



Recollection of Prof. J. Adamczyk

On 3rd January 2007 Prof. DSc PhD Eng. Jan Adamczyk, Honorary Professor of the Silesian University of Technology has passed away.

He left suddenly, in his sleep, in the prime of his creativity, having many plans and projects to carry out in future. He held a full-time position of the full professor at the Institute of Engineering Materials and Biomaterials of the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering of the Silesian University of Technology in Gliwice. The Extraordinary Man has left us, with a Heart of Gold, Well-Wishing and the Man of Integrity, the unmatched Example of a Scholar, Prominent and talented Scientist, Academic Teacher of Merit, Master and Tutor of many generations of students, PhD students, persons working on their habilitation theses, and professors, one of the Greatest Polish Physical Metallurgists, famed worldwide Leader of the Silesian School Physical Metallurgy, continuing for 35 years the work of its creator and his Master – Professor Fryderyk Staub, Doctor Honoris Causa of the Silesian University of Technology, under whose guidance he used to make his first steps in Science. He was the outstanding scientific Authority, extremely laborious, principled, inquisitive, who got fond and completely engrossed in Science, with his unequalled knowledge and kept continuously searching for the truth. He was a great Friend of students and scientific staff, being at the same time the Man who was unobtrusive and receptive to people's problems.



He was born on 20th December 1935 in Zarzecze near Żywiec. In 1964 he completed and defended his PhD thesis referring to precipitation processes and spinoidal transformation in the Cr-Ni-Mo-Ti austenitic-ferritic duplex type corrosion resistant steel. He defended his habilitation thesis in 1968 as the youngest one in the history of the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering, being 33 years old at that time, his work pertained to precipitation processes and their effect on the Cr-Ni-W-Ti austenitic creep-resisting steel properties. He was awarded the scientific title of the professor in 1975, and in 1991 he was promoted by the Minister to the position of the full professor, and being 70 years old he was awarded the title of the Honorary Professor of the Silesian University of Technology. He used to perform responsible duties at the Silesian University of Technology, including the one of the Director of the Institute of Physical Metallurgy in years 1992-1997, Deputy Director of the Institute of Engineering Materials and Biomaterials in years 1997-2006, Deputy Director of the Institute of Physical Metallurgy in years 1975-1992, Vice-Dean of the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering for 2 years, Group Head in years 1972-1975, and Head of the Division in years 1975-2006, and within that period - for the last 9 years – of the Division of Engineering of Constructional and Special Materials.

He participated vigorously in the scientific life and activities of many organisations and scientific institutions. From 1970 to 1985 he was the President of the National Committee of Experts for Steel Products, for 5 years he was the Vice-President of the Editorial Board of the Scientific Periodical of the Polish Academy of Sciences "Archiwum Nauki o Materiałach", and for 5 next years he was the Editor of the "Mechanics" Section of the Scientific Publishing House of the Silesian University of Technology.

In the last years he was a member of the Editorial Board of the "Journal of Achievements in Materials and Manufacturing Engineering" published in English and distributed worldwide. He was elected a member of the

World Academy of Materials and Manufacturing Engineering, since 1992 he was the foreign member of the Ukrainian Academy of Engineering Sciences, for 8 years he was the member of the Committee of Materials Science of the Polish Academy of Sciences, and was elected many times during the last 35 years to many Scientific Sections of the Committees of Steel Industry, Materials Science, Machine Design, and Metallurgy of the Polish Academy of Sciences; he was also for more than a dozen years the member of, successively, Committee of Steel Industry and Materials Science, and Materials Engineering of the Branch of the Polish Academies of Sciences in Katowice. He was a founder member of several scientific societies, in which – for many terms – he was elected by the Scientific Circle to serve many responsible functions, both in their Boards and Auditing Committees, of the Polish Physical Metallurgy Society, Polish Materials Science Society, as well as of the Association of Computational Materials Science and Surface Engineering. He was invited several dozen times into the Organisation and Programme Committees of the Domestic and International Scientific Conferences, also those organised in series, and abroad, among others on Electron Microscopy of Solids, and Physical Metallurgy on "Advances in Materials and Technologies", "Advances in Materials and Processing Technologies", "Achievements of Mechanical and Materials Engineering", "Contemporary Achievements in Mechanics, Manufacturing and Materials Science", "Achievements in Materials, Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering", "High-speed Steels" and others. He also conducted for many years monothematic seminars, and for the last several years, regularly, scientific seminars for PhD students.

He accumulated the huge and outstanding scientific output saved in about 250 papers in the scientific journals, many of them circulating worldwide, and in proceedings of many reckoned domestic and international Scientific Conferences, and also in about 30 patents and utility models, having been – in most cases – implemented in the industrial practice. He was the prominent Specialist in the area of materials investigation, belonging to the elite circle of Precursors and Fathers of the Electron Microscopy in Poland. For many years he was the chief operator of the first transmission electron microscope in Poland. His very high scientific position, which he had attained, was also confirmed by the fact that many Boards of Faculties appointed him about 60 times to be the reviewer in doctoral and habilitation dissertations, for reviewing motions for awarding the scientific title of professor and for appointing to professor position. He used to be the most productive creators and authors of scientific books from the area of physical metallurgy and materials engineering, reprinted many times. The following works have undoubtedly become the classic ones: his three-volume "Theoretical Physical Metallurgy", "Engineering of Steel Products", and the two-volume "Engineering of Metal Products". He was also the co-author of the "Physical Metallurgy" reprinted many times, and also of the "Atlas of Steel Microstructures - Electron Microscope" and "Laboratory Experiments from the area of Physical Metallurgy and Heat Treatment" worked out yet with Professor Fryderyk Staub and Rother Colleagues, and also of "Metal Materials for Nuclear Power Industry". Manuals and monographs he authored had always found a big circle of readers from among undergraduate students, PhD students, and experienced scientists engaged in materials engineering. He belonged to the untiring propagators of Science and its achievements, and therefore, he undertook many initiatives for organising the scientific conferences.

He was, undisputably, the Master belonging to the elite circle of those People, who meritoriously created the Science and The Silesian University of Technology. He was the Creator of the known Scientific School of Metal Materials Engineering, continuing accomplishments of His Professor. I have the great privilege and honour to belong to the circle of 16 doctors of engineering whom he had promoted, which I have always proudly stressed. Three of them are professors today. He brought up also very many engineers and masters of engineering. It is this group of alumni that decides the most valuable element of His life achievements.

He was bestowed with many individual and team awards for his outstanding scientific achievements, organisational, and didactic ones and was decorated with the Knight's and Commander's Crosses of the Order of Polonia Restituta, Cross of Merit, Medal of the Commission of National Education, and many other honours.

It is hard to realise that all that I have presented features the closed chapter; that he will never deal with any new problem; that he will never work out a new scientific book. Regrettably, all that - unexpectedly and inconceivably - has become the history.

The Academic Community of the Silesian University of Technology and Polish Science bade good bye to one of its Most Prominent Professors. A tribute to His memory paid, accompanying him in his Last Way, crowding Friends and delegations of various scientific circles, and also his Alumni and Students, Neighbours, and his Family in despair.

*Farewell our Unforgettable Friend!
Farewell our Great Master and Teacher!
Peace to Your Memory!
May You Rest in Peace!*

Prof. Leszek A. Dobrzański Dr hc