

Petri worked as a scientist at the University of Bonn. Petri's work [1, 2] came to the attention of A. W. Holt, who later led the Information System Theory Project of Applied Data Research, Inc. in the United States. The early developments and applications of Petri nets (or their predecessor) are found in the reports [3-8] associated with this project, and in the Record [9] of the 1970 Project MAC Conference on Concurrent Systems and Parallel Computation. From 1970 to 1975, the Computation Structure Group at MIT was most active in conducting Petri-net related research, and produced many reports and theses on Petri nets. In July 1975, there was a conference on Petri Nets and Related Methods at MIT, but no conference proceedings were published. Most of the Petri-net related papers written in English before 1980 are listed in the annotated bibliography of Peterson's book [10], which is the first book on Petri nets. More recent papers up until 1984 and those works done in Germany and other European countries are annotated in the appendix of Reisig's book [11]. Three tutorial articles [12-14] provide a complementary, easy-to-read introduction to the early development of Petri nets.

Since the late-1970's, the Europeans have been very active in organizing workshops and publishing conference proceedings on Petri nets. In October 1979, about 135 researchers mostly from European countries assembled in Hamburg, Germany for a two-week advanced course on General Net Theory of Processes and Systems. The seventeen lectures given in this course were published in its proceedings [15], which is currently out of print. The second advanced course was held in Bad Honnef, Germany in September 1986. The proceedings [16, 17] of this course contain thirty-four articles including two recent articles by C. A. Petri, one [18] concerned with his axioms of concurrency theory and the other [19] with his suggestions for further research. The first European Workshop on Applications and Theory of Petri Nets was held in 1980 at Strassbourg, France. Since then, this series of workshops has been held every year at different locations in Europe: 1981, Bad Honnef, Germany; 1982, Varenna, Italy; 1983, Toulouse, France; 1984, Aarhus, Denmark; 1985, Espoo, Finland; 1986, Oxford, Great