In the decade of the 1940s physicists everywhere were educated in the principles of ferromagnetism (and learned German besides) from that excellent monograph Ferromagnetismus\(^1\) by R. Becker and W. Döring, published in 1939. It was a decade in which many physicists worked in ferromagnetism through the degaussing of ships in wartime; the development of permanent magnet materials; the introduction of the ferrites, magnetic resonance, and the gyrator; and the widespread development of magnetic recording media and processes, as well as the important geophysical discoveries that followed the discovery of the periodic reversal of the magnetic field of the earth.

Becker and Döring was an exciting and thorough book. There was a problem running through all of Ferromagnetismus, like the cliche of Hamlet without the Prince of Denmark; there was no domain theory, no theory of the origin, size, or shape of domains. Yet the basic problem of the origin of domains had been solved by L. Landau and E. Lifshitz\(^2\) in 1935 in a paper in English in the principal Soviet physics journal. Becker told me later that this journal was not available in the

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