlmann (Karl-Marx U., Leipzig, DDR [Germany])
11. J. Werle (U. of Warsaw, Poland)
12. J. E. Wess (Vienna U., Austria)
13. W. Ziętek (U. of Wrocław, Poland)

No proceedings of this School

SECOND SCHOOL (1965)

SYMMETRIES IN PARTICLE AND SOLID STATE PHYSICS

Director: W. Ziętek

1. M. H. Cohen (U. of Chicago, USA)
2. R. S. Ingarden (U. of Wrocław, Poland)
3. W. Królikowski (U. of Warsaw, Poland)
4. T. Lulek (U. of Poznań, Poland)
5. J. Mozrzyński (U. of Wrocław, Poland)
6. J. Olszewski (Jagiellonian U., Cracow, Poland)
7. G. Pòcsik (R. Eötvös U., Budapest, Hungary)
8. J. Rayski (Jagiellonian U. Cracow, Poland)
9. F. Schlögl (Technische Hochschule Aachen, Germany)
10. G. Severne (U. Libre de Bruxelles, Brussels, Belgium)
11. T. Tietz (U. of Łódź, Poland)
12. A. Uhlmann (Karl-Marx U. Leipzig, DDR [Germany])

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3-rd SCHOOL (1966)

STATISTICAL PHYSICS OF CONDENSED MATTER

Director: Z. Galasiewicz

1. R. Balescu (U. Libre de Bruxelles, Brussels, Belgium)
2. I. Białynicki-Birula (U. of Warsaw, Poland)
3. V.L. Bonch-Bruevich (U. of Moscow, Soviet Union [Russia])
4. J. Czerwonko (U. of Wrocław, Poland)
5. A. Fuliński (Jagiellonian U., Cracow, Poland)
6. Z. Galasiewicz (U. of Wrocław, Poland)
7. R. S. Ingarden (U. of Wrocław, Poland)
8. I.M. Khalatnikov (Academy of Sciences, Moscow, Soviet Union [Russia])
9. J. Kociński (Technical University Warsaw, Poland)
10. A. Kossakowski (M. Copernicus U., Toruń, Poland)
11. J. T. Łopuszański (U. of Wrocław, Poland)
12. J. Meixner (Technische Hochschule Aachen, Germany)
13. J. Morkowski (Polish Academy of Sciences, Poznań, Poland)
14. A. Pawlikowski (Silesian U., Katowice, Poland)
15. H.G. Schöpf (Greiswald U., DDR [Germany])
16. H. Stachowiak (Polish Academy of Sciences, Wrocław, Poland)
17. A. Stahl (Technische Hochschule Aachen, Germany)
18. W. Weller (Karl-Marx U., Leipzig, DDR [Germany])

Proceedings published in

Acta Universitatis Wratislaviensis No. 80

4-th SCHOOL (1967)

**FUNCTIONAL METHODS IN QUANTUM FIELD THEORY
AND STATISTICAL MECHANICS**

Director: J. Rzewuski

1. B.M. Barbashov (JINR Dubna, Soviet Union [Russia])
2. F.A. Berezin (Moscow U., Soviet Union [Russia])
3. I. Bialynicki-Birula (U. of Warsaw, Poland)
4. E.R. Caianiello (U. of Naples, Italy)
5. G.V. Efimov (JINR Dubna, Soviet Union [Russia])
6. E.S. Fradkin (Lebedev Physical Institute, Moscow, Soviet Union [Russia])
7. Z. Galasiewicz (U. of Wrocław, Poland)
8. J. Ginibre (Orsay, France)
9. G. Haber (Technische Hochschule Dresden, DDR [Germany])
10. G. Hori (U. of Kanazawa, Japan)
11. J. Lukierski (U. of Wrocław, Poland)
12. J. T. Łopuszański (U. of Wrocław, Poland)
13. G. Pòcsik (R. Eötvös U., Budapest, Hungary)
14. J. Tarski (Columbia U., New York, USA)
15. J. G. Taylor (Oxford U., UK)
16. A. Visconti (U. d'Aix-Marseille, France)
17. W. Thirring (Vienna U., Austria)
18. P. Ziesche (Pädagogische Institut, Dresden, DDR [Germany])

Proceedings published in

Acta Universitatis Wratislaviensis Nos 88, 89, 90

5-th SCHOOL (1968)

**AXIOMATIC APPROACH TO QUANTUM FIELD THEORY
AND MANY BODY PROBLEM**

Director: J.T. Łopuszański

1. Yu. M. Berezinskij (JINR Dubna, Soviet Union [Russia])
2. S.S. Choruzyj (Steklov Mathematical Institute, Moscow, Soviet Union [Russia])
3. G.F. Dell'Antonio (U. of Naples, Italy)
4. A.V. Efimov (JINR Dubna, Soviet Union [Russia])
5. A. T. Filipov (JINR Dubna, Soviet Union [Russia])
6. V. P. Gachok (JINR Dubna, Soviet Union [Russia])
7. W. Garczyński (U. of Wrocław, Poland)
8. C. George (U. Libre de Bruxelles, Brussels, Belgium)
9. M. Guenin (U. of Geneva, Switzerland)
10. R. Haag (U. of Hamburg, Germany)
11. K. Hepp (ETH Zurich, Switzerland)
12. N.N. Hugenholtz (U. of Groningen, Holland)
13. G. Källén (U. of Lund, Sweden)
14. W. Karwowski (U. of Wrocław, Poland)
15. F. Kashlun (Humboldt U., Berlin, DDR [Germany])
16. J. Lukierski (U. of Wrocław, Poland)
17. L. Łukasik (Institute of Nuclear Research, Warsaw, Poland)
18. B. Mielnik (U. of Warsaw Poland)
19. J. Rayski (Jagiellonian U., Cracow, Poland)
20. H. Reeh (Max-Planck Institute, Munich, Germany)
21. D. Ruelle (IHES, Bures-sur-Yvette, France)
22. R.F. Streater (Imperial College, London, UK)
23. J. Śniatycki (U. of Warsaw, Poland)
24. I.T. Todorov (Bulgarian Academy of Science, Sofia, Bulgaria)
25. W. Thirring (U. of Vienna, Austria)
26. A. Uhlmann (Karl-Marx U. Leipzig, DDR [Germany])
27. B.L. Voronov (Lebedev Physical Institute, Moscow, Soviet Union [Russia])
28. S. Woronowicz (U. of Warsaw, Poland)

Proceedings published in

Acta Universitatis Wratislaviensis Nos 98, 99 and 113

6-th SCHOOL (1969)

**GROUP THEORY AND STATISTICAL PHYSICS
OF CONDENSED MATTER**

Director: W. Ziętek

1. A. F. Cracknell (U. of Essex, UK)
2. J. Czerwonko (Technical University, Wrocław, Poland)
3. J. Kociński (Technical University, Warsaw, Poland)
4. J. Morkowski (Polish Academy of Sciences, Poznań, Poland)
5. K. Olbrychski (Polish Academy of Sciences, Warsaw, Poland)
6. N.M. Plakida (JINR Dubna, Soviet Union [Russia])
7. E. G. Petrov (Ukrainian Academy of Sciences, Kiev, Soviet Union [Ukraine])
8. V. L. Pokrovsky, (Landau Institute, Moscow, Soviet Union [Russia])
9. J. Przystawa (U. of Wrocław, Poland)
10. H. Stachowiak (Polish Academy of Sciences, Wrocław, Poland)
11. M.J. Zuckermann (Imperial College, London, UK)

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7-th SCHOOL (1970)

LIQUID HELIUM AND MANY BODY PROBLEMS

Director Z.M. Galasiewicz

1. A.F. Andreev (Academy of Sciences, Moscow, Soviet Union [Russia])
2. D.F. Brewer (U. of Sussex, Brighton, UK)
3. J. Czerwonko (Technical University, Wrocław, Poland)
4. Z.M. Galasiewicz (U. of Wrocław, Poland)
5. S.F. Peletminskij (Ukrainian Academy of Sciences, Kiev, Soviet Union [Ukraine])
6. P. Szépfalussy (R. Eötvös U., Budapest, Hungary)
7. Ł. A. Turski (U. of Warsaw Poland)
8. W. Weller (Karl-Marx U. Leipzig, DDR [Germany])
9. C.N. Yang (State U. of New York, USA)

Proceedings published in
Acta Universitatis Wratislaviensis No 141

8-th SCHOOL (1971)

**NEW DEVELOPMENTS IN RELATIVISTIC
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10-th SCHOOL (1973)

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Proceedings published by *Plenum Press. London 1976*

12-th SCHOOL (1975)

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Acta Universitatis Wratislaviensis No 368

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Proceedings published by *Harwood Academic Publishers* as
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Proceedings published by *Springer Verlag* as *Lecture Notes in Physics* No. 206

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Proceedings published in *AIP Conference Proceedings No. 589*

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Proceeding published by *Springer Verlag* as *Lecture Notes in Physics* vol. 597

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Proceeding published by *Springer Verlag* as *Lecture Notes in Physics* vol. 669

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Proceeding published in *Physica A* vol. 357

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