

Hartmut Schneider: An appreciation



Professor Dr. Hartmut Schneider

A Festschrift in honor of Professor Dr. Hartmut Schneider was held at the University of Vienna, Vienna, Austria in June 2006. The occasion marked his formal retirement from Deutsches Zentrum für Luft- und Raumfahrt (DLR) in Cologne, Germany. Many of his colleagues from all over the world came together for 3 days to pay tributes to him and to discuss various aspects of work in the area of mullite, an area to which Hartmut has devoted most of his professional career.

Hartmut has been one of the most prolific and untiring researchers in the area of mullite. There is hardly an area related to mullite that has not been touched by him. Most people will agree that when we think of mullite, the name and figure of Hartmut Schneider comes to mind, and vice versa! His contributions have inspired many researchers and will continue to do so in the future.

A word about Professor Dr. Schneider's accomplishments in academic and research area is in order here. He obtained his B.S., M.S., and Ph.D. degrees in Mineralogy, all from University of Tübingen, Germany. Following that, he worked as a post-doctoral researcher at the same university. After his post-doctoral work, he occupied the following positions:

- Assistant professor, University of Karlsruhe (Germany);
- Section head, German Industrial Institute for Ceramics and Refractories (Bonn, Germany);

- Head of the “Structural and Functional Ceramics” group at the German Aerospace Center (DLR), Institute of Materials Research, Köln (Germany);
- Professor of applied mineralogy, University of Hannover (Germany).
- Guest Editor of Institute of Crystallography at the University of Koeln (Germany).

This Festschrift only marked his formal retirement from DLR. Salient points of his career *so far* include:

- Processing and application of mullite-based refractories.
- Processing, characterization and application of mullite-based fiber-reinforced composites.
- Correlation between the crystal structure (average and real structure, structural changes caused by change of the alumina content and by foreign atom doping) and properties of mullite and mullite ceramics (elasticity, thermal expansion, thermal conductivity, heat capacity, diffusion, crystal growth and dissolution).
- Renowned for his research work in crystal chemistry, ceramics, and composites.
- Important contributions on a variety of topics, from high pressure mineralogy to refractories to engineered ceramic materials.
- Over 200 scientific and technical papers.
- Awards include: Japanese Government Research Award, Lilienthal Award, and Fellowship of the American Ceramic Society.

We have many reasons to say “thank you” to Hartmut: his immense contributions and the sheer effort he put into everything he has done. We would have had a much harder job to do without his contributions.

We are very grateful to the staff at the University of Vienna for hosting the Festschrift and for providing excellent facilities for holding the conference. In particular we wish to thank the following persons for their gracious help in different forms:

- Professor Dr. Ekkehart Tillmanns, chair, Department of Mineralogy;

- Ing. Wolfgang Zirbs;
- Mrs. Renate Beran.

Last, but not least, we thank the reviewers for doing an excellent job of reviewing the manuscripts in a short period of time.

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