

Note added

The first proposal of hadron constituents with fractional charges was apparently — shortly before Gell-Mann and Zweig — made by André Petermann of CERN in 1963 (received by the journal Nucl. Phys. on Dec. 30, 1963), published in french language in Nucl. Phys. B63, 349 (1965). He described mesons as made of a spinor/anti-spinor pair and baryons as composed of at least three spinors, and he observes that 'if one wants to preserve charge conservation, which is highly desirable, the particles must have fractional charges. This fact is unpleasant, but cannot, after all, be excluded on physical grounds'.

(Original quote: '...si l'on veut préserver la conservation de la charge, ce qui est hautement souhaitable, les particules s doivent alors avoir des valeurs non entières de la charge. Ce fait est déplaisant mais ne peut, après tout, être exclu sur des bases physiques.')