

Hertha Sponer

A Womans Life as a Physicist in the 20th Century

“So You Won’t Forget Me”

Errata as of 17 August 2012 (→ indicates “should be replaced by”) B. P. Winnewisser

Back cover: Replace second paragraph with:

This book is a translation by Ralph A. Morris of the original biography written by Marie-Ann Maushart. A significant addition is the story of Hertha Sponer’s sister Margot, who was active in the anti-Nazi underground movement, contributed by Annette Vogt. The entire edition has been updated, including minor additions added for the English reader, and edited by Brenda P. Winnewisser.

Dr. Marie-Ann Maushart was born in Karlsruhe, Germany. She studied physics and history of the natural sciences and technology at the University of Stuttgart and received her Diplom (roughly, M.A.) degree for work in the 1st Physics Institute with Professor Wolfgang Eisenmenger. This was followed in 1993 by a Magister in history with a thesis about the development of the precision balance industry in the Swabian Alb region of Germany. For her dissertation, the biography of Hertha Sponer, she pursued research in Germany and the USA. In 1996 she received her doctorate under the guidance of Professor Armin Hermann in Stuttgart. Parallel to this academic work she completed a training program as editor for an IT journal. She then worked at the journal, and later as press representative for a start-up company. Since 1998 she has been employed at IBM Deutschland GmbH in various roles in marketing and communication, since 2002 with management responsibilities. In 2008 she published a scientific paper about the development of company values within IBM. Marie-Ann Maushart is currently responsible for the management of external relations for IBM in Germany.

Ralph A. Morris received his Ph.D. in Germanic Philology and Linguistics from the University of Wisconsin Madison. He is employed as an Assessment Lead with Educational Testing Service. He and his family reside in San Antonio, Texas. Dr. Annette B. Vogt is a historian of mathematics and science; she is a research scholar at the Max Planck Institute for the History of Science in Berlin, Germany. As a graduate student in physics at Duke University, Brenda P. Winnewisser knew Hertha Sponer. She is presently Adjunct Professor of Physics at The Ohio State University.

P. 3: Replace footnote with:

Breslau, on the Oder River, was the capital of the state of Silesia. As the Polish town of Wrocław, it became a bishopric in 1000 A.D. With German immigration in the late middle ages, and Austrian and then German rule after 1526, the German version of the name was commonly used in Germany and other western countries. Since 1945, when Silesia became part of Poland, the city again carries the name of Wrocław.

P. 10, line 1: Selliger → [Rudolf Seeliger, 1886-1965]

P. 10, line 7: Conservative Göttingen, → The University of Göttingen had been progressive in granting early exceptions for women, but

P. 10: Add to Ref. 36 (P. 223):

See also Titze, H., *Das Hochschulstudium in Preußen und Deutschland 1820-1944*, Vol. 1 *Hochschulen*, Part 1 of *Datenhandbuch zur deutschen Bildungsgeschichte*, Göttingen (1987); *Wachstum und Differenzierung der deutschen Universitäten*, Vol. 1 *Hochschulen*, Part 2 of *Datenhandbuch zur deutschen Bildungsgeschichte*, Göttingen (1995).

P. 12, Par. 2, line -8: . . . by the director of the Göttingen Mathematical Institute, Herman Weyl → . . . by Hermann Weyl

P. 25: Add text to footnote:

Gerhard Herzberg, physicist, studied in Darmstadt, spent the year 1928-29 in Göttingen, married physicist Luise Oettinger, emigrated to Canada 1935, established a prominent laboratory at the National Research Council of Canada in Ottawa, and received the Nobel Prize in Chemistry for his life's work in molecular physics.

P. 34, Par. 3, line 3: 1919 → February, 1920 (following four exceptions in the previous two years)

P. 57, line -5: . . . and Kühn, → . . . and Alfred Kühn,

P. 70, middle of Par. 2: Ewald, Fröhlich and R. Minkowski → Peter Paul Ewald, Herbert Fröhlich, and Rudolf Minkowski

P. 74, Section 3.3, Par. 1, line -9: Wilhelm Dehn → Max Wilhelm Dehn

P. 181, line 4: One of his students, Wilhelm Westphal → His contemporary, colleague and friend since 1908 or earlier, Wilhelm Westphal

P. 214, line 1-2: Replace with:

Fritz Walter Hofmann**, 1960, *The Determination of Optical Cross Sections for Resonance Lines of Atoms in Flames under Conditions of Partial Thermal Ionization*

Dolores U. Olness, 1961, *Lifetime Studies of Phosphorescence in Aromatic Compounds under Various Conditions at Low Temperatures*