

Landau's Nobel Prize in Physics

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Work of Lev Landau had a profound impact on the physics in 20th century. Landau had created the paradigms that had framed the conversations on the outstanding problems in physics for decades. He had laid foundations for our understanding of quantum matter like superfluidity, superconductivity and the theory of Fermi liquid.

Lev Landau [1] was awarded the Nobel Prize in Physics in 1962 “for his pioneering theories for condensed matter, especially liquid helium” [2]. On January 7, 1962, during Russian Christmas season, Lev Landau had been injured in a car accident outside Moscow. Landau lived another six years; however, he could not again work at same level or activity as a physicist. The car accident was not mentioned in nominations nor in Nobel Committee deliberations and it is not clear how it affected the nominations and the Nobel Committee considerations. We do know that he could not get to Stockholm in December 1962. Because of illness the prize ceremony was held in Swedish Embassy in Moscow. No Nobel Lecture was given either. With the fiftieth anniversary of the Nobel Prize award passed, we have had access to the Nobel Archive and to the nomination records for Landau's Nobel Prize. Here we present some Nobel Archive data on the winning nomination that led to the Nobel Prize in Physics in 1962.

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1. *L. Landau bio: “Lev Landau–Biographical”*. Nobelprize.org. Nobel Media AB 2014. Web. 9 Jul 2015. http://www.nobelprize.org/nobel_prizes/physics/laureates/1962/landau-bio.html
2. *Landau citation: “The Nobel Prize in Physics 1962”*. Nobelprize.org. Nobel Media AB 2014. Web. 9 Jul 2015. http://www.nobelprize.org/nobel_prizes/physics/laureates/1962/ The Nobel Prize in Physics 1962 was

awarded to Lev Landau “for his pioneering theories for condensed matter, especially liquid helium”.

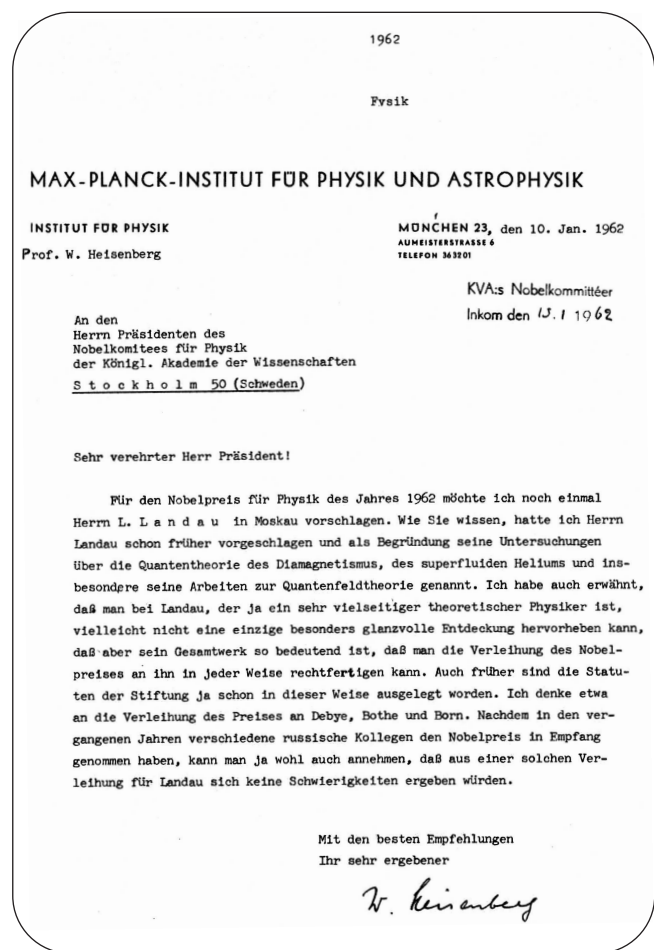


Fig. 1. Nomination letter by W. Heisenberg. Reproduced with permission from the Nobel Archive of the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences

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