



Alfred

Professor Zbigniew Galus

This special issue honors the 70th birthday of Zbigniew Galus, one of the principal figures of Polish electrochemistry and one of the most distinguished Polish chemists.

Zbigniew Galus was born in Szczaworyż near Kielce in 1934. He graduated from the Chemistry Department of the University of Lodz with the *M.Sc.* degree in 1955. He moved to Warsaw to pursue *Ph.D.* study in the Chair of Inorganic and Analytical Chemistry of the University of Warsaw in 1957. Working under the supervision of Professor Wiktor Kemula, Zbigniew Galus participated in the pioneering research on the formation of intermetallic compounds in mercury using newly invented hanging mercury electrode. This project involved collaboration with Zenon Kublik and contributed to scientific foundations of stripping voltammetry. He was awarded the *Ph.D.* degree in 1960.

After graduation, Z. Galus took a two-year long postdoctoral study at the University of Kansas, U.S.A., where he worked with Professor R.N. Adams and collaborated with Prof. P.S. Rowland (Nobel Prize 1997), to elucidate complex mechanisms of electro-oxidation of organic compounds, probably for the first time employing rotating ring-disk electrode, electron spin resonance and radiochemical methods. After his return to the University of Warsaw, his research interests moved towards the intricate problems of electrochemistry of transition metal complexes and, specifically, the mechanisms of electrode reactions involving nickel complexes. This research was the cornerstone of his *habilitation* thesis defended in 1966.

Professor Galus worked at the University of Warsaw for almost five decades. He was appointed to a position of *docent* in 1967, received the scientific title of the *extraordinary professor* in 1973 and the *ordinary professor* in 1981. He has served as the Head of the Inorganic Chemistry and Analytical Chemistry Division of the Chemistry Department for many years. Under his leadership, the division introduced a modern and rigorous curriculum that attracted many brilliant students. Zbigniew Galus created the Laboratory of Electroanalytical Chemistry, and he has been its Head for 35 years. The Laboratory became one of the most vibrant centers of research and education in electrochemistry in Central Europe. Under his supervision, 23 students graduated with *Ph.D.* degrees and 6 received degrees of *habilitated doctors*. Many of his graduates took academic positions in Poland and abroad.

This brief history shows only the milestones of a remarkable career. Scientifically, Professor Galus' interests have ranged across electrochemical kinetics, adsorption processes, inhibition of electrode processes, development of modern electroanalytical techniques, formation of intermetallic compounds in mercury, electrochemical reactions under extreme conditions that include outermost pressures, temperatures or concentrations, chemically modified electrodes, solid electrodes and

electrolytes, as well as ultramicro-electrodes. His scientific achievements are internationally and nationally recognized. He is the 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 of Electrochemical Analysis". This book has got two Polish editions (in 1971 and 1977), two English editions (in 1976 and 1994) and has been translated to Russian (in 1974) and to Mandarin (Chinese edition, 1985). He is one of the few most frequently cited Polish chemists. He has been elected to the editorial boards of the *Journal of Electroanalytical Chemistry* and the *Russian Journal of Electrochemistry*. Professor Galus has been an active member of the Committee for Electroanalytical Chemistry of IUPAC for twelve years and the National Representative of Poland in that committee for the next four years. He has been elected a member of the Polish Academy of Sciences and has also been awarded numerous prestigious prizes such as the Polish Chemical Society Annual Award, J. Zawidzki Medal of the Polish Chemical Society and the prestigious Maria Curie-Skłodowska Medal of the Polish Academy of Sciences.

For his students, friends and co-workers Professor Galus is a modest and altruistic person with exemplary enthusiasm, optimism and devotion to science and education. He is a mentor and a leader able to identify unique research opportunities, helping young scientists to forge their independent career path. Professor Galus has made a tremendous contribution to Polish chemistry throughout his many years of service in the Polish Chemical Society as Chairman of the Electrochemical Section (for eight years), Vice-President (1986–1991), and the Society's President (1992–94), as well as a member of the national Central Board for the Title and Scientific Degrees (for two terms), and a member of the

State Committee for Scientific Research (KBN), a major government granting agency in Poland (for three terms). Zbigniew Galus has served as a member of the editorial board of the *Polish Journal of Chemistry* since 1980, and he became its co-editor in 1994. It is not an overstatement to say that Professor Galus has had a positive influence on everything he has touched. This fact is a direct result of the rare combination of expertise, dedication and integrity.

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