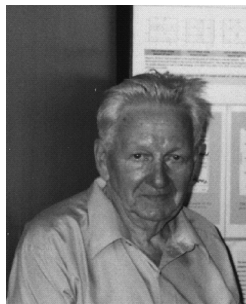


Doc. Dr Kazimierz Mikke (1923–2011)



One of the pioneers of neutron scattering in Poland, Doc. Dr Kazimierz Mikke was born on 14.02.1923 in Kościuszków, Wołyń, and died on 11.06.2011 in Warsaw.

He graduated with the M.Sc. at Warsaw University of Technology in 1948. Then he started his scientific career there under the supervision of professor J. Groszkowski (till 1957). He was also appointed at the Military Technical Academy, Warsaw (1951–1958). In 1957 he started for the newly opened Institute of Nuclear Research (later: Institute of Atomic Energy) at Świerk. At the beginning of the Institute he became interested in physics of nuclear fission. Then he focused his scientific fascination on neutron scattering. His Ph.D. has been awarded at Jagiellonian University in 1961 for the studies of slow neutron scattering by light and heavy water.

He visited and collaborated with many leading world reactor centers like: Atomic Energy Establishment Trombay in India (1960–1961), Danish Atomic Energy Commission Research Establishment Risø, Denmark (1964–1967), Netherlands Energy Research Foundation, ECN Petten, The Netherlands (1977), Institute Laue–Langevin, Grenoble, France, Atomic Energy Commission Laboratory, Chalk River, Canada (1990–1991). When coming back he was always full of new ideas of physics and on neutron scattering technique ... also of the new anecdotes concerning physical society. (Who does not remember the story about a snake in neutron channel at some Indian reactor?) He also had a long-term collaboration with the Bardin Central Institute of Iron and Steel “Czermet” Moscow, Russia. He participated in about 10 experiments at LLB Saclay (France).

Dr. Mikke published results of his research, devoted mainly to magnetism of metals and alloys, in about 100 scientific papers and at numerous scientific conferences. As many years of his scientific activity were devoted to investigation of the properties of chromium and its alloys, he was known at international physical conferences as a man of chromium. His early activity concerned dynamics of the molecular crystals. He was also fascinated with spin waves and paramagnons in ferromagnetic metallic alloys. Starting collaboration with “Czermet” his main interest became magnetic phase transitions and magnetic excitations in manganese alloys.

He organized and directed for many years the Laboratory of Neutron Investigation of Magnetism in INR Świerk. He supervised several M.Sc. and Ph.D. works. Dr. Mikke was also involved in projects and construction of polish neutron spectrometers produced for polish reactors EWA and MARIA as well as for Austria, Pakistan, Egypt, Czechoslovakia, and Germany.

We shall remember him as a brave man and a gifted scientist, a man of optimism and of high conversation standards. He was a man of principle, who at the period of the political oppression used to hold his opinions and did not hide them. He has not sought the acceptance for any price.

Joanna Jankowska-Kisielińska
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