

Professor Dr Gerhard Kreysa

KLAUS JÜTTNER

In September 2005 Professor Dr Gerhard Kreysa celebrates his 60th birthday. To mark this occasion members of the electrochemical community have pleasure in sending congratulations and have contributed papers to this special issue of the Journal of Applied Electrochemistry.

Professor Dr rer. nat. habil. Dr-Ing. E.h. Dr tekn. h.c. Gerhard Kreysa is a prominent figure in the international scientific community with a number of outstanding contributions to the field of Technical Chemistry and Electrochemistry. Further to his fundamentally orientated research related to the elucidation of the kinetics and the mechanism of the active dissolution of iron and its passivity, the major part of his work was directed towards the development of chemical and electrochemical technology, e.g. for environmental protection, electrochemical energy conversion and the recycling of nuclear waste. He developed new concepts and technologies for the utilisation of packed bed and fluidised bed electrolysis with mathematical treatment and reactor modelling of mass, charge and heat transport for different operating conditions and cell geometries. These concepts led to the technical development of the so called “enViro-cell” which was commercialised for waste water treatment in the process industries, removal of heavy metal ions from spent solutions and recycling of valuable materials in the surface treatment industries. This concept was also transferred to the development of integrated electrochemical gas purification processes. He was also significantly involved in the so called “purex process” developed at the nuclear research centre Karlsruhe for wet-chemical recycling of Uranium in concentrated nitric acid solutions. His leading role in the clarifications of facts and errors in the electrochemical “cold-fusion” affair in 1989 should also be mentioned.

Gerhard Kreysa received his PhD in 1970 under the supervision of Professor Dr Kurt Schwabe at the Electrochemistry and Physical Chemistry Department of the University of Dresden. After leaving East Germany (DDR) in 1973 he continued his scientific carrier as scientific staff member at the Karl-Winnacker-Institute of DECHEMA in Frankfurt am Main. In 1978 he finished his Habilitation at the University of Dortmund on the subject “Concepts of electrochemical

process engineering and its application to packed and fluidised bed cells”. He was appointed Professor at the Chemical Engineering Department of the University of Dortmund in 1985. In 1980 he was recipient of the Chemviron Award for his work on “Purification of waste water containing heavy metal residues”. In 1981 he received the MAX-Buchner-Research-Award on “Basic and industrial oriented work on packed and fluidised bed electrolysis”. In 1994 he was recipient of the Castner Medal of the Society of Chemical Industry. In 1993 he was appointed Honorary Professor at the University of Regensburg and in 1998 was awarded an Honorary Doctorate by the Faculty of Mining, Metallurgy and Mechanical Engineering at the Technical University of Clausthal. In 1999 the degree of Honorary Doctor of Technology (Dr. tekn.h.c.) was conferred by the Faculty of the Royal Institute of Technology in Stockholm (KTH) and in 2003 he was elected as Foreign Member of the Royal Swedish Academy of Engineering Sciences (IVA) Stockholm. Besides these distinctions he is chairman and appointed board member of several institutions and scientific organisations. To mention a few which are related to electrochemistry, he became a member of the Electrochemical Engineering Working Party of the European Federation of Chemical Engineering in 1981, he was member of the Advisory Board of the Journal of Applied Electrochemistry from 1985 to 1995, he has been an Associate Member of IUPAC since 1989 and Committee Member of the SCI Electrochemical Technology Group since 1991. He was General Secretary of the European Federation of Biotechnology from 1992 to 2001 and has been a Member of the Advisory Board of Ullmann’s Encyclopedia of Industrial Chemistry since 1995.

In 1992 Professor Gerhard Kreysa became Chief Executive of DECHEMA, the Society of Chemical Engineering and Biotechnology e.V. Despite his numerous duties and responsibilities in this senior management position, he maintains a lively interest in the further development of science and research on a wider scale. He remains highly regarded as an advisor on national and international scientific and engineering issues.

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