

IN MEMORIAM Jan Stankowski

It is with great regret that we record the death of Professor Jan Stankowski the former Vice President of the Groupement AMPERE. He was one of the most eminent Polish physicist and his scientific contributions helped to advance such fields as magnetic resonances, high temperature superconductors, ferroelectricity, proton glasses and fullerenes. He was an excellent experimenter and designer of scientific equipments. The first Polish MASER and the first Polish EPR spectrometers were constructed in his laboratory. Jan Stankowski was born in Poznań on January 1th 1934. After the end of World War II he completed his school education in Wschowa and 1952 returned to Poznań to study physics at that University. There working on ferroelectrics at the supervision of Professor Arkadiusz Piekara he obtained in 1952 M.Sc. degree in physics and in 1960 completed his Ph.D thesis. Then having a joint appointment at the Institute of Physics of Polish Academy of Sciences and at the Institute of Physics of Poznań University, he headed the Electron Paramagnetic Resonance Laboratory. In 1968 he obtained D.Sc. degree from Institute of Physics of Polish Academy of Sciences in Warsaw. In 1974 he was nominated by the Council of Polish State Professor of Physics. He was one of the founders of the Institute of Molecular Physics of Polish Academy of Sciences in Poznań and contributed immensely to its development heading the Institute in 1975-1985. Professor Stankowski had a broad grasp of physics with deep insight. But in addition to his genius as scientist he also possessed warm humanity. He was a very pleasant and friendly man who enjoyed warm relationship with his collaborators, and it was a pleasure to work with him. He was always ready to welcome young people to his laboratory and to help them to make their first steps in science. Over the years he supervised 28 Ph.D. and more then 30 M.Sc. thesis. Everyone who had the privilege of working with him was struck by his knowledge, intellectual energy and enthusiasm. He was indefatigable in popularizing physics, especially among young school students, organizing each year, starting from 1986, Summer with Helium Camp. He also initiated and organized the biannual International Conferences on Radio-and Microwave Spectroscopy "RAMIS" which started in 1964 and have been attended by very many NMR and EPR world community members. As a much in demand speaker at international conferences he always took the opportunity to spread the knowledge about Polish scientific contributions and to build up relationship between Polish physicist and scientist from all over the world. He was elected the Corresponding Member of the Polish Academy of Sciences in 1979 and the Full Member in 1988. He was also the Member of the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts. He was the editor for several well respected journals and had a membership of many domestic and international societies. In 2000 he was elected a fellow of the Institute of Physics, London. In recognition of his scientific accomplishments Professor Stankowski was awarded many honours and prizes, among them the Gold Cross of Merit and the Polonia Restituta Order. He considered himself particularly fortunate to have begun his research career in physics. In the autobiography, which gives the account of his accomplishments he wrote: *Physics let me to lead a happy life, for I may do what I love*. Professor Jan Stankowski died in Poznań on September 4th, 2009 after a short period of illness from cancer. By his death the Groupement AMPERE lost a great scientist, a wonderful friend and colleague, who served our Society very actively for number of years.



Stefan Jurga