

Guest Editor's Introduction

At the end of May 1987, a group of physicists and mathematicians with common interests in modern physical theory came together to participate in the Loyola Conference on Mathematical and Interpretational Problems in Relativistic Quantum Theory. The broad scope of the title was intended to encourage discussion over a range of problems in our understanding of 20th century physics, with the choice of topics left to the discretion of the participants; a glance at the variety of contributions included in this collection should provide ample evidence that the intent was fulfilled. A more specialized purpose of the Conference was to provide a setting in which current interpretations (and interpreters) of quantum theory could interact with the critical wisdom of some of the founders of the theory. That interaction occurred, and it is hoped that the reader can share in the liveliness of the resulting discussions through the proceedings published here.

The success of any conference always depends on the contributions of many whose work often goes unrecognized. The partial listing here of some of those who made possible the 1987 Loyola Conference is an attempt to supply some of that well-deserved recognition: James C. Carter, S.J., President, and George F. Lundy, S.J., Senior Vice-President, Loyola University, who saw the value of the Conference clearly enough to make the necessary financial support available; Germaine Murray, who provided her usual administrative and secretarial expertise; Keith and Marian Bonin, who once again returned to bring their combined years of experience to the aid of a Loyola Conference; and finally Alan Harkreader, Tien Lang, and Armando Pastrana, who bravely took on the unfamiliar task of conference coordination and became experts at it.

A. R. Marlow
Department of Physics
Loyola University