



During its nearly 60 years history, the Geophysical Society of Finland has elected three highly meritorious members to the position of honorary member of the Society. The Society's rules state that a member who has made a particularly meritorious contribution in keeping with the aims of the Society can be elected an honorary member.

At its monthly meeting on 13th December 1983 the Geophysical Society decided to elect

*Professor Lauri A. Vuorela*

honorary member of the Society. Professor Vuorela's merits as scientist and university teacher, as well as an organizer of research programmes and an administrator are well-known and acknowledged. While holding the Chair in Meteorology at the University of Helsinki he was also the Associated Dean from 1960 to 1969 and the Dean of the Section of Mathematics and Natural Sciences of the Faculty of Philosophy from 1969 to 1971. In 1971 he became Director-in-Chief

of the Finnish Meteorological Institute. His participation in the activities of numerous scientific societies has been outstanding. For example, he has been Secretary General of the Finnish Academy of Science and Letters. He is a member or honorary member of many foreign academies of science. He has actively contributed to the work of the international organisations and participated in their directorates. I can mention only a few of these here: the World Meteorological Organization and its commissions, the International Council of Scientific Unions, the Committee on Space Research, Nordforsk, the Research Programmes of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development, European Centre for Medium Range Weather Forecast and many others.

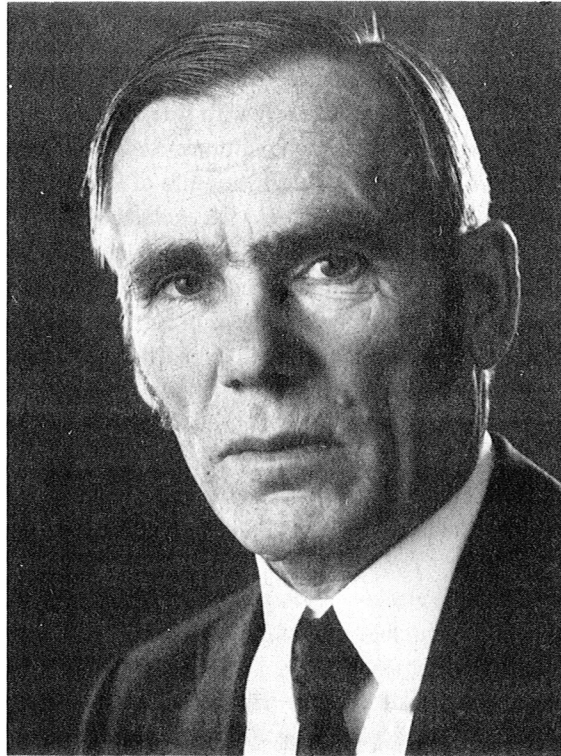
Today there is every reason to outline Professor Vuorela's outstanding service to the Geophysical Society:

- He has been a member of the Society for 40 years,
- he has edited the Society's scientific journal *GEOPHYSICA* for 30 years, most of which he has been as Editor-in-Chief, a position he still holds,
- he has spent three particularly fruitful 3-year periods on the board of the Society and has been President of the Society three times, in 1960, 1966 and 1975.
- Professor Vuorela was awarded the Society's Palmén Medal in 1972 for his very valuable services to the Society.

At the Society's meetings we other members have enjoyed hearing Professor Vuorela's profound opinions and also criticisms, knowing they are based on long scientific experience and good reason. His vivid personality in particular has been the foundation for bright, lively discussion. Professor Vuorela is still fully occupied with work for the Society and we hope and trust that in the future, too, we shall be able to take keen delight in his attendance at the Society's functions.

Professor Vuorela, on behalf of the Geophysical Society of Finland, I offer you our warmest congratulations.

Teuvo Parm



The Palmén medal is dedicated to the respected geophysicist, Academician Erik Palmén. It is awarded by the Geophysical Society of Finland to a Finnish scientist who has shown great merit in a field of the Society. The medals are numbered so that the one awarded to Academician Palmén was No. 1. Four medals have been granted.

In 1983 the board of the Society decided to award the fifth Palmén medal to

*Professor Erkki Palosuo.*

After working in the Institute of Marine Research and holding a Docentship in Geophysics at the University of Helsinki, Professor Palosuo was appointed holder of the Chair in Geophysics at the same university in 1973. His main subject was oceanography.

Professor Palosuo has also long been very active in the Geophysical Society: He served as a board member for 11 years from 1955 to 1966 during which he was Treasurer of the Society, too. He spent another period on the board in 1967–1969, and was President of the Society in 1968.

Professor Palosuo is well-known in the world of sea-ice research. He became interested in the study of ice while serving as pilot in the Second World War. His special subjects have been the ice structure of the Baltic, the interactions between moving floes, how the floes interact with sheet ice and skerries; and the dependence of ice formation on weather conditions. Recently he has paid particularly attention to the problem of the crystal structure of ice and its dependence on salinity. Professor Palosuo has also studied the exchange between the different basins in the Baltic, the Bothnian Sea and the Bothnian Bay and the cooling of water bodies. He participated in research expeditions to Spitzbergen in 1957 and 1966 and took part in glaciological investigations in Norway and Sweden. Very recently, in 1980, he participated in a research expedition to the Arctic Ocean on an ice-breaker.

Through his scientific abilities Professor Palosuo has made great contributions to winter navigation, and thus to commerce in Finland; as a consequence of the research work of the Institute of Marine Research and of Professor Palosuo, ships have been able to reach the northern-most Finnish harbours throughout the year since 1971.

We are also aware that, nowadays, as Professor Emeritus, he has participated in a very special research programme: How skis can be made to glide in the best possible way. This research has obviously been very successful. He is now also employed as expert who measures the strength of the ice on Lake Katumajärvi, the start for the 13 000 skiers in the 75 km long Finlandia ski race, the world's biggest ski race!

Professor Palosuo's scientific profile shows how close his mind is to everyday life, and is reflected in his personality; his warm-heartedness makes him a popular companion in both scientific and social gatherings and discussions, as we members of the Geophysical Society and all his friends have learnt.

We are all indebted to Professor Palosuo, and take this opportunity to extend both our thanks and congratulations to him.

Teuvo Parm