

International Centre for Theoretical Physics

*P.A.M. Dirac Medals
Presentation Ceremony*



29 June 1993

P.A.M. Dirac Medals

The Dirac Medals of the International Centre for Theoretical Physics were instituted in 1985. These are awarded yearly to outstanding physicists, on Dirac's birthday - 8th August - for contributions to theoretical physics.

The Selection Committee includes Professors S. Lundqvist, Y. Nambu, J. Schwinger, E. Witten, S. Weinberg and Abdus Salam. The Dirac Medals are not awarded to Nobel Laureates or Wolf Foundation Prize winners.

P.A.M. Dirac (1902 - 1984)

Paul Adrien Maurice Dirac was born in Bristol in 1902. He studied engineering in his hometown, and obtained his degree in physics and mathematics at Cambridge University where he became professor in mathematics in 1932 in the Lucasian chair which was once of Sir Isaac Newton. After his retirement, Professor Dirac went to live in Tallahassee, Florida, where he taught at the University from 1971 until his death in 1984. A Member of the Royal Society since 1930, he won the Royal Medal in 1939 and the Copley Medal in 1952. He shared the Nobel Prize for Physics with E. Schrödinger in 1933.

Professor Dirac was an honoured guest and a staunch friend of the International Centre for Theoretical Physics in Trieste.

DIRAC MEDALISTS

- 1985 Professor Yakov Zeldovich
(Institute for Space Research, Moscow, Russia)
Professor Edward Witten
(Princeton University, USA)
- 1986 Professor Yoichiro Nambu
(Enrico Fermi Institute for Nuclear Studies, Chicago, USA)
Professor Alexander Polyakov
(Landau Institute for Theoretical Physics, Moscow, Russia)
- 1987 Professor Bryce DeWitt
(University of Texas at Austin, USA)
Professor Bruno Zumino
(University of California at Berkeley, USA)
- 1988 Professor David J. Gross
(Princeton University, New Jersey, USA)
Professor Efim Samoilovich Fradkin
(Lebedev Physical Institute, Moscow, Russia)
- 1989 Professor Michael B. Green
(Queen Mary College, University of London, UK)
Professor John H. Schwarz
(California Institute of Technology, USA)
- 1990 Professor Ludwig Dmitriyevich Faddeev
(Steklov Mathematical Institute, Leningrad, Russia)
Professor Sidney Richard Coleman
(Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts, USA)
- 1991 Professor Stanley Mandelstam
(University of California, Berkeley, USA)
Professor Jeffrey Goldstone
(Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, USA)
- 1992 Professor N.N. Bogolubov (posthumously)
(formerly of the Joint Institute for Nuclear Research, Moscow, Russia)
Professor Yakov G. Sinai
(Landau Institute of Theoretical Physics, Moscow, Russia)

Dirac Medal 1992

Yakov G. Sinai

Professor Yakov G. Sinai is honoured:

"for his outstanding contribution to Theoretical Physics and Mathematics through the development of Ergodic Theory and its applications to Dynamical Systems, in particular Billiards, Phase Transitions, Quantum Chaos and Hydrodynamics. He is also honoured for his work on the Spectral Analysis of Schrödinger Operators and on Applications of the Renormalization Group Theory".

Professor Yakov G. Sinai was born in Moscow on 21 September 1935. In 1960 he obtained his Ph.D. from the Moscow State University, where he began his career as a Scientific Researcher (1960-1971). He is presently Scientific Researcher at the Laboratory of Probabilistic and Statistical Methods at the Moscow State University, Senior Researcher at the Landau Institute of Theoretical Physics of the Academy of Sciences and Professor of Mathematics at the Moscow State University. Between September 1991 and January 1992 he was Visiting Professor at Princeton University.

He is a Foreign Member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and Member of the Russian Academy of Sciences. In 1992 Professor Sinai was elected Honorary Member of the London Mathematical Society.

In 1986 Professor Sinai received the Boltzman Gold Medal for his work in statistical physics; in 1989 he was awarded the Heinemann Prize for his contribution to mathematical physics and in 1990 the Markov Prize for his work in probability theory.

The other 1992 Dirac Medal was awarded (posthumously) to Prof. N.N. Bogolubov formerly of the Joint Institute for Nuclear Research in Moscow during a ceremony which was held at ICTP on 2 December 1992.