

People and things

Bookshelf

Weak Neutral Currents - The Discovery of the Electro-Weak Force, edited by David B. Cline, Addison Wesley (Frontiers of Physics Series), ISBN 0-201-93347-0

Addison Wesley's Frontiers of Physics Series began in 1961, and David Cline's anthology on weak neutral currents is the 97th volume in the series. 'Frontiers' books usually make extensive use of lecture notes or reprints, and Cline's volume takes the latter route. It is divided into 9 chapters: The Weak Interaction Uncovered; Forty Years of Weak Interactions; The Search for Other Forms of Weak Interaction; The Electroweak Interaction Picture Emerges; The Discovery of Weak Neutral Currents; Other Weak-Neutral Current Processes, Parity Violation in Weak Neutral Currents, and $\sin^2\theta_w$; On to the W and Z Particles; High Precision Studies of the Electroweak Force; Back to the Future with the Higgs Boson.

Apart from the first, which is an introduction, each chapter has a useful introduction by neutral current enthusiast Cline (see November 1997, page 18) and includes several reprints. As well as predictable classic papers, the collection includes some gems, notably the historic but rarely seen March 1976 proposal by Carlo Rubbia, Peter McIntyre and Cline to build a proton-antiproton collider to search for the W and Z particles, and a Peter Higgs paper given at a 1993 Santa Monica meeting which takes the lid off the eponymous mechanism.

I found it very useful.

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Books received

Future High Energy Colliders, Editor Zohreh Parsa, AIP Conference Proceedings 397, ISBN 1-56396-729-4

Proceedings of a meeting held in Santa Barbara in October 1996 (see March 1997 issue of the CERN Courier, page 16).

The Interpretation of Quantum Mechanics and the Measurement Process, by Peter Mittelstaedt, Cambridge University Press 0 521 55445 4 £30/\$44.95

A volume of interest to the more philosophically minded on how to live with the measurement dilemmas introduced by the orthodox interpretation of quantum theory.



CERN Council

At the meeting of CERN's governing body, Council, in December, Luciano Maiani was elected the next Director General of the Organization, to take office on 1 January 1999, when the current Director General, Chris Llewellyn Smith, will have completed his five year mandate. A distinguished theorist, Luciano Maiani is currently President of the Italian INFN and has been President of CERN Council since January 1997.

At the same meeting, leading German science administrator and head of Germany's CERN delegation Hans C. Eschelbacher was elected President of CERN Council for an initial period of one year from 1 January 1998, replacing Luciano Maiani. Fernando Aldana of Spain was elected Vice-President of Council for one year, while Fernando Bello of Portugal was appointed Chairman of the Finance Committee and Leif Westgaard of Norway was elected Vice-Chairman of the Finance Committee, for the same one-year period.

Lev Okun honoured

A foundation set up by philanthropist George Soros honoured Russian theorist Lev Okun of Moscow's Institute of Theoretical and Experimental Physics with a special humanitarian award at a ceremony at SLAC, Stanford, on December 11.

Russian theorist Lev Okun (right) of Moscow's Institute of Theoretical and Experimental Physics was honoured with a special humanitarian award from a foundation set up by George Soros at a ceremony at SLAC, Stanford, on December 11. SLAC Associate Director Sidney Drell (left) presented the award on behalf of George Soros.