

*In dedicating this Issue to Professor Malinowski, we honor not only his memory but also the values, which he taught us: science and technology for meeting human needs.*

### **Professor Stanisław Malinowski (1909–2001)**

On 12 October 2001, at the age of 92, died Professor Stanisław Malinowski Professor at the Warsaw University of Technology (Politechnika), and member of the Polish Academy of Sciences, an outstanding technologist in organic chemistry and the Nestor of investigators on applications of heterogeneous catalysis in organic synthesis. He was an outstanding expert in the chemistry of flavors and fragrances and in the chemistry of cosmetics as also pharmaceuticals prepared from nitrocompounds. In 1954, he became interested in catalytic transformations of organic compounds. He conducted pioneering studies on the use of solid bases and also of homogeneous complexes of metals and organometallic compounds to catalyze these processes. He was the precursor of investigations on active sites present on the surface of ionic solids, and on their acid-base and radical properties. In these studies he was among the first to apply adsorption of probe molecules and to use infrared spectroscopy and electron spin resonance to study their adsorbed state. He is the co-inventor of solid superbases and of a series of solid superacids, possessing Lewis type acidic properties.

Professor Stanisław Malinowski was also an outstanding Lecturer in Chemical Technology at the Warsaw University of Technology. For several decades his appealing Lectures, full of humanistic substance, were a fascination for the successive generations of students. A man of great personal culture, making very easily contacts with people, he was an unrivalled inspirer and animator of scientific life. His personal charm and wisdom, his knowledge of worldwide literature and music, of national traditions and customs, helped him to overcome the political and financial barriers obstructing human relations. He was opening the Western World to his students and Collaborators. He initiated and, in cooperation with Professors Adam Bielański and Jerzy Haber, organized the Polish-French and the Polish-Czechoslovak Colloquia in catalysis for many years. To the young scientists in Poland these Colloquia made it possible to make first steps into the world of international contacts and gave an opportunity to confront themselves with the European level of chemical science and to self-evaluate one's own level on the European scale.

Professor Stanisław Malinowski was active until nearly his last days. While already a Professor Emeritus, he published thirty original research works. His last on *Physical and Chemical Properties Related to Defect Structure of Oxides and Silicates Doped with Water and Carbon Dioxide*, extremely interesting and innovative, was included into the Monograph *Earthquake Thermodynamics and Phase Transformations in the Earth's Interior* (edited by Roman Teisseyre and Eugeniusz Majewski), published by Academic Press in 2001. We consider this work to be highly valuable and, since it appeared in a monograph only rarely visited by researchers in catalysis, we decided – with the kind approval of the Academic Press Publishers – to remind it to our Readers.

Our Friend and Teacher, Professor Malinowski will always be remembered both as an outstanding scientist and practical chemist, as well as a noble man of unyielding integrity.

Jerzy Haber

Jacek Kijeński