

DRAFT

THE KARL TAYLOR COMPTON MEDAL
FOR DISTINGUISHED STATESMANSHIP IN SCIENCE

Awarded to Samuel Abraham Goudsmit

by the Governing Board of the American Institute of Physics

- date -

Samuel Goudsmit is widely known as the co-discoverer of electron spin, as the leader of the Alsos mission to Europe in the closing months of World War II, and as the founder and first editor of Physical Review Letters. These three achievements reflect three facets of a long career encompassing fundamental contributions to physics, service to the nation, and service to his fellow physicists worldwide. In twenty-three years as Editor-in-Chief of the American Physical Society, he has had to face two inexorable exponential tides, one the volume of research needing publication and the other the cost of publishing it. In coping with these tides, he has displayed scientific judgment, sound business sense, uncompromising dedication to the welfare of his colleagues, toughness, good humor, and down-to-earth common sense. He leaves Physical Review and Physical Review Letters as pre-eminent journals of our profession. For this generation, they are tools of research still modestly priced. For later generations, they will be the archives of the best in this era of physics.

For fifty years of creative leadership in physics as researcher, teacher, author, and editor, Samuel Goudsmit is awarded the Karl Taylor Compton Medal.