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The 70th birthday of Zbigniew Galus

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This special issue is dedicated to Zbigniew Galus, a well-known electrochemist and one of the most distinguished Polish, and indeed European, chemists, on the occasion of his 70th birthday.

Zbigniew Galus was born in 1934. He received his MSc degree from the Chemistry Department of the University of Lodz and his PhD degree from the Department of Chemistry of Warsaw University in 1960. His doctoral thesis was supervised by the eminent analytical chemist, Wiktor Kemula. He also collaborated with Zenon Kublik. During that period of time, very pioneering studies on intermetallic compounds in mercury and stripping voltammetry were accomplished.

After graduation, Zbigniew Galus left Warsaw University for a 2-year postdoctoral study at the University of Kansas, USA. His research interests centered on the

elucidation of the complex mechanisms of electro-oxidation of organic compounds using, probably for the first time, a rotating ring-disk electrode, electron spin resonance and radiochemical methods. Those investigations were done in collaboration with Professor R.N. Adams and Professor S. Rowland (Nobel Prize 1997). Back in Warsaw, Zbigniew Galus concentrated his scientific activities on the electrochemistry of transition metal complexes, and especially on the mechanisms of electrode reactions involving nickel complexes. The obtained results were described in his habilitation dissertation defended in 1966.

Galus' professional appointments at Warsaw University, where he has been working for almost 50 years, include the positions of docent (1967), extraordinary professor (1973) and ordinary professor (from 1981 to the present). He has also served for many years as Head of the Inorganic Chemistry and Analytical Chemistry Division of the Department of Chemistry. In 1970, he created, and has been Head of since then, the Laboratory of Electroanalytical Chemistry. Zbigniew Galus conferred PhD degrees on 23 graduate students and six of his associates obtained the degree of habilitated doctor and became professors in Poland and abroad. His students agree that Professor Galus expected them to perform research of the highest quality, and that he applied the same exacting standards to himself.

Galus' scientific interests have included the formation of intermetallic compounds in mercury, electrochemical kinetics, adsorption processes at interfaces, inhibition of electrode processes, development of modern electroanalytical techniques, electrochemical reactions at high pressures, temperatures and concentrations, solid electrodes and electrolytes, ultramicroelectrodes and chemically modified electrodes. His scientific achievements have received international recognition. He is an author of more than 200 original scientific papers, about ten chapters and review articles, two monographs, "Metals in Mercury" (Pergamon 1986) and "Intermetallic Compounds in Mercury" (Pergamon 1992), as well as the author of a world-famous textbook "Fundamentals

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of Electroanalytical Chemistry". This book has two Polish editions (1971 and 1977), two English editions (1976 and 1994), one Russian (1974), and one Chinese edition (1985). He has been appointed to the editorial boards of the Journal of Electroanalytical Chemistry and the Russian Journal of Electrochemistry. Zbigniew Galus is one of the most frequently cited Polish chemists. As a result of his scientific achievements, Professor Galus has been elected a member of the Polish Academy of Sciences and has received several prestigious prizes and awards.

Zbigniew Galus has also made a tremendous contribution to Polish chemistry through his service in the Polish Chemical Society for many years. He was Chairman of the Electrochemical Section (8 years), as well as Vice-President (1986–1991) and President of the Society (1992–94). He was also elected a member of the

national Central Committee for Scientific Degrees for two terms and a member of the State Committee for Scientific Research (KBN) for three terms. On the publishing side, Zbigniew Galus has been a member of the editorial board of the Polish Journal of Chemistry since 1980, and became its co-editor in 1994.

Finally, we want to emphasize the significant achievements of Zbigniew Galus in promoting and supporting, by all means possible, electrochemistry and particularly electroanalytical chemistry in Poland. To this end, he has always been willing and ready to help and to advise electrochemists throughout the country. What is perhaps even more important, he has carefully educated and inspired a new generation of scientists to pursue academic and research careers in Poland and worldwide.

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