

# NEWSLETTER

**girep**

Groupe international de recherche sur l'enseignement de la physique  
International Group for the Advancement of Physics Teaching  
Internationaler Arbeitskreis zur Förderung des Physikunterrichts

Number 3

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## I. THE GIREP SEMINAR AT MONTPELLIER 6 - 10 SEPTEMBER 1976.

There has been an overwhelming interest in the GIREP seminar on "Statistics and probabilities in physics teaching in secondary schools" and "The first steps of physics teaching at the beginning of secondary school" to be held in Montpellier 6 - 10 September 1976. More than 50 persons have offered to deliver papers on the two subjects, and about 300 persons have answered the first circular. The second circular is circulated together with this newsletter.

## II. MEETING OF THE COMMISSION OF REPRESENTATIVES AT MONTPELLIER. ELECTION OF MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE.

A meeting of the commission of representatives will be held in connection with the seminar at Montpellier. According to previous practice all GIREP members participating in a GIREP seminar are considered delegates of the national sections and hence members of the commission of representatives of article 7.

For practical reasons the election of members has so far also been made in connection with a seminar, when the commission according to article 9 has undertaken the authority of the general assembly. This arrangement will also be made this year.

The present committee consists of the following:

President: Poul Thomsen, Denmark

Treasurer: K.A. Thernøe, Denmark

Vicepresident: John Lewis, U.K.,

Vicepresident: Erwin Baurmann, Germany,

Secretary: Maria Feretti, Italy,

In connection with suggestions for candidates to the new committee

it should be mentioned that John Lewis and Erwin Baurmann, when they were reelected in 1972 stated that they would only serve one period more. Suggestions of candidates should be mailed to the office in Copenhagen before September 1st. However, it is also possible to suggest candidates directly at the meeting of the commission of representatives.

### III. ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE TREASURER.

#### TREASURER'S REPORT.

In 1975 the major part of GIREP's members readily complied with my suggestion that membership fees should preferably be paid at some rather early date in the current year, as this would ease matters in many respects. But I regret having to say that this time it seems the other way round. Only a minor part of the duty fees for 1976 has been paid so far. Therefore, those of you, who have not yet paid your fee for 1976, are kindly requested to do so at your earliest convenience. Enclosed please find for that use a form with all practical information as to the payment.

It is most essential that this procedure is strictly followed !!!

Please note especially that the cheque should NOT be issued to GIREP but to Credit Suisse, in favour of GIREP's account No. 376'089.

Please note too that a cheque should NOT be issued to GIREP and then mailed to the treasurer !!!

In case you have settled your duty with GIREP these very days please ignore the form enclosed.

GIREP is pleased to have acquired members from countries which were not so far represented among us. But it has to be added, that we have been compelled to consider a considerable number of (former) members as having resigned from membership (having not paid the fee for 1975).

Enclosed please find the revised list of members, and please check that the address given for you is correct. In the same connection you are kindly requested to inform us of a possible change of address (there have been some mailing troubles).

Enclosed find too the financial report for 1975.

### IV. PROCEEDINGS FROM THE VENICE SEMINAR.

The proceedings from the Venice Seminar have now been distributed to all members, also to the new members who have paid their membership fee for 1976. There are still some copies available for distribution to new members.

V. WHO IS WHO IN GIREP.

There are still several members who have not yet filled in the questionnaire for use in preparing a "Who is who in GIREP". These members will receive a questionnaire together with this newsletter. Please let the office have them back at your earliest convenience.

VI. A NEW GIREP ACTIVITY:

INVESTIGATION OF THE EDUCATION OF PHYSICS TEACHERS IN DIFFERENT COUNTRIES.

All national groups of GIREP are requested to prepare a detailed report on, how the education of physics teachers are organized in their country. We hope there are members in each country who will help to prepare these reports. The ones who are willing to take part in the work should contact the national contact member. It means that the contact member should feel responsible for the preparation of the report.

According to our files the contact members are:

- 1) Argentina: Dr. Alberto Pascual Maiztegui  
Calle 15 N 420  
Barrio Parque Velaz Sarsfield  
Cordoba - Argentina.
- 2) Australia: Dr. Harry Messel,  
Hopewood Gardens  
19 Thornton Street  
Darling PT  
Sydney - Australia
- 3) Austria : Dr. Walter Kranzer  
Aslangasse 2/4/6  
A-1190 Wien XIX - Austria
- 4) Belgium : Dr. Jacques Lohisse  
40 AV, Helene  
Berchem-Ste. Agathe - Belgium.
- 5) Brazil : Dr. Roberta Da Costa  
CLAF  
Avenida Wencelau Braz 71  
20.000 Rio de Janeiro Z.C.82 - Brazil
- 6) Canada : Dr. Samuel A. Harding  
5463 Cranbrooke Av.,  
Montreal H4X 2E2  
Quebec - Canada.
- 7) Chile : Dr. Claudio Gonzalez  
Universidad de Chile  
Departemento de Física  
Av. Bianco Enclada 2008  
Santiago - Chile.
- 8) China: : Dr. R.F. Cooper,  
Technical Teachers College  
373 Queens Road East - Wanchai , Hong Kong - China

- 9) Colombia : Dr. Juan Herkrath  
Carrera 8 No. 89-03  
Bogota 8  
Colombia S.A. - Colombia.
- 10) Denmark : Poul Thomsen  
Kornagervej 10  
DK - 2800 - Lyngby.
- 11) Finland : Dr. Erkki Rosenberg,  
Koroistentie 6 C A7  
SF-00280 Helsinki 28 - Finland.
- 12) France : G. Delacote  
Tour 23 5th floor  
Université de Paris VII  
2 Place de Jussier  
Paris 75221 - Cedex 05 - France.
- 13) Germany : Dr. Erwin Baurmann  
Märchenring 11  
D-75 Karlsruhe 51  
German Federal Republic
- 14) Holland : Dr. Piet L. Lijnse  
Sorbonnelaan 4  
"De Uithof"  
Utrecht - Holland
- 15) Honduras : Irma A. de Fortin  
Colonia Viera  
Teguicigalpa DC  
Honduras C.A. Honduras
- 16) Ireland : Dr. Martin Brown  
11, Grange Park  
Bangor- Northern Ireland.
- 17) Israel : Dr. M. Feuchtwanger  
Department of Physics  
Tel Aviv University  
Ramat Aviv  
Tel Aviv - Israel.
- 18) Italy : Dr. Arturo Loria  
Via Tiraboschi 63  
41100 - Modena - Italy
- 19) Japan : Dr. Hideo Ohashi  
National Institute for Educational Research  
6 - 5 - 22 Shimomeguro  
Meguru-ku-Tôkyo 153 - Japan
- 20) Mexico : Sergio Reyes-Lujan  
Universidad Autonoma Metropolitana  
Unidad Iztapala  
Apartado Postal 55-533  
Mexico 13 D.F. -Mexico
- 21) New Zealand: Dr. Roger J. Osborne  
School of Science - University of Waikato  
Hamilton - New Zealand

- 22) Poland : Dr. Michael Halaunbrenner  
Chopin Str. 5 M , 10  
Krakow - Poland.
- 23) Portugal : Dr. Maria Odette Canelas de Castro  
Rua Dr. Santos Rocha 42 - 2  
Coimbra - Portugal
- 24) Spain : Dr. Eduardo Nagore Gomez  
Colon 7 -  
Valencia 4 - Spain
- 25) Sweden : Dr. K.G. Friskopp  
Johannesbergsgatan 8  
Ørebro - Sweden.
- 26) UK : John L. Lewis  
Malvern College - Malvern  
Worcestershire - United Kingdom
- 27) USA : Dr. Kenneth E. Davis  
Reed College  
Portland -Oregon 97202  
U.S.A.
- 28) Venezuela : Dr. Jose Alejandro Rodriguez  
Urbanizacion Montalban  
La. Vega - Transversal 31  
Quinta Galaxia  
Caracas 102 - Venezuela
- 29) Yougoslavia : Dr. Elza Vernic  
Brace Kavurica 12  
Zagreb - Yougoslavia

The reports can be prepared in a variety of different ways. The important thing is, that they contain detailed information on, how the education is organized in practise. (Which topics are studied, and at what level? What is the role of laboratory work and how is it organized? Are the students trained in teaching pupils in a class? What kind of examinations do the students have to pass?)

To give an idea about how a report may be prepared, two reports from two different countries ( England and Denmark) are enclosed in this letter. The report from Denmark only includes the education of teachers for the folk school (grades 1 - 10). The education of teachers for the grammar school (grades 10 or 11 - 12 or 13) will be described in a separate report.

It would be convenient if all the national reports on education of physics teachers could be prepared before the end of this year, and we hope, that all contact members will do their best to get the work done before this deadline. The report together with a survey could then be distributed in the spring of 1977.

VII. RESEARCH ON EDUCATIONAL PHYSICS EXPERIMENTS TO BE CARRIED OUT AND FILMED IN A SPACE LABORATORY.

At an international symposium at The Royal Danish School of Educational Studies with participants from 14 countries, it was decided to encourage research on Educational Physics experiments to be carried out under the seemingly gravity free conditions in a space laboratory. The Physics Institute at the Royal Danish School of Educational Studies agreed to serve as an international center for these activities to initiate the work of the center a temporary committee was formed consisting of

Dr. Michele Gerbaldi , France  
Dr. R.H. Giese , Germany  
Dr. Donald Scott, U.K.  
Dr. Ram S. Shrivastava, India (corresponding member  
of the committee).  
Professor Poul Thomsen, Denmark (Chairman)

The European Space Organization ESA agreed to appoint an official representative to the committee in order to connect the committee formally with ESA.

At its first meeting the committee defined the aims of the center as follows:

1. To encourage and coordinate research in educational physics experiments to be carried out and filmed in space laboratories.
2. To serve as a link between educational research groups and the European Space Organization ESA.
3. To disseminate information about existing materials and projects in the field
4. To arrange international seminars for exchange of information.

At the meeting, the committee appointed associate professor Nils Hornstrup as manager of the office at the center, which was given the name:

International Center for  
Educational Physics Experiments in Space  
(I.C.E.P.S.)

The actual background for the establishment of the center is that the European Space Laboratory "Spacelab" is to be launched in 1980, and that ESA is willing to include educational physics experiments among the scientific experiments to be carried out in "Spacelab".

At the symposium it was emphasized that suggestions of experiments

should satisfy the following criteria:

1. The experiment should be of high educational value.
2. It should not be possible to perform the experiment with the same educational benefit on the Earth.

Several "Spacelab" - missions are planned. To get an experiment accepted for the first mission in 1980 it must be approved by ESA before the end of this year.

As an organization working for the advancement of physics teaching on an international basis GIREP might be able to contribute to the coming years research in the field. All members can assist by suggesting suitable experiments to be carried out and filmed in Spacelab. Members with research facilities can take part in development of equipment for experiments to be performed in "Spacelab".

The main idea is to produce a large number of short films which can serve as raw material for producers of educational physics films in different countries.

GIREP members who would like to take part in the work should write to:

Associate professor Nils Hornstrup  
International Center for Educational Physics  
Experiments in Space (I.C.E.P.S.)  
Royal Danish School of Educational Studies  
Department of Physics  
Emdrupvej 115 b,  
DK- 2400 Copenhagen NV.

#### VIII. NEW PLANET NAMED AFTER THE TREASURER OF GIREP.

The International Astronomical Union has named the minor planet 1545 after the treasurer of GIREP who is a former astronomer. Hence its provisional designation 1941 UW has been changed to: Thernoe.