

**Professor Krzysztof Pigoń, one of the founders of the Wrocław group of the organic solid state, passed away on 9th February, 2001.
This special issue of the *Polish Journal of Chemistry* is to honour his memory.**

Krzysztof Pigoń (son of famous Polish philologist Stanisław Pigoń) was born in Wilno, on 2nd February, 1925. In 1948, shortly after graduation in chemistry from the Jagiellonian University, he moved to Wrocław and started his career in physical chemistry as an assistant to Professor Kazimierz Gumiński. In 1956, he received his PhD in Chemistry; his thesis, initiated and supervised by Professor Włodzimierz Trzebiatowski, was devoted to the electric conductivity of barium meta-titanate. In 1957, he was nominated Head of the Department of Physical Chemistry at the Technical University of Wrocław. Shortly after his return from a visiting research fellowship at ETH Zurich, he presented in 1962 his habilitation dissertation on semiconducting properties of some metal arsenides. His last paper on semiconducting properties of these compounds appeared in 1968 [1].

He was among pioneers in studying electrical properties of organics, at present a well established and prospective research area. On his initiative, one of the first books on organic semiconductors – an exotic research topic at that time – was published as early as in 1964 [2]. Research into physical properties of organic solid, initiated at the Department of Physical Chemistry in early 1950 ties, became a ‘mark’ of Professor Pigoń and his group. The research conducted and directed by Professor was aimed at understanding electrical properties of organic solids from a basic point of view, taking into account intermolecular interactions. His early papers were devoted to measurements of the anisotropy of electrical conductivity in single crystals of organic semiconductors, and relations between the anisotropy and molecular packing and specific interactions [3]. Later his interest turned to studies of multi-component systems, forming semiconducting charge transfer complexes, and relations between the phase diagrams and conductivity in these systems [4].

K. Pigoń was an outstanding teacher. For almost 40 years he lectured on physical chemistry, delivering his lectures at a high academic level and constantly enriching them with new topics. The content of his lectures was later developed into a textbook co-authored by Professor Zdzisław Ruziewicz – the most complete and one of the best physical chemistry textbooks in Polish [5]. In his late days he demonstrated talent as a translator of Physical Chemistry textbooks into Polish.

Professor Pigoń was a man of integrity and a moral authority to many people who happened to know him. At the same time, he was a good and reliable friend to his colleagues and collaborators. Particularly well recognized was his activity in Academic Community Association (SKN) in 80 ties, a difficult period of Polish history.

REFERENCES

1. Pigoń K., *Über die Halbleitereigenschaften des Magnesiumarsenids Mg_3As_2* , *Helv. Phys. Acta*, **41**, 1104 (1968).
2. Pigoń K., Gumiński K. and Vetulani J., *Organic Semiconductors (in Polish)*, WNT Warsaw, 1964.
3. Pigoń K. and Chojnacki H., *Anisotropy of electrical conductivity in imidazole crystals*, *Acta Phys. Polon.*, **31**, 1069 (1967).
4. Komorowski L., Krajewski A. and Pigoń K., *Phase diagram and electrical conductivity in the binary system: picric acid – o-bromoaniline*, *Mol. Cryst. Liq. Cryst.*, **36**, 337 (1976).
5. Pigoń K. and Ruziewicz Z., *Physical Chemistry (in Polish)*, PWN Warsaw 1980, and later editions.

T. Luty

J. Sworakowski

L. Sobczyk