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The American Society of Mechanical Engineers

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(~~ASST.~~ H. W. WEIBULL
RECEIVES ASME MEDAL

(~~N.Y.~~ N.Y. -- ^{E.} Ernst H. W. Weibull, Applied Physicist, Lausanne, Switzerland, was honored by The American Society of Mechanical Engineers during the Society's Winter Annual Meeting, November 26-30, 1972, Statler Hilton Hotel, N.Y., N.Y. Professor Weibull received the ASME Medal -- an award established in 1920 to recognize eminently distinguished engineering achievement.

Richard G. Folsom, ASME President, cited Professor Weibull as "a pioneer in the study of fracture, fatigue and reliability who has contributed to the literature for over thirty years. His statistical treatment of strength and life has found widespread application in engineering design."

In the 1930's Professor Weibull embarked on a study of the statistical nature of strength and life which he was to pursue for over 30 years. In his earliest papers, he proposed with great physical insight, the probability distribution for strength and life which was later given his name. Now in the literature on reliability, fatigue, life or fracture of brittle solids one finds constant references to the "Weibull Distribution" and the methods Weibull proposed are in everyday use.

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Subsequently, Weibull extended his studies to include many aspects of fracture and fatigue. His work on the planning and interpretation of fatigue data is monumental and resulted in a book "Fatigue Testing and the Analysis of Results."

Professor Weibull, born in Sweden, received his B.A. in 1912 and his M.A. in 1924 from the Royal Institute of Technology at Stockholm. After six years in research for the NKA Ball Bearing Company he went to the Royal Institute at Stockholm where he was Professor of Mechanical Engineering 1923-1941 and professor of Applied Physics 1941-53.

Since becoming a professor emeritus in 1953, Weibull has served as consultant to the U. S. Air Force. His recent publications, U. S. Air Force Reports, have provided much valuable information on the statistical treatment of experimental data.

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