

## Otto Kofoed-Hansen 1921-1990

One of the best known Danish physicists from the latter half of this century died on 21 July at his home in Copenhagen. Otto Kofoed-Hansen initially worked as a goldsmith's apprentice before studying physics at Copenhagen. Fascinated by the weak interaction, his first experiments ascertained that the 'missing energy' in beta decay was associated with a corresponding missing linear momentum, thereby underlining Pauli's neutrino hypothesis. UA2 at CERN, the last experiment in which Kofoed-Hansen participated actively, observed exactly the same effect albeit at a momentum roughly nine orders of magnitude higher!

Active in theory as well as in experiments, he covered a wide spectrum of modern physics. Together with Karl Ove Nielsen (recently retired from the University of Aarhus) he carried out in 1950 the first – and for a long time the only – on-line mass separation experiment, a forerunner of CERN's ISOLDE. He was appointed head of the Physics Department of the newly established Riso Laboratory in 1956, and was at CERN from 1968 until 1977, where in addition to his research he served as a personal adviser to Director General Willi Jenschke and from 1969-72 was Chairman of the 'Physics III Committee' responsible for the scientific programme at the Synchro-Cyclotron. After his return to Denmark he maintained close contact with CERN, to which he felt deeply attached and where he was a frequent visitor until a short time ago.