

Professor Andrzej Hrynkiewicz (1925–2016)



We all share sorrow over the loss of Professor Andrzej Hrynkiewicz who died on 13th October 2016. For five decades he was the leading authority on nuclear physics, a pioneer of nuclear methods in Poland and a great promotor of the Polish science. The obituary written by professor Kazimierz Łątka contains some recollections concerning the life and the most important works of this distinguished physicist.

*The Organizing Committee
of All-Polish Seminar of the Mössbauer Spectroscopy,
Radom-Turno 2016*

Professor Andrzej Hrynkiewicz, the honorary Chairman of our All-Polish Seminars on Mössbauer Spectroscopy, died on 13th October 2016 in Cracow where he was buried in the Salvator Cemetery. Professor Hrynkiewicz was for us not only a master and an academic teacher but also a reliable counsellor, a colleague and a friend. He encouraged us and rendered us his life optimism and scientific passion. He certainly belonged to the leading Polish physicists in the period after the Second World War as the precursor of nuclear methods applications: magnetic resonance spectroscopy, Mössbauer spectroscopy, a perturbed angular correlation method and Rutherford backscattering spectrometry. He was the President of the Council for Atomic Energy Matters of Poland, the Accredited Representative of the Polish Government at the Joint Institute for Nuclear Research in Dubna, Full Member of the Polish Academy of Sciences, and a member of the Polish Academy of Learning. The international scientific community highly respected and recognized Professor Hrynkiewicz for his scientific achievements and deep knowledge in nuclear physics. He belonged to the body, convened by the International Union of Pure and Applied Physics and the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry, that presented priorities of research into discoveries of heavy elements. With his invaluable services he contributed considerably to the development of the Polish-Russian collaboration on mutual research works in the Joint Institute for Nuclear Research in Dubna where he acted as a vice-director in the years 1966–1968.

Professor Andrzej Hrynkiewicz was a distinguished organizer of the Polish science. He

promoted creation of numerous laboratories of nuclear spectroscopy in Poland and supported the development of nuclear methods applied to solid state investigations, in particular Mössbauer spectroscopy. In acknowledgment of his service he was awarded Honorary Doctor degrees by Maria Curie-Skłodowska University in Lublin, AGH University of Science and Technology in Cracow and Nicolaus Copernicus University in Toruń. As a co-creator of the Winter Schools of Nuclear Physics in Zakopane he contributed to the integration of the Polish scientific community, enabling – during the dark time of communist regime in Poland – to contact and to collaborate with the scientists from behind the “iron curtain”. Professor Hrynkiewicz was the director of the Institute of Physics of the Jagiellonian University in Cracow, and a long-time general director of the Institute of Nuclear Physics of the Polish Academy of Sciences. In the latter he created well-equipped and perfectly prospering, first laboratory of Mössbauer spectroscopy in Poland. In this laboratory the investigations were carried out in a wide range of temperatures using plenty of Mössbauer isotopes by scientists employed in both of the mentioned-above institutions and also by researchers and trainees coming from other domestic and foreign universities. Professor Hrynkiewicz was an excellent educationist, much loved by students, a promotor of popular science and a publicist. He shared his profound knowledge with his students in a very open and friendly way. He was the author of over 300 articles in peer-reviewed international scientific journals, and he promoted 45 Ph. Doctors. He was also the creator of Medical Physics – a new

student's specialization and a new field of science at the Jagiellonian University. In 2006, the Senate of the University conferred on him the title of Honorary Professor, for his comprehensive scientific and organizing activity.

Professor Andrzej Hryniewicz, due to his wonderful personality, extreme activity, great authority and probity, will always remain in our memory.

Kazimierz Łątka