

## Professor Jerzy A. Janik (1927–2012)



Domestic Conferences on Neutron Scattering and Complementary Methods in Studies of Condensed Phases are organized since 1993 by former students of Professor Jerzy Janik: professors Janusz Chruściel and his wife Mirosława Ossowska-Chruściel, together with professor Andrzej Szytuła. This year the Conference was organized for the first time without Jerzy Janik. The schedule of the conference was as always tight but two extra sections were devoted to commemorate Professor Jerzy A. Janik, his achievements in condensed matter physics and his influence on scientific life of the participants. We remember Jerzy Janik as a man of deep nobility, whose friendship enriched us in many aspects. He was teacher and tutor of several generations of Polish physicists and chemists, excellent lecturer and a talented organizer of scientific life, active on this field till last days as the Emeritus Professor of the Institute of Nuclear Physics PAS. He was a scientist of large format, belonging to the team of outstanding researchers, who created the foundations for development of condensed matter physics, especially in Kraków, in the period just after the II World War. He was the pioneer of neutron scattering investigations of dynamics in molecules and then of application of complementary experimental methods to studies of other features of molecular crystals and liquid crystals. In this field, he promoted 32 Ph.D. students, a number of them later became professors.

Jerzy Janik started his academic carrier at 1946 as the younger assistant in the Physics Chair of the Jagiellonian University, where He graduated with Master of Physics in 1948 and obtained the Ph.D. in 1950. Since 1955 Dr. Jerzy Janik was the Head of Department of Structural Research there (till 1972), as well as the Head of Department of the same name in the Institute of Nuclear Physics (till 1998). Very quickly he became the extraordinary (1960) and next the ordinary professor of physics (1972) and built a cooperative network with several scientific centers abroad such as Joint Institute of Nuclear Research, Dubna, Institute for Energy and Technology, Kjeller and Julich Center for Neutron Science. He was honored by membership of Polish Academy of Sciences (since 1983), Norwegian Academy of Science and Literature (since 1983) and Polish Academy of Arts and Science (since 1989). In 2002 Professor Jerzy Janik became Doctor Honoris Causa of the Adam Mickiewicz University in appreciation for His essential merits to community of Poznań physicists. He was a respected member of the Scientific Council in Joint Institute of Nuclear Research (Dubna) and the Institute of Molecular Physics, PAS. Parallel to physics Professor Janik was devoted to philosophy from the very beginning — he was Chairman of the Commission of Philosophy of Natural Sciences at the Polish Academy of Arts and Science.

Professor Jerzy Janik was the founder and chairman of the number of long lasting cycles of seminars:

- 1) Weekly Seminar of Department of Structural Research, open for guests and Ph.D. students since 1960.
- 2) Janik's Friends Meeting.
- 3) Seminar "Science, Religion, History" in Castel Gandolfo.
- 4) Seminars for Ph.D. students organized at Prehyba and Krawców Wierch.
- 5) Seminar for students and young scientists in scope of Polish Chemical Society on Freta street at Warsaw.

Scientific meetings, with their lively discussions conducted in masterful way by Professor, integrated friends for whom investigations of material properties was a passion. These experiences remain forever in our life and affect its shape in many aspects. It was important that we felt a part of interesting community which supported the growth of each of us.

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