

SYMPOSIA AT THE ACADEMY

**ENRICO FERMI AND THE BEGINNINGS OF NUCLEAR FISSION
NOVEMBER 15–16, 2001**

On the occasion of the 100th anniversary of Enrico Fermi's birth – September 29th, 2001 – the Italian Academy for Advanced Studies in America, in collaboration with the Department of Physics of Columbia University, will host a two day symposium: Enrico Fermi and the Beginnings of Nuclear Fission. The focus will be on reviewing the historical sequence of events that led to the generation of the first nuclear pile, the physical issues involved, and the scientific and cultural impact.

With the support of:

The Italian Academy for Advanced Studies in America, The Columbia Physics Department, The Italian Embassy, The U.S. Department of Energy, American Institute of Physics, The Office of the Provost, Columbia University

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2001

Afternoon Session

2:00 PM

Welcome:

David Freedberg, Director, Italian Academy for Advanced Studies in America

Ferdinando Salleo, Ambassador of Italy

Jonathan Cole, Provost and Dean of Faculties, Columbia University

Steven M. Kahn, Chair, Department of Physics

2:30 PM Richard Garwin, Thomas J. Watson Research Center, IBM
Overview of the Origins of Nuclear Fission

The Italian Period
Malvin Ruderman, Columbia University, Moderator

Gerald Holton, Harvard University
The Rise of the Fermi Group: An Interaction of Blind History and the Visionary Individual

4:00 PM Coffee

4:15 PM Ugo Amaldi, Universita di Milano Bicocca e Fondazione TERA

Slow Neutrons at Via Panisperna: The Discovery and Production of Isotopes and the Birth of Nuclear Medicine

5:00 PM Carlo Bernardini, Universita di Roma La Sapienza
Enrico Fermi as a Phenomenologist

5:45 PM Questions

8:30 PM

The story of nuclear fission
A RAI Documentary Film by Leandro Castellani
Teatro

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2001

Morning Session: Fission in the United States
William Willis, Columbia University, Moderator

9:00 AM Willis Lamb, University of Arizona
Fermi's Arrival at Columbia and His First Experiments in Nuclear Fission

9:45 AM Albert Wattenberg, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
The Experiments Leading to the Construction of the First Nuclear Chain Reaction: Columbia, Los Alamos, Chicago

10:30 AM Harold Agnew, San Diego Supercomputer Center
Fermi at Los Alamos

11:15 AM Coffee

11:30 AM Philip Abelson, American Association for the Advancement of Science
Early Identification of Fission Products at Berkeley

12:15 PM Alvin Weinberg, Oak Ridge Associated Universities
The Development of Nuclear Fission as an Energy Source

1:00 PM Questions

1:30 PM Lunch

Afternoon Session: The Impact of Fermi's Work
Elena Aprile, Columbia University, Moderator

2:30 PM Tsung-Dao Lee, Columbia University
Fermi's Impact on Physics in the United States

3:15 PM Milla Baldo Ceolin, Universit^a degli Studi di Padova
Fermi and the Evolution of the Physics of Weak Interactions

4:00 PM Coffee

4:15 PM David I. Kaiser, Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Impact of the Manhattan Project on Federal Attitudes toward the
Funding of Physics and Science Research

5:00 PM Questions

5:30 PM Concluding remarks

For additional information you may contact Lalla Grimes, Columbia
University Physics Department, Phone: 212-854-3366, E-mail:
lalla@phys.columbia.edu