

Journal de Physique: A Historical Reminiscence

The history of *Journal de Physique* goes back to 1872 when it was founded by Jean-Charles d'Almeida under the name *Journal de Physique Pure et Appliquée*. In 1911 the fifth issue of *Journal de Physique Théorique et Appliquée* appeared stating published by the French Physical Society. Furthermore, the scientists who had founded and edited the *Journal de Physique* since 1920 offered full ownership and control of the *Journal* to the French Physical Society, which in turn created a company in charge of editing the periodical. At the same time *Journal de Physique* merged with *Le Radium*, founded in 1904, and became the *Journal de Physique et le Radium* until 1962.

At the turn of the 20th century many leading scientists, from France and abroad, started to send their work regularly to *Journal de Physique*. Several contributions on radioactivity by Marie Curie, Pierre Curie and Rutherford can be found in the issues of the year 1906. Langevin and Weiss both published important contributions to magnetism in *Journal de Physique*. In 1932, Néel published his pioneering work on antiferromagnetism, a work that would much later, in 1970, win him the Nobel prize. During the years 1944–1959, he published several articles on magnetic domains and magnetism of small particles in *Journal de Physique*.

The title “*Journal de Physique*” actually only appeared in 1963, and at the same time the journal was run by an editorial board representing several domains of physics. It was in charge of the evaluation of the manuscripts. The publication committee of the French Physical Society was created in 1967 with Jacques Friedel as the first chairman. The duty of the Committee was to control all publications of the French Physical Society including the *Revue de Physique Appliquée* and the new letter journal, *Journal de Physique Lettres*, which was launched in 1974. In 1986 this letter section would finally become *Europhysics Letters (EPL)* after the merger with *Lettere al Nuovo Cimento* from the Società Italiana di Fisica.

More effective integration of European publications began in 1969 with the creation of a publication committee by the European Physical Society, giving its recognition to various national publications. In the first issue of *Journal de Physique* recognized by the European Physical Society in 1970, Jacques Friedel expressed his hope “qu'il conduira à une organisation un peu plus rationnelle des publications de physique a l'échelle européenne”.

In the sixties English had become the standard language for publications in *Journal de Physique* although French abstracts were still encouraged. The journal was published in two sections, *Journal de Physique I* and *II*, devoted to Condensed Matter and Soft Matter respectively, plus another section publishing conference proceedings.

Journal de Physique can be proud of having published seminal papers from leading scientists of the 20th century, in the field of liquid crystals (de Gennes, Nobel Prize 1991), and on optical pumping by Kastler (Nobel Prize 1966) and Cohen-Tannoudji (Nobel Prize 1997). Also Friedel published his work on the electronic structure of transition metal alloys in 1958 and another article with Blandin in 1959 in the *Journal de Physique*.

A big step towards the unification of European publications was accomplished recently with the merger in 1998 between *Journal de Physique I* and *II* and *Zeitschrift für Physik B* and *D*, edited by Springer-Verlag, followed one year later by a second merger with *Il Nuovo Cimento A* and *D*.

The *European Physical Journal (EPJ)* was the first Europe-based journal in history founded in 1999. What remains of the original series of *Journal de Physique* is the section *Journal de Physique IV* devoted to the publication of conference proceedings.

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

The title
“The European Physical Journal”
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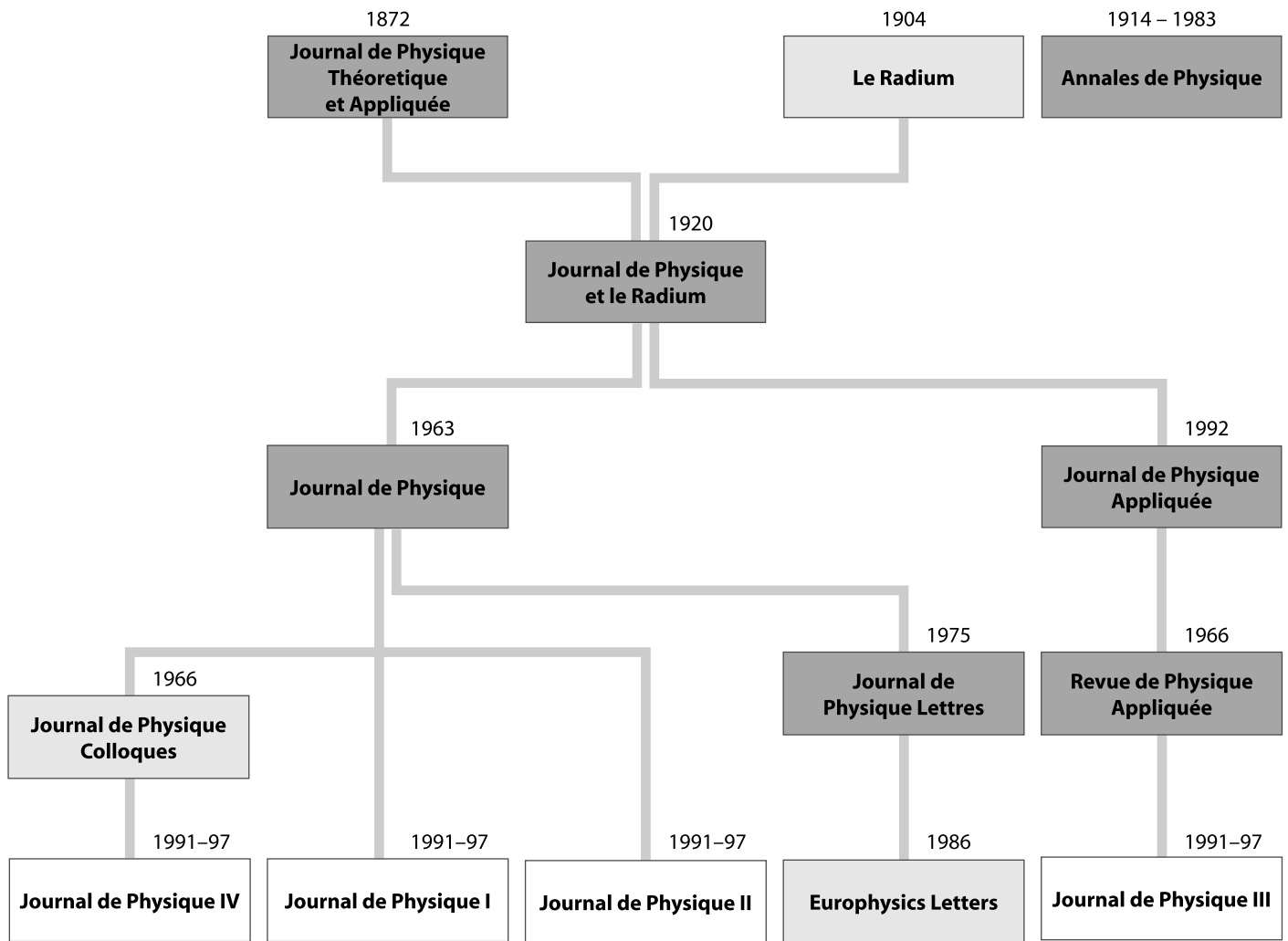
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Let us hope that *EPJ* and *EPL* will contribute to the future European platform for publications in Physics.
D. Jérôme

Journal de Physique Historic Scheme and Digitizing Plans



Legend

To be digitized

No decision yet

Not part of the project