
DR. CINNA LOMNITZ ARONSFRAU

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Cinna Lomnitz was born in Cologne, Germany on May 4, 1925. He studied Engineering at the Universidad de Chile and went to Harvard for his masters in Soil Mechanics. He then moved to California, to be a Ph.D. student of Hugo Benioff at the California Institute of Technology (Caltech). He graduated on 1955; his thesis title was "Creep measurements in igneous rocks with some applications to aftershock theory". Part of his thesis was the Lomnitz law and an analytic expression for the quality factor, Q , for linear viscoelastic polycrystal materials. After graduation, he decided to stay at Caltech for another couple of years as postdoctoral fellow of Charles Richter.

Lomnitz returned to Chile on 1957 as head of the Instituto de Geofísica of the Universidad de Chile. There he experienced the largest recorded earthquake in history, on 22 May 1960 (Mw9.5) that took place in Valdivia. Later, on 1964, he went back to California as the head of the University of Berkeley's seismological network. Over there, he got interested on statistics and seismic hazards.

Lomnitz came to Mexico in 1968 as senior researcher of the Instituto de Geofísica of the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (UNAM). On the 70's he proposed the development of digital telemetric seismic stations. This network was incorporated to the Servicio Sismológico Nacional (Mexico) in 1986. Allowing this institution to have, for the first time, real time data from around the country.

After the Michoacán (Mw8.1) 19 September 1985 earthquake, Lomnitz got interested in the seismic behavior of Mexico City. Therefore, in 1996 he installed a network on the old Texcoco Lake bed to observe closely the site effects. Together with Rhett Butler, he discovered, on 2000, a coupled wave that propagates at the bottom of the ocean and that was also observed in Mexico City.

Lomnitz was member of several scientific organizations, including the Unión Geofísica Mexicana. His lifetime work was recognized with the National Award on Sciences and Arts, and the National University Award. He became Emeritus Researcher of UNAM on 2002.

In 1990 he adopted the Mexican nationality. The same year, he became the Editor in Chief of *Geofísica Internacional*, the Unión Geofísica Mexicana journal, edited and published by the Instituto de Geofísica of UNAM. Since then and up to the day he passed away, he thoroughly review each manuscript received and dedicated time and energy to polish them in order to have a good set of papers published on every issue.

Mexico City, Mexico
