

Dr. Hans Suess named foreign member of Max Planck Institute for Chemistry

January 30, 1970

Dr. Hans E. Suess, professor of geochemistry at the University of California, San Diego, has been named a foreign member of the Max-Planck Institute for Chemistry at Mainz, West Germany.

Suess, a native of Austria who became a naturalized U.S. citizen in 1955, is one of only two U.S. scientists honored with membership in the institute. The other is Professor A.O.C. Nier, Regent's Professor of Physics at the University of Minnesota.

The institute honored Suess for his research in cosmochemistry and his work on meteorites.

Highly regarded in world scientific circles, the Max-Planck Institute received from NASA the largest quantity of lunar material from the Apollo 11 flight consigned to any organization outside the United States. Nuclear fission was discovered by scientists of the institute, which also is known as the Otto Hahn Institute after its pre-World War II director.

Born in Vienna in December, 1909, Suess earned his doctorate in chemistry at the University of Vienna in 1936. From 1937 to 1950 he was a research assistant and professor at the University of Hamburg, Germany.

In 1955 he joined Scripps Institution of Oceanography as a research geochemist. He was one of the first four professors appointed to the UCSD faculty, and since 1958 has held his present academic title.

In 1966, Suess was elected to membership in the American Academy of Sciences, Dr. Hans E. Suess and the following year became a foreign member of the Austrian Academy of Sciences. In 1958 he was elected to membership in the Heidelberg Academy of Sciences.

Suess has published numerous scientific articles on the origin of the elements, radiocarbon dating, nuclear shell structure, the chronology of the ice ages, the geochemistry of carbon dioxide, and the problems of cosmochemistry.

Suess was married in 1940 to Ruth Teuteberg, and has two children. He resides at in La Jolla.