

C H R O N I C L E

**Professor Antoni Śliwiński**

— J U B I L E E

The Scientific Symposium was held on 15-th of February 1994 at Gdańsk University on the occasion of 65-th birthday of Professor Antoni Śliwiński. The Symposium was organized by the Institute of Experimental Physics (University of Gdańsk) and the Gdańsk Sections of the Polish Acoustical Society and Polish Physical Society.

The followers and friends of Professor Śliwiński took part in the Symposium and they represented not only the Gdańsk community but other regions such as Gliwice, Kraków, Poznań, Rzeszów, Szczecin, Warszawa and Wrocław. During the opening ceremony Professor Jerzy Ranachowski (Institute of Fundamental Technological Research of Polish Academy of Sciences) summarized the scientific achievement and the professional career of the honoured guest. Congratulation letters were read on the occasion. Professor J. Burnewicz, pro-rector of Gdańsk University and Professor E. Kozaczka, a representative of the Commander of the Naval Academy awarded Professor Śliwiński medals from both Universities. Professor Śliwiński received many congratulations, wishes, thanks and flowers from the well-wishers.

Speeches were made. Professor L. Filipczyński (Institute of Fundamental Technological Research of Polish Academy of Sciences) mentioned his first contacts with Professor Śliwiński. Professor F. Kaczmarek, who has been his colleague since the student time spoke about beginning of their early academic career at Poznań University. Professor E. Hojan (Poznań University) reminded those gathered Professor Śliwiński's contribution is designing the room acoustics during the reconstruction of the Great Opera Theatre in Warsaw under Professors M. Kwiek and E. Karaśkiewicz supervision. Professor Szustakowski read a congratulation letter, written by the Commander of the Technical Military Academy, with thanks for the cooperation in the field of acoustooptics. Directors Dr K. Knapieński (Institute of Experimental Physics, University of Gdańsk) and Professor J. Dera (Institute of Oceanology, Polish Academy of Sciences) expressed their thanks for the enormous amount of efforts given to the teaching and research activities in both places. The representatives of the Polish Acoustic Society Professor A. Opilski and Dr T. Pustelny

(Gliwice Section), Dr A. Drzymała (Rzeszów Section), Professors E. Hojan and M. Łabowski (Poznań Section) congratulated and wished the further success. Then Professor Śliwiński expressed his career in limeric composed by his family.

The participants had the opportunity to listen to the following papers during the Symposium:

1. Acoustic sensor of gasses — Professor A. Opilski (Institute of Physics, Silesian Technical University, Gliwice).
2. Dynamic properties of liquids in ultrasonic fields — Professor R. Płowiec, (Institute of Fundamental Technological Research of Polish Academy of Sciences).
3. Investigation of the influence of the constant magnetic field on the propagation of ultrasonic field in the conductive media — Professor M. Łabowski (Institute of Acoustic, University of Poznań).
4. Detection of tissue elastic properties by MRJ method. — Professor Cz. Lewa (Institute of Experimental Physics, University of Gdańsk).

Finally the informal part of the Symposium took place, patronated by the local „Solidarity” Trade Union, with its warm atmosphere, a glass of wine and the song „Sto lat” (that could be expressed as a wish of „One hundred years”).

We would like to highlight to the attention some facts of Professor Śliwiński's career.

He was born on 15-th of November 1928 in Jarocin (near Poznań). In 1942 he completed grammar school in Gliniak (near Mińsk Mazowiecki). In 1947, after graduating from the State Secondary School for Adults in Bydgoszcz, he started his studies in the Department of Mathematics and Natural Science, Physics Division, at Poznań University and graduated with a master of philosophy in physics in 1952. In the meantime (1950) he undertook the post at Poznań University, and nearly from the beginning he had been under Professor Marek Kwiek supervision (until Kwiek's tragic death). Promoted by Professor Kwiek he prepared his Ph.D. thesis on the phenomenon of ultrasonic wave propagation in the media being near the critical point, where the fluctuation of the state parameters occurred and completed the thesis in 1960. Still with Poznań University he became the associate professor after the presentation of the thesis concern with the light diffraction by ultrasonic waves propagating in the transition media. In 1970 he joined the newly founded Gdańsk University where he has been working until now. Beside his scientific, research and teaching activities he appeared to be excellent manager that is why he has been acting as the Head of the Acoustic Group, the Dean of the Mathematics-Physics-Chemistry Faculty, vice-rector of Gdańsk University. He has been the initiator of the research work and a leader of the big group of scientists from the very beginning of his activity at Gdańsk University. In 1973 he helped to initiate founding for the Environmental Laboratory of the Acoustics and Spectroscopy, the unit that had been devoted to the environment protection of Gdańsk region, with special attention to acoustics problems among them noise pollution.

Professor Śliwiński scientific outputs is mainly concern with the wide aspects of acoustics:

1. Acoustooptics: investigations of light diffraction by ultrasonic waves, non-linear effects occurring during diffraction of the strong laser light by ultrasonic wave, application of interferometric techniques to the examination of ultrasonic fields and transducers.

2. Molecular investigations and ultrasonic spectroscopy: examinations of the organic substances including polymers and liquid crystals, viscoelastic media.

3. Room acoustics: examinations of noise and vibration, material noise.

4. Hydroacoustics: acoustic examination of the Baltic Sea, surface water pollution.

5. Photoacoustic spectroscopy.

Professor Śliwiński promoted 27 ph.d. thesis, five people among his coworkers become the associated professors and three of them full professors. Number of Ph.D. thesis and dissertation for associate professor degree were reviewed by him as well in Poland as abroad. Either as a referee or reviewer he gave his access to the nomination procedure for full professors.

Professor Śliwiński wrote as an author or co-author more than 200 papers known to the internal audience. He is a member of Physics, Acoustics and Marine Investigation Committees of the Polish Academy of Sciences and Several Research Councils. Awarded a fellowship he became a member in the international societies such as European Physics Society, Audio-Engineering Society and Polish ones: Polish Acoustic Society (being a President for the last two tenures), Polish Physical Society, Gdańsk Scientific Society and Gdańsk Academic Society. Moreover he took part in the editorial boards of the following journals: Ultrasonic, Acoustic Letters, Archives of Acoustics, Oceanologia, Acustica, Akusticheskij Zhurnal, Optoelectronics Review. During 1981–1987 Professor Śliwiński represented Poland in the International Commission on Acoustics (of Internal Union of Pure and Applied Physics). He was honoured and awarded a number times. The international audience had many opportunities to listen to his lectures during the conferences, meetings or seminars.

On the other hand Professor Śliwiński is known as an organizer of many scientific meetings: five of them on acoustooptics, i.e. „Spring School on Acoustooptics and Applications”, „Prospects in Modern Acoustics, Education and Development and the Open Seminars on Acoustics.

He closely collaborates with foreign academic centers such as Universities in Leuven, Halle, Bremen, Trieste and PTB from Braunschweig.

Professor Śliwiński has been building his own acousto-optic school, that is regarded as very strong scientific center and that is why the Spring School on Acoustooptics has become so popular as well in Poland as abroad.

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