

SNG: Glarus, May 1908



# The Foundation of SPS

In 1908 as an offshoot of the Swiss Natural Science Society (SNG) itself founded in 1815

## ■ The founders of the Swiss Physical Society

Pierre Eugène Chapuis-Sarasin (1855-1916, Uni Basel) President

Alfred Kleiner (1849-1916, Uni Zurich) Vice-president

Emile Alfred Rosselet (1887-1950, Uni Lausanne)



Alfred Kleiner (1849-1916)

## ■ Some other members in 1908 / 09

Friedrich Adler (Uni Zurich)

Albert Einstein (Uni Bern und Uni Zurich) 1921 Nobel Laureate

Marcel Grossmann (Poly Zurich) - Founding member of the Swiss Mathematical Society

Charles-Edouard Guillaume (Uni Zurich und BIPM Sèvres) 1920 Nobel Laureate for Invar Elinvar)

Philippe-Auguste Guye (Uni Ge)

Josef de Kowalski (Uni Fribourg)

Edgar Meyer (Uni Zurich)

Walter Ritz (Uni Göttingen)

Pierre Weiss (Poly Zurich)



M. Grossmann (1878-1936)

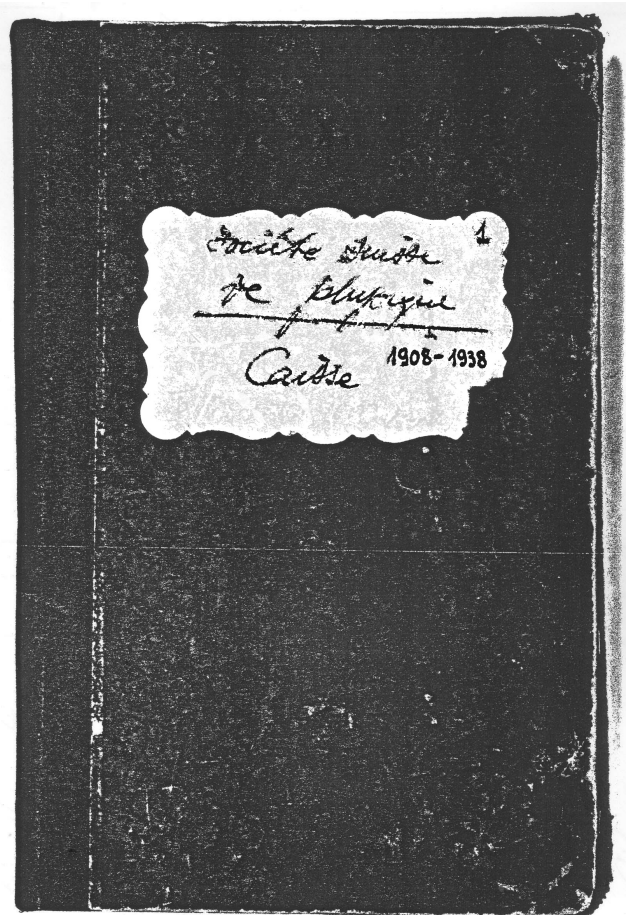


C.-E. Guillaume 1861-1938



W. Ritz (1878-1909)





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STATUTEN  
DER  
SCHWEIZERISCHEN PHYSIKALISCHEN  
GESELLSCHAFT

**Zweck der Gesellschaft**

Art. 1. Die Schweizerische Physikalische Gesellschaft (S.P.G.) hat zum Zweck:

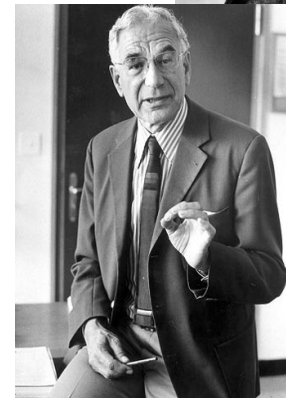
- a) die Pflege freundschaftlicher Beziehungen zwischen den schweizerischen Physikern;
- b) Förderung des wissenschaftlichen Ideen-Austausches zwischen den Mitgliedern;
- c) die Vertretung der schweizerischen Physiker nach aussen;
- d) die Herausgabe einer schweizerischen Zeitschrift für Physik, betitelt: „Helvetica Physica Acta“ (H. P. A.).

Art. 2. Sie ist eine Zweiggeseellschaft der Schweizerischen Naturforschenden Gesellschaft (S.N.G.) und anerkennt deren Statuten als für sich verbindlich.



## Some Presidents of the Swiss Physical Society

- 1908/10 Pierre Chappuis (BS)
- 1925/27 Peter Debye (ZH)
- 1931/33 Paul Scherrer (ZH)
- 1955/57 Wolfgang Pauli (ZH)
- 1957/59 Jean Rossel (NE)
- 1963-65 Jean Pierre Blaser (ZH)
- 1975/77 Verena Meyer (ZH)
- 1979/81 Iris Zschokke (BS)







# 100 Years SPS: Celebration ceremony Kultur-Casino Bern, 27 June 2008





## The Society profile

- Collective member of the Swiss Academy of Sciences (SCNAT), the Swiss Academy of Technical Sciences (SATW) and the European Physical Society (EPS)
- 1200 members
- Organisation: Executive committee, President, Vice president, Secretary Treasurer and Heads of sections. Secretarial staff (1-2 part-time) Delegates to Academies and IUPAP
- General Assembly (once a year)
  
- Sections:
  1. Condensed matter physics,
  2. Astrophysics, Nuclear and Particles physics
  3. Atomic physics and Quantum optics
  4. Applied physics
  5. Theoretical Physics
  6. Physics in Industry
  7. Education and Promotion of Physics
  8. History of Physics (new 2010)
  
- Activities: Annual meeting (2009 Innsbruck), workshops, publications, public outreach, awards (ABB, IBM, OC Oerlikon), honorary members,...



## ■ Mission

- Establish dialogue between physicists in academics and industry
- Collaborates with scientific organizations (NCCRs, ...) and local physics societies
- Active in public and governmental affairs, and international physics community
- Programs in education, public outreach and media relations
- *Encourage young generations and in particular women to study physics*

## ■ Visions

**Modern physics plays a key role in our society as:**

- Fundamental discipline to investigate laws of nature, properties of matter and energy in our universe
- Basis to understand and shape biological and life sciences at nanometer scale
- Link for new industrial applications, contributor in solving environmental and energy problems
- Enabler of new fields in commerce, economy and finance





# Activities and Goals

- Increase membership (individual, collective)
- Create internal working groups
- Enhance contact to Academies (SCNAT, SATW) and other learned Societies
- Create Swiss Young Physicists' Forum (2010)
- Collaborate with EPS (Bologna reforms, Energy,...)
- Forster links between Academia and Industry
- Contribute or organize special workshops (Nachwuchsförderung, Plasma Physics (EPFL), Rigi workshop on Biophysics (2011), ...)
- Continue or develop outreach activities:  
example: 2011: 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of discovery of superconductivity
- Women in science and technology





# Issues

## ■ Problems of a small Society

- limited manpower resources, no real working groups
- lack of feedback from members, lack of visibility
- limited financial means
- little political influence at national level for education and research affairs

## ■ Membership

- difficulty to increase number of individual and collective members.
- limited interest for the society
- annual society meeting not considered as a must. Small critical mass
- many foreign faculty members and researchers with little or no links to the Swiss community

■ ...



# Outreach & Offspring

## ■ Offspring promotion

- Support of specialized physics (+ related) courses designed for pupils
- Organization of exhibitions & interactive physics events.
- Support of exhibitions at schools
- Support of “Saturday Morning Physics” lectures

## ■ Interaction with Physics Teacher Organizations and joint events

- Schweizer Jugend Forscht, Swiss Science Olympiads, Int. Young Physicists Tournament, Talent Search 2005, ...
- Teacher’s afternoon at SPS annual meetings
- Participation to educational programs for teachers and pupils at primary and secondary level
- K-12 teachers: transition to a teaching career (IBM)

## ■ Public Perception of Physics

- Financing and support of outreach activities for Physics  
Ex. Lecture series with PGZ: 2 Oct. 2010 Physics and Communication
- Media Productions on Physics



Swiss Physical Society  
Schweizerische Physikalische Gesellschaft  
Société Suisse de Physique







# CHIPP & SPS

- Common interests (promotion of physics, public outreach, student activities in YPF)
- Future cooperation in SCNAT
- Future close collaboration due to EB member standing for SPS committee  
[SPS statutes: 2 years terms, max 6 years]
- SPS meetings good platform also for Swiss particle physics, for networking but especially also for students



Swiss Physical Society  
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upcoming meeting:



**Sessions**

- Applied Physics
- Atomic Physics & Quantum Optics
- Careers for Physicists
- Computational Astrophysics
- Condensed Matter Physics
- Geophysics
- History of Physics
- Large Scale Computing
- Nuclear, Particle- & Astroparticlephysics
- Plasma Physics
- Surfaces, Interfaces & Thin Films
- Theoretical Physics Today
- 100 Years Superconductivity
- Poster Session

**Plenary Speakers**

- **Georgiy Blaser, JKU Linz:** Plasmas and ultrashort electronics
- **Raffaele Colombelli, Uni Paris-Sud:** Improving quantum dot solar cells with plasmonic light absorption engineering
- **Oystein Fischer, Uni Geneva:** 100 Years Superconductivity
- **Philippe Gilliet, EPFL:** Physics of Planetary Swarms
- **Andre Hoang, Uni Wien:** Heavy and Hot for LHC
- **Alfred Linder, Uni Geneva:** LHC: at the dawn of new physics?
- **Ben Moore, Uni Zürich:** Advances in computational astrophysics
- **Jean-Marc Trisconi, Uni Geneva:** novel perspective of water molecules
- **Matthias Weitz, Uni Bonn:** How do we understand the structure of proteins?
- **NR for Plasma Physics**

**Public Lecture**

- **Michel Martinerie et al., Uni Lausanne:** La Cité et l'Université: 170 ans et Uni Martine: The oldest Martinerie in Switzerland

**Additional Events:**

- Award Ceremony
- Scientific Equipment and Book Exhibition
- General Assemblies
- Conference Dinner

**ABSTRACT SUBMISSION DEADLINE: MARCH 15, 2011**

**Deadline for registration & payment: June 1, 2011**

More information, abstract submission and registration:

[www.sps.ch](http://www.sps.ch)



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