

Henryk Matyja Memorial Session

On Tuesday, 29th August, one of the plenary sessions was devoted to commemorate Professor Henryk Matyja, the pioneer of the research in the field of rapidly quenched and mechanically alloyed materials in Poland. The Symposium, held five years after He passed away, was a good opportunity to remember Him and His contribution to our present knowledge.

Henryk Matyja, born in 1923, graduated from the Mechanical Faculty of Warsaw University of Technology, and for all his professional life was with the Department of Physical Metallurgy, then with the Institute of Materials Science and Engineering, transformed into the Faculty of Materials Science and Engineering, WUT. As the academic teacher, He spent over a half of century at the university, focusing on teaching undergraduates and postgraduate students, and supervised 26 Ph. D. theses. His successors remain not only in Poland – they may be found as far as in the USA, Canada or Australia. Henryk Matyja was a Full Professor in Materials Science at Warsaw University of Technology since 1974.

Scientific activities of Professor Matyja were very extensive. He broke ground in Poland and the whole Eastern Europe in the area of metallic glasses, starting this research in early 1970's. Professor was the founder of the Amorphous and Nanocrystalline Materials Group, and its head for about 30 years. He published 4 monographs and about 200 papers. Abroad, Professor Matyja was a visiting scientist at the Department of Metallurgy of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1961-1962 and 1965-1967. He was also a Visiting Professor at the Department of Metallurgical Engineering and Materials Science at the University of Notre Dame in 1982-1984 and 1986. Despite his age He remained remarkably active as a scientist.

Professor Matyja was known as the one who enjoyed travelling, trying good food, meeting people, touching various cultures. It was our pleasure to meet him every day to discuss not only the scientific issues, but also to share opinions and dispute on all aspects of life.

Professor Henryk Matyja died on 15th March 2001 at the age of 78, mourned by the international scientific community. As a friend and a professional, He will live in the memory of all of us forever.

During the Memorial Session, which was attended by Professor's wife, children, grandchildren, relatives and co-workers, Professor Matyja was reminisced by Andrzej Całka, Brian Cantor, Clara F. Conde, Wojciech Dmowski, Viktoria I. Fadeeva, Akihisa Inoue, Tadeusz Kulik, Peter Švec and Alain R. Yavari.