



## OBITUARY

### Jan Stankowski



Professor Jan Stankowski, a Research Staff Member at the Institute of Molecular Physics of the Polish Academy of Sciences in Poznań, Poland, the organizer and the first Director of the Institute, a physicist with an international reputation, with a doctorate in physics from Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań and a member of the Polish Academy of Sciences and the Slovenian Academy of Sciences, passed away on 4 September 2009.

As a molecular and condensed matter physicist, Professor Stankowski has been involved in many fields. Among them were ferroelectrics, high-temperature superconductors, fullerenes, and proton glasses. In his scientific career he was working with masers, quantum electronics, microwave absorptions in multi-layers and phase transitions in condensed matter. As an experimentalist he was a high-class specialist in radio-spectroscopy: EPR,

NMR, and NQR. His scientific achievements have been described in 350 original papers and 10 books.

His experience and broad knowledge have been recognized by the Polish and International Scientific Society, who asked him to be a member of the editorial boards of journals such as *Acta Physica Polonica* (Poland), *Ferroelectrics* (USA), *Physica B* (Holland), *Applied Magnetic Resonance* (Russia–Germany), *Superconductivity Review* (USA), and *Bulletin of Magnetic Resonance* (USA). He will also be remembered as one of the main organizers of the 6th European Meeting on Ferroelectricity in 1987 in Poznań.

Many young physicists could benefit from his talents as both teacher and scientist. During his scientific carrier, Professor Stankowski has promoted 28 doctors. Moreover, he was intensively involved in convincing young people of the beauty and richness of low-temperature physics by organizing every year, for over half a century, the meeting “Summer with helium”. As a person in a position of trust, he worked tens of years as a member of the Commission for Scientific Degrees and Titles in Poland, and recently as a head of the Section of Mathematical, Physical, Chemical, and Earth Sciences.

All Professor Stankowski’s activities made him well known as a splendid scientist, organizer of scientific events and above all the man who excited pupils’ and co-workers’ curiosity in life, world, and first of all physics. His human interactions, wit, and esprit make him a very missed colleague, friend, teacher, and master.

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