

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

MEMBERS SINCE 1953

I see that Simon Ramo, '53, is still a regular contributor to your fund. I was the Secretary Treasurer at the University of Arizona chapter in 1953.

Early in the year our beloved Advisor, Professor Leon Blitzer, suggested that I invite Dr. Ramo to be our initiation banquet speaker. Dr. Blitzer knew Dr. Ramo personally since Dr. Blitzer would often work, during the summers, at the Hughes Aircraft Company, where Dr. Ramo was general manager before he moved on to form Ramo Wooldridge and Space Technology Labs that very same year, 1953. Also, both received their PhDs at Cal Tech (Blitzer, Physics, 1943; Ramo, EE, 1936).

Dr. Ramo graciously accepted and gave an interesting talk about the role of

the physicist.

Please send me the form for a contribution to the 2003 Alumni Drive.

Albert Samuels

Sigma Pi Sigma Member '53

“SCOTTISH” VS. “ENGLISH”

As a professional research Physicist and a member of Sigma Pi Sigma since 1952 as well as a long-time serious student of Celtic History and Culture, I found the Vol. 9, Issue 2 of *Radiations* to be a source of considerable discomfort.

Scottish Botanist Robert Brown was no more English than Albert Einstein was Chinese (cf. pg. 18). $E=mc^2$ was first derived from the electromagnetic equations of Scotsman James Clerk Maxwell independently of Einstein. Irish Physicist George Francis Fitzgerald published the

mathematical basis for the relativistic analysis of the Space-Time Continuum when Einstein was 11 years old...

Sincerely, Alfred E. Reilly

Of the several references I consulted in preparing the article, only one listed Brown's ethnicity or nationality It described him as "...Robert Brown, an English botanist..." (Richtmyer and Kennard, McGraw-Hill (1942), p. 183). Upon receiving your letter I looked further into the matter and learned that Robert Brown was born in Montrose, Scotland, on December 21, 1773. He studied medicine at the University of Edinburgh. In 1801, he sailed as botanist on a four-year voyage with Sir Joseph Banks, collecting specimens that went to the British Museum. Brown settled in London and died there June 10, 1858. That he lived most of his adult life in London may explain why Brown is often described as being English, when he was, in fact, born a Scotsman. Thank you for clarifying this point. —Editor ◆

THE DIRECTOR'S CORNER

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