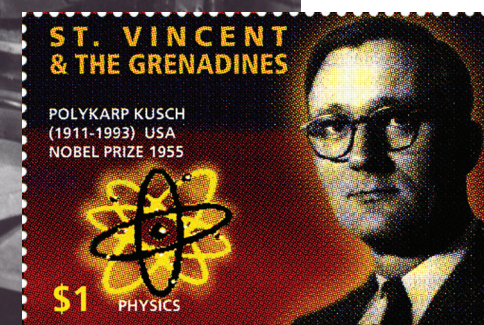


# Polykarp Kusch

Physicist, Nobel Laureate (1911 – 1993)



Polykarp Kusch was born in Blankenburg, Germany but moved to the United States in 1912, growing up in the midwest. He studied at the Case Institute of Technology and did his graduate studies at the University of Illinois, where he received his Ph.D. in 1936.

Kusch began teaching at Columbia University in 1937 and, except for World War II, stayed there until his retirement. It was at Columbia that he began working extensively with Professor ISIDOR I. RABI in research on atomic, molecular and nuclear properties and phenomena by the method of molecular beams. Kusch's research was greatly influenced by his long association with his friend Rabi, who also won a Nobel Prize.

Kusch received the Nobel Prize in Physics in 1955. As DOUGLAS DAMROSCH put it in his supporting letter, "He was a great teacher at Columbia, whether guiding graduate students or teaching his famous course Physics for Poets in which he managed to make science come alive for several generations of philosophers, artists and writers. Having taught this course successfully is probably the best possible preparation for dealing with the types who frequent the club rooms of the Century."

Professor Kusch married Edith Starr McRoberts, and they had three daughters. His wife died in 1959 and he was married to Betty Pezzoni in 1960. Polykarp Kusch died on March 20, 1993.