

Dr. Walter Munk presented Arthur L. Day Medal

May 8, 1965

Dr. Walter H. Munk, Professor of Geophysics at the University of California, San Diego has been named by The Geological Society of America as the 1965 recipient of the Arthur L. Day Medal of the society.

Dr. Munk, who is Associate Professor of the Institute of Geophysics and Planetary Physics located at UCSD and at the Los Angeles campus of the University, is scheduled to receive the medal at the Society's annual meeting in Kansas City next November.

Through a misunderstanding, it was erroneously announced last week that Dr. Bernd T. Matthias, Professor of Physics at UCSD, has been awarded the Medal.

According to the Society, it was Doctor Day's wish that this medal should recognize outstanding achievement and inspire further effort, and that it should be awarded for outstanding contribution to geologic knowledge through the application of physics and chemistry to the solution of geologic problems.

Dr. Munk, born in Vienna in 1917, received his Bachelor's and Master's degrees from California Institute of Technology and his Ph.D. from the Scripps Institution of Oceanography in 1947. He has been associated with Scripps since his years as a graduate student and his contributions to the University date from that time.

While a student, Dr. Munk and the late Harald Sverdrup developed a system for forecasting breakers and surf on beaches, a system which proved of importance during World War II. During the past 19 years, Dr. Munk has made many fundamental contributions to understanding of ocean currents and waves.

He is considered one of the leading authorities on the reasons why the Earth wobbles on its axis and changes its speed of rotation; indicating interest in reaching beyond the realm of the oceans. He has made important contributions in the use of high speed electronic computing machines for analyzing geophysical data. Two years ago he and a number of others collaborated in a global expedition to measure the attenuation of ocean swell; this resulted in part, in the formulation of a new method of predicting tides.