

Hannes Alfven elected honorary member of European Physical Society

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EUROPEAN PHYSICAL SOCIETY HONORS ALFVEN

Dr. Hannes Alfven, a Nobel laureate physicist at the University of California, San Diego, has been elected an honorary member of the European Physical Society.

"Honorary membership is the highest distinction which the EPS can bestow," EPS president G.H. Stafford wrote in a letter informing Alfven of his election. Alfven is one of only six physicists honored in this manner by the prestigious society since it was founded in 1968.

The EPS was established to contribute to and encourage the advancement of physics in Europe and neighboring countries. The Switzerland-based organization has 3,389 members, representing 27 countries.

"This is but a small token of our appreciation for the great contribution you have made to physics," Stafford wrote the Swedish physicist.

Alfven is one of the world's leading authorities on the formation of comets and the creation of the earth and the universe. He is regarded as the father of modern classical physics known as hydromagnetism, which has wide application in geophysics, planetary sciences and astrophysics.

The Nobel laureate has also been awarded the Franklin Gold Medal by the Franklin Institute and the Lomonoson Gold Medal, the highest award given by the Soviet Union's Academy of Sciences for "outstanding achievements in plasma physics and astrophysics." He is a foreign associate member of the National Academy of Sciences, a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and a member of the Soviet Akademia Nauk.

Alfven, who joined what was then the UCSD Department of Applied Physics and Information Science in 1967, has divided his time between UCSD and the Royal Institute of Technology, Stockholm, since 1970. He lives six months each year in La Jolla.

(May 23, 1985) For more information contact: Susan Pollock, 452-3120