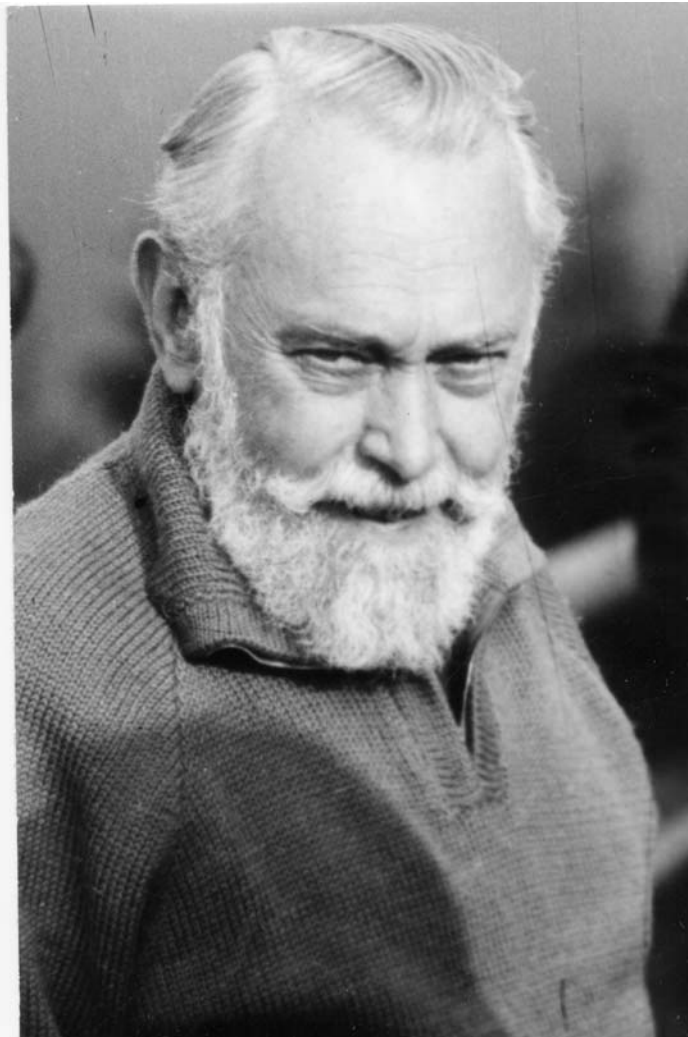


The proposal for yearly Polish Seminars on Positron Annihilation was given by **Professor Jan Wesolowski** in 1966. This year in March the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of His death was celebrated.

Below a short address on His life, professional activity and personality is given.



#### **IN MEMORY OF PROF. JAN WESOŁOWSKI \***

Jan Wesolowski was born in 1902 in the eastern part of Poland called Wołyń. His ancestors took part in the 1863 insurrection. On receipt of the secondary school certificate at Krzemieniec He began studies on physics at Jagiellonian University in Cracow.

He was interested in mathematics and physics and most of all in electricity. He even planned to study electricity at Technical School but rigour of such studies made the earning one's life impossible at that time.

For the lack of money and of necessity of earning his life He started studies on physics. He often suffered from hunger that time.

Being a clever student He was engaged in some experiments performed under direction of Prof. Konstanty Zakrzewski.

In 1933 He graduated Alma Mater Cracovienis.

Just after then He became an assistant in Faculty of Physics at Jagiellonian University. His papers from that time dealt with molecular physics in general and both the dielectric polarisation

and structure of liquids in particular, His doctor's thesis published in 1938 and entitled "Über die Dielektrische Polarisation des Flüssigen Selens"<sup>1</sup>

In 1937 Prof. Pierre Auger from France being interested in studies of cosmic rays in a salt-mine in Wieliczka near Cracow, visited the laboratory of Prof. Zakrzewski. As a result of that visit doctor Jan Wesołowski went to Paris to the laboratory of Prof. Auger.

The apparatus was constructed for underground studies of cosmic rays using the sets of Geiger counters. There were only a few papers that time in world's scientific literature dealing with such studies. In Poland studies undertaken by dr. Jan Wesołowski were the first ones with the use of sets of counters being in coincidence. The measurements were performed up to the beginning of the Second World War.

During the war Germans destroyed the apparatus mounted in the mine but the reserve electronic elements kept in Faculty of Physics were saved by dr. Wesołowski. With use of them a new apparatus was constructed which began to work just after the war.

During the Second World War Prof. Jan Wesołowski was engaged in secret tuition giving lectures for students both Agriculture and Philosophical Department of Jagiellonian University. He is quoted in a book entitled "Ne cedat Academia" published by the Literary Publishing House in 1979 and dealing with secret activity Jagiellonian University during the war. He was also a monitor for the Polish underground listening to and reporting on the British and French broadcasting from London and Russian from Moscow. He earned his life teaching the pupils from a private school from Wadowice being in Cracow then and pupils from the Technical School of Mining and Metallurgy in Cracow.

In 1948 Prof. Jan Wesołowski moved together with His wife to Wrocław where He had a job at Wrocław University.

For no possibility of studies of cosmic rays in Wrocław He became engaged in application of nuclear radiation and methods of nuclear physics to study physico-chemical properties of substances. A large number of students and disciples assembled round Him and he taught them general physics and nuclear physics and how to construct some detectors and electronic devices. In early fifties the development of nuclear physics in Wrocław was stopped by the authorities. Then some people change their interests and left Him.

In 1957 nuclear physics and electronics were introduced to programmed course for students of physics. Prof. Jan Wesołowski together with Prof. Bronisław Rozenfeld began to create the Laboratory of Nuclear Physics at Wrocław University. Then some people joined them and Prof. Wesołowski proposed to use positron annihilation technique to study electronic structure of liquids and solids. It was a very fruitful idea which resulted in creation of positron annihilation group in Wrocław and then in other research centers in Poland.

First papers on studies by positron annihilation method by Wesołowski, Rozenfeld and then Szuszkiewicz are very often quoted in world scientific literature dealing with positron annihilation. The most remarkable are the ones dealing with electronic structure of transition metals, ionic crystals and hydrides of transition metals.

For many years Professor Jan Wesołowski gave lectures and had classes also in Opole at Pedagogical School where he organized Faculty of Physics directed then by Him.

He was an active member of the Polish Physical Society.

It was He who gave a proposal for yearly Polish Seminars on Positron Annihilation. The first one was hold in a shelter at Izerski Stok in 1966. Up to now a lot of the most famous annihilators attended our Seminars.

Prof. Jan Wesołowski died in 1982.

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<sup>1</sup> J. Wesołowski, Bull. De l'Academie Polonaise de Sciences et des Lettres, Serie A, 290 (1938).

He was a man of broad views, extremely enterprising, as straight as a die, a patriot, a democrat, one of the founders of the Club of Catholic Intelligentsia in Wrocław, excellent lecturer, ready to help students and co-workers.

The 20<sup>th</sup> Polish Seminar on Positron Annihilation was dedicated to Him. People enjoyed the possibility of bringing Him back to the mind.

Recalling Prof. Jan Wesołowski I see a thin man with a white beard often smoking and always smiling, called both by students and co-workers: “the grandfather”, a man being very popular and respected by everyone.

Let the smile from His portrait brighten our Seminars while his composure and reflection be a model for us nowadays.

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\* A revised version of the address of Dr. Maria Dębowska at the 20<sup>th</sup> PSPA.