HANDBUCH DER PHYSIK

ENCYCLOPEDIA OF PHYSICS

HERAUSGEGEBEN VON / EDITOR IN CHIEF

S. FLÜGGE

The original **Encyclopedia of Physics** was published by H. Geiger and K. Scheel in 21 volumes between the years 1926 and 1929. In 1933 three additional double volumes were included. The "old" encyclopedia appeared at a time when relativity theory and quantum theory had just begun to open new dimensions in modern physics.

The following two decades witnessed an unprecedented expansion throughout physics, classical as well as atomic and subatomic. In the early fifties, it had become clear that the old handbook no longer adequately reflected the level of research attained in either classical or atomic physics. S. Flügge then undertook a revitalization of the handbook for publication by Springer-Verlag.

The "new" encyclopedia was conceived as a self-contained unit. It is divided into 11 groups, each of which corresponds to a particular physical motif:

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