

Bernd T. Matthias presented Arthur L. Day Medal

April 28, 1965

Dr. Bernd T. Matthias, Professor of Physics and Director of the Institute for the Study of Matter at the University of California, San Diego, has been named recipient of the Arthur L. Day Medal of The Geological Society of America, it has been announced.

The Society named Dr. Matthias recipient of the Medal at its meeting during the first week in April. According to the Society, it was the wish of Dr. Arthur L. Day that the 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.

According to the Society, Dr. Matthias' work fits this description ideally. The medal is to be awarded at the time of the Annual Meeting of the Society in Kansas City next November.

Dr. Matthias, an expert in the field of ferroelectrics and superconductivity crystals and compounds, was appointed to the UCSD staff as a Professor of Physics in September, 1961, coming to the school after 11 years as a member of the technical staff of the Bell Telephone Laboratories in Murray Hill, New Jersey.

Born in Frankfurt, Germany, Dr. Matthias received his Ph.D. in physics from the Federal Institute of Technology, Zurich, Switzerland, in 1943. He was a scientific collaborator at that institution from 1942 to 1947.

Superconductivity is a phenomenon discovered by the Dutch physicist, Kamerlingh Onnes. He found that when certain metals are cooled to near absolute zero, or to about minus 4,59 degrees Fahrenheit, they will conduct an electric current without resistance. Dr. Matthias' curiosity about superconductivity was aroused in 1950 by the late Nobel laureate, Enrico Fermi. At that time, less than 30 superconducting metals had been discovered. In 1963, more than 500 superconductors were known to science, and most were discovered by Dr. Matthias and co-workers at the Bell Laboratories and at UCSD.