

The European Physical Journal

A: Hadrons and Nuclei
B: Condensed Matter and Complex Systems
C: Particles and Fields
D: Atomic, Molecular, Optical
and Plasma Physics
E: Soft Matter and Biological Physics
AP: Applied Physics
ST: Special Topics
H: Historical Perspectives
on Contemporary Physics
EPJ – Web of Conferences

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“The European Physical Journal”
is a joint property of
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and Springer



Società Italiana
di Fisica



A Glance at the History of Acta Physica Hungarica

The first physics journal in post-war Hungary, “Hungarica Acta Physica”, was published by the Hungarian Academy of Science from 1947 to 1949. The Editor-in-Chief was Károly Novobátzky.

Its successor, the “Acta Physica Academiae Scientiarum Hungaricae”, was published by the Hungarian Academy of Science under this title between 1951 and 1982. The first volume in 1951–52 contained articles from all areas in physics being investigated in Hungary at that time. Papers were accepted in English, French, German and Russian. Pál Gombás, Editor-in-Chief (1951–1970), stated the aims of this journal as follows:

“The aim of the Hungarian Academy of Science in starting the new series of ‘Acta Physica’ is to contribute to the improvement of the international relations of progressive science, to the further development of science, to the cause of peace, progress and the closer friendship of the peoples.”

Between 1983 and 1994 the Journal’s title was simply “Acta Physica Hungarica” (APH). István Kovács, Editor-in-Chief from 1971 to 1993, accepted contributions from an expanding circle of prospective authors; in the eighties physicists from India and the Arab World started to publish in APH. While topical diversity remained a publication characteristic, at the same time many Hungarian colleagues started increasingly to publish their research in European and American Physics Journals. This original Acta Physica Hungarica ended with Volume 75 in 1994.

Then the Journal was re-founded in 1995 with Istvan Lovas as Editor-in-Chief. Citing from the Editorial: “... Looking at the list of international journals of physics one notes that no journal is devoted to heavy ion physics in spite of the fact that this branch of physics has undergone a spectacular development in the last two decades and we have good grounds to believe that this development will continue. The recently commissioned accelerator facilities and those which are under construction provide evidence for this belief. The activity both in the theory and in the applications is also developing steadily. Considering all these circumstances we decided to publish an international journal on heavy ion physics.”

The new name became “Acta Physica Hungarica, New Series: Heavy Ion Physics” with numbering of volumes resuming with Volume 1, and papers exclusively in English.

In 2003 the idea of starting a similar endeavor for the rapidly developing research field of quantum electronics arose. Under the Editor-in-Chief Tamás Bíró this step led to a splitting of APH into “Acta Physica Hungarica A (Heavy Ion Physics)” and “Acta Physica Hungarica B (Quantum Electronics)”. The volume numbering was not restarted; it continued annually with two A-volumes and one B-volume. However, this new system was maintained for a few years only.

Negotiations with the European Physical Journal have resulted in the decision to merge.

The physics community in the Hungarian Academy of Sciences has decided to support the unification of European physics research publication efforts.

The Acta Physica Hungarica A and B were last issued under this very name in 2006, with Volume 27. Starting with the 2007 issues, APH A became part of the EPJ A (Hadrons and Nuclei) and APH B that of EPJ D (Atomic, Molecular, Optical and Plasma Physics).

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