

## Curriculum vitae of Günther W.H. Höhne

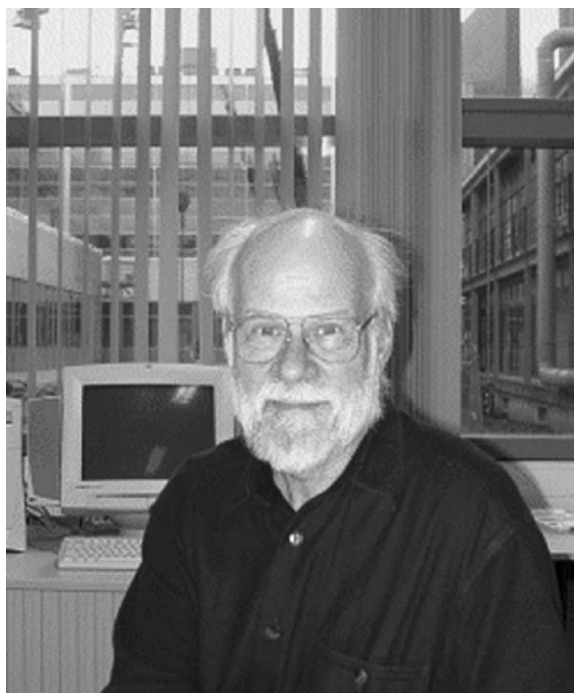
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Günther Höhne was born in Berlin on the 31 May 1937, where he also attended school. It was during the hard times of the beginning war when he, still in his early childhood, fell seriously ill with polio, and the consequences have remained with him throughout his life. Fortunately, he was able to fully compensate his handicap and, as every coin has two sides, his bad luck changed into something positive. It was during a convalescence stay in Sweden after the war that he discovered a deep and continuous love for this marvellous country and its people. Until today, Günther loves to spend his holidays in Sweden, observing the nature, riding and hunting. There even goes the rumour that he once shot an elk.

After school he studied chemistry, physics and mathematics at Berlin Technical University where he acquired the basics of the knowledge he later came to apply so successfully to calorimetry. He took his doctor's degree in 1970 at the famous Fritz-Haber Institute of Max-Planck-Gesellschaft with R. Hosemann, with a work on X-ray investigation of defects in polyethylene single crystals at very low temperatures. Here, he also acquired the basics of polymer physics.

But then, fate hit him hard: Günther, as a “typical child of Berlin” (and the people from Berlin are famous for their quick wit and lacking respect for authorities) was cast away to Ulm, in the South of Germany, where people traditionally have an entirely different mentality.



At Ulm University, he built up and became head of the calorimetry section, which he was to lead for 30 years, until he retired in 1999. This section, together with other sections (such as that for spectroscopy), had to fulfil a special mission which was really revolutionary at that time: to support and to assist with expert knowledge—in this case of calorimetry—other research groups inside and outside the university. This is the reason for Günther's broad range of research activities, extending from the determination of material properties and the construction of specific

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calorimeters to the development of standards and recommendations for calibration and the proper use of calorimeters. Some of the highlights of those years are the construction of deformation calorimeters to determine the relationship between mechanical work and heat in different materials, a high-pressure calorimeter (500 MPa), a micro pulse calorimeter and a calorimeter for the measurement of heat and work of active single muscle fibres with high temporal resolution (ms).

This is an interesting parallel to Michael Richardson's career. Like him, Günther Höhne started his scientific work with investigations on polyethylene single crystals. He then moved on to calorimetry and applied DSC to these problems. Due to the fact that the experimental procedures and the data processing recommended by the manufacturers at that time were of a rather qualitative nature, he started to develop procedures and materials for the calibration of DSCs to convert them into instruments for the quantitative determination of temperatures, heats of transition and heat capacities with small uncertainties. Being an expert in calibration, he was a founding member of the GEFTA working group on calibration of scanning calorimeters, an activity which yielded several important publications. (Gesellschaft für Thermische Analyse, German Society for Thermal Analysis: GEFTA).

During that time he also devoted himself to teaching, passing on his knowledge of fundamental physics and calorimetry to master and Ph.D. students. This academic work was crowned with his habilitation in 1997. Günther is one of the founders and long-standing organiser of the "Ulm Calorimetry Days" ("Ulmer Kalorimetrietage") and permanent member of the scientific committees of the "Lähnwitz Seminar on Calorimetry" and the "Ulm-Freiberg Calorimetry Days" ("Ulm-Freiberger Kalorimetrietage").

Since 1999, he has been visiting professor for calorimetry and polymer physics at Eindhoven Technical University in The Netherlands. He also ventured a step into business taking on the position of a scientific manager with a private laboratory for applied calorimetry in Ulm.

Over the years, he has written 99 scientific publications. He is the co-author of two well-known textbooks on calorimetry and DSC and just now, he is busy working on a second edition of the DSC book.

During his studies in Berlin, he supported the cause of young people from unstable or incomplete families; and he formed boy scout groups and a boys' choir in his parish. He has also led a choir for a dozen of years in Ulm, and he sat in the municipal council for 16 years.

Günther Höhne is happily married with Jutta and has a daughter, Katrin.