

IN MEMORIAM

Erwin Rudy (1933–2000)



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After a short but heavy illness Prof. Dr. Erwin Rudy passed away on August 10, 2000. Born on August 4, 1933, in Vienna, Austria, Erwin Rudy studied physics and chemical engineering at the Technical University of Vienna. He continued graduate work in physical chemistry and metallurgy. After his graduation in 1960 with a Dr. Sc. degree, he was appointed head of the Theoretical Department at Metallwerk Plansee in Tirol, Austria. In 1961 Erwin Rudy received an offer from Aerojet General Corporation in Sacramento, California, to establish and head a new materials laboratory. His family moved to Sacramento early in 1963, and over the next five years he worked on novel high-temperature materials technology for the aerospace industry. An invitation to join the faculty of a newly formed graduate school in physical sciences, the Oregon Graduate Institute (OGI) in Beaverton, Oregon, came in 1968. There he served as department head of the Materials Science Department for 10 years.

In 1976, Erwin Rudy founded Sintex Pacific Hard Metals Corporation, a small cemented carbide manufacturer located in Forest Grove, Oregon. He continued to teach at OGI until 1983, after which his involvement as president of Sintex demanded his undivided attention. In addition to numerous publications in metallurgy and thermodynamics of refractory materials, he developed about 20 patents, 5 of which involve the use of novel alloys for cutting tools, including base alloys currently in large-scale production throughout the world. His theoretical research and development work has had a profound and lasting impact on the carbide industry.

The world has lost a brilliant engineer and scientist.

Peter Rogl