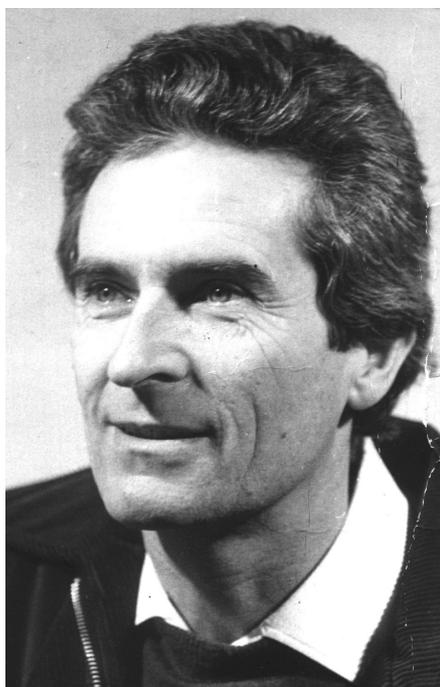


*On the occasion of the 80th birthday
of Professor Andrzej Pomianowski*



*Professor Andrzej Pomianowski will celebrate his 80th birthday in November 2002. This issue of the **Physicochemical Problems of Mineral Processing** annual is dedicated to honor his great achievements and contribution to the development of understanding the chemistry of flotation as well as to present his personality and accomplishments to younger colleagues. Professor Andrzej Pomianowski is an extraordinary man and his life has been also unusual. He had been a university student before he graduated from a high school. He had been a lecturer at the Jagiellonian University while he was still a student of this university. He had become a respected scientist before he got his Ph.D. degree. This was partially due to*

turbulent period of the Second World War. In 1939 he had passed the so-called "minor" examination for the secondary school certificate, and continued his education in schools that under German occupation were forced to be only professional schools. However, the education level in these schools and the qualification of their staff were often equivalent to those at renowned universities. No wonder that in 1945, shortly after the war and reopening of the Jagiellonian University he continued his study and soon graduated as a Master of Science in chemistry. As a student Professor Pomianowski was employed by the Department of Physical Chemistry of the Jagiellonian University. He taught physical chemistry since 1952, well before awarding him Ph.D. degree. The doctor degree was conferred on him in 1958 for the thesis on "Electrometric observations of galena flotation". Besides scientific tasks and teaching performed at the Jagiellonian University under the supervision of a famous Polish physicochemist professor Bogdan Kamiński, he conducted research on the determination of the content of certain biologically active substances in plants. He was a director of the laboratory of the Plant Selection Station at Narodowa Górka, and later a part-time expert at the Institute of Forensic Research (IES). Professor Pomianowski was engaged in cooperation with the IES for many years being there a scientific consultant and a member of the Scientific Council of the Institute. Besides his work at the university, he cooperated with the Polish Federation of Engineering Associations (NOT) as well as delivered numerous lectures at meetings and seminars of the Polish Chemical Society (PTCh) and courses organized by and for industry.

Since 1954 Professor Andrzej Pomianowski had been part-time employed by the Institute of Physical Chemistry in Warsaw. In 1961 he moved from the Jagiellonian University to the Research Laboratories presently Institute of Catalysis and Surface Chemistry of the Polish Academy of Sciences in Kraków, where he has been employed until today as a full-time professor. Since then, Professor Andrzej Pomianowski has become an important pillar of the Institute in which he obtained his doctor of science degree (D.Sc. also called habilitation), and was promoted to an associate professor and finally to a full professor position. For years Professor Andrzej Pomianowski was the vice-director for scientific affairs taking active part in creation of scientific policy of the Institute. Currently, he is a member of the Scientific Council of the Institute. For years Professor Pomianowski has been a consultant to many scientific institutions, for instance to the Institute of Metal Cutting and the Institute of Nonferrous Metals. He had been an active member of the Commission on Physical Chemistry of Surfaces of the Polish Academy of Sciences as well as the Section of the Utilization of Raw Materials of the Committee of Mining of the Polish Academy of Sciences. He had been also a member of two different sections of the Committee on Chemical Sciences of the Polish Academy of Sciences (PAN). During various stages of his fruitful life he had been a member of scientific councils of eight different scientific institutions and universities as well as participated in Polish Central Scientific Programs (CPB). His another important activity had been to chair the Editorial

*Board of the Physicochemical Problems of Mineral Processing Conferences and the Annual **Physicochemical Problems of Mineral Processing**. Presently, he is the honorary chairman of the Editorial Board. Professor Pomianowski has been working and cooperating with the best scientific institutions in the world. He has spent several years at such universities as Cambridge, Edmonton and Vancouver. He had supervised several Ph.D. students and several his co-workers obtained D.Sc. degrees. His recommendations and opinions about Ph.D., D.Sc. candidates for full professor positions are numerous.*

The scientific activity of Professor Andrzej Pomianowski is focused on the chemistry of surfaces, especially all issues dealing with physical chemistry of mineral surfaces and flotation systems. He has been always very reliable person of a critical attitude towards the results obtained and high standards and requirements. He loves to initiate long and stormy scientific discussions, which most of us consider as an excellent lessons on skillful presentation and discussing scientific hypotheses. He has published about 150 scientific works, while the number of presentations and lectures can be counted in hundreds. Some of his scientific works have been presented at more than 30 international conferences and symposia. The fruitful scientific life of Professor, to a great extent, is due to his happy family life. He and his wife Wanda, who passed away, were parents of three daughters.

Ending this note, to avoid leaving the reader with an impression about Professor Pomianowski as a some kind of a “bronze figure”, we would like to present some anecdotal facts showing Professor as a colleague and man. He is a very cheerful person, eager to discuss every subject and enjoying jokes, helpful to people in need of an advice. In the scientific community his style of car driving is well known. One of his colleagues says: Professor Andrzej Pomianowski drives his car applying the “zero-and-one system” that is “no-or-full-gas.” He does not recognize any intermediate stages. The most unusual and almost unbelievable event in his driver’s carrier was the collision with a tractor. During the accident his small car, Fiat 126p, cut into halves a big tractor, but Professor escaped from the accident with small bruises only.

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