

Z. JASIEŃSKI*

WSPOMNIENIE O PROFESORZE KUŚNIERZU

PROFESSOR JAN KUŚNIERZ (1938–2007)



IN MEMORIAM

Professor

JAN KUŚNIERZ
1938–2007

Work was his hobby

A year has passed by since the death took away prof. Jan Kuśnierz, our much regretted friend, colleague and co-worker. His laborious life was interrupted in full swing of his creative forces; a number of his works, projects and plans uncompleted. He passed away unexpectedly on December 17th, 2007 at the age of 69, unaware of the lethal danger residing in his body. The death came during a common working afternoon, which he used to spend at the Institute for years. Devoted to science he used to work long hours and he never left the institute before 7 p.m.

He was born in Trzciana near Bochnia. He graduated from the Mathematical-Physical-Chemical Department of the Jagiellonian University. As a bachelor of science, he gained industrial practice in years 1961–1966, and next he began working in the Central Laboratory of T. Sendzimir's Steel Plant supervising, as a technical inspector, the use of radioactive isotopes in the quality control of fabricated steel products.

According to his talents and dreams the opportunity to take up scientific work occurred when he began to work in the Institute of Metallurgy PAS, at present IMMS PAN, Kraków. He had worked in the Institute for 41 years, since July 1st 1966 obtaining scientific degrees starting from the doctor degree in 1976 through the habilitation in 1993 and professor degree in 2004 granted by the President of Poland. He subsequently held the position of assistant, doctor, assistant professor and professor.

His interests and scientific activity were always tightly connected with the subject area of the Plastic Deformation Laboratory, where together with a group of colleagues under the supervision of prof. Zdzisław Jasieński studied the effects of plastic deformation of mono- and polycrystalline materials. According to his earlier industrial practice and the scientific interest in plastic deformation, he was granted in 1971/72 a UNESCO scholarship in order to specialize in metallurgy in the School of Special Metallurgy at the Institut National des Sciences et Techniques Nuclaires, Commissariat Energie Atomique, Saclay in cooperation with Université de Paris-Sud, Orsay, represented by Laboratoire de Métallurgie Structurale, whose leader professor Paul Lacombe cooperated with IPM PAN, Krakow.

* INSTYTUTE OF METALLURGY AND MATERIALS SCIENCE, POLISH ACADEMY OF SCIENCES, 30-059 KRAKÓW, 25 REYMONTA ST., POLAND

He graduated from the School in 1972 and was awarded diploma “Doctorat d’Université”, with specialization in three dimensional distribution functions of crystallographic orientations.

The mainstream of interest of prof. Jan Kuśnierz particularly in the first period of his scientific activity focused on crystallographic texture connected with plastic anisotropy of metals as well as press formability of sheets. He defended his doctorate thesis on this subject, promoted by prof. Wojciech Truszkowski. That subject area became a basis of his wide scientific cooperation with universities in Mexico: Universidad Autonoma Metropolitana, Azcapotzalco (1978–1990) and Universidad Nacional Autonoma de Mexico (1990–1995); as well as in France: Université de Paris-Sud, Laboratoire de Metallurgie Structurale, Orsay near Paris (1979–2007), Institut National Polytechnique de Grenoble, Génie Physique et Mécanique de Matériaux (1997–2000). Following the directions of research developed in the home institute prof. Jan Kuśnierz extended his interests and cooperation with foreign centres over the problems of widely comprehended inhomogeneity and localization of deformation and cracking of metals and alloys. Based on those problems he prepared a dissertation entitled “Localization of deformation and cracking in anisotropic sheets of metals with face centered cubic structure” and was granted an assistant professor degree in 1993. Later interests in deformation strengthening and softening, which accompany the change of the deformation paths resulted in the promotion of dr Mariusz Kurowski.

For the last decade he devoted his attention to the subject of production of nanocrystalline materials using the technique of structure refinement through intensive plastic deformation. Those modern ideas were the subject of another doctorate (Joanna Bogucka), of which he was a promotor.

High scientific activity of prof. Jan Kuśnierz in Poland and abroad effected in numerous short – and long -term scientific visits in France, Germany, Canada and England as well as lectures delivered at foreign universities and academies (especially in Mexico). He presented results of his studies on many international and national conferences and congresses, he was the author of over 80 articles in distinguished journals, and published 3 monographs, patented a few technologies. He took part in 5th UE Frame Programme on neutron measurements in nanomaterials together with Laboratoire Leon Brillouin, Saclay. He also took part as a head of a package of tasks within the NAMAM project in Centre of Excellence established by UE in IMMS PAN.

As a head contractor carried out 6 research programmes of Committee for Scientific Research. Since 1979 he co-organised nine Polish-French colloquiums on inhomogeneity of plastic deformation, which were held alternatively every 3 years in Poland or France together with University of Paris-Sud, Orsay (prof. Paul Lacombe and prof. Richard Penelle). Due to the rich scientific output and extraordinary knowledge and diligence Prof. Jan Kuśnierz gained an unquestionable authority in national and international scientific community, confirmed by the appointment to the post of secretary of the Kraków Department of Polish Society of Materials for two cadencies.

The achievements of prof. Jan Kuśnierz were awarded collective prizes of Scientific Secretary of PAS in 1972, 1975, 1979 and Institute of Nonferrous Metals, Gliwice in 1979. In 2004 he was honoured with Knight’s Cross Polonia Restituta for the all the scientific activity by the President of Poland.

His colleagues, friends and students with whom he shared his extensive knowledge and experience of a talented experimentator and also these with whom he cooperated in Poland and abroad painfully regret his leaving. We shall be missing him in our scientific life for a long time.

oprac. Zdzisław Jasiński

tłum. Maria Podosek