

E. E. SOEHNGEN—60 YEARS

ERICH E. SOEHNGEN, in celebrating his 60th birthday, can look back at many active years in heat transfer and especially in plasma heat transfer and plasma technology. He certainly exerted a strong influence on research in these areas, not so much by his publications as by his many lectures and discussions with research workers in America and in Europe.

E. Soehngen was born on 5 June, 1912 in Kiel, Germany. After finishing his engineering education at the Technical University, Munich, he worked for several years at research institutes in Berlin and Braunschweig on problems in heat transfer, combustion and high temperature gas turbines.

During the difficult years after the end of the last World War, he was managing engineer of a textile factory concerned with plant rebuilding and operation. In 1946 Soehngen came to the United States and joined the staff at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, working at first in the Power Plant Laboratory and from 1950 at the Office of Air Research. He is presently director of the Thermomechanics Research Laboratory of this Institute.

Mr. Soehngen has been an inspiring research leader in integrated inhouse and contract programs, initiating studies on interaction phenomena between electric arcs, gas flows, and magnetic fields as well as in plasma diagnostics, thermodynamic and transport processes, electrode phenomena, and more recently in the field of high pressure plasma generators. He also initiated a cooperative graduate thesis program with the Air Force Institute of Technology. During the past 11 years he was invited to present 86 lectures and seminars at universities, research establishments and international conferences in the U.S. as well as in almost all European countries.

We are sure that the large number of his associates, friends, and fellow scientists all over the world join us in wishing E. Soehngen and his family many more years in happiness and fruitful activities.

E. R. G. ECKERT
E. PFENDER