

C H R O N I C L E

Celebrations of 50 years of the Acoustic Centre at the Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań

*Exegi monumentum
aere perennius*

Horacy, Ody

*“A university is a community of the alive
with those who have passed away, the future
should be founded on the best of the past”*

Prof. Rufin Makarewicz
in the welcome speech

The year 2006 witnessed the 50 anniversary of establishing the Chair of Acoustics and Theory of Vibrations at the Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań, which was the first and only in the country academic centre of acoustics. In 1985 the Chair was transformed into the Institute of Acoustics being till today a part of the Faculty of Physics at the same university.

The main celebrations of the anniversary were held on December 12, 2006 in the vestibule of the Institute of Acoustics. Among the guests taking part in the special meeting organised on this day were: Professor Stefan Jurga – Deputy State Secretary at the Ministry of Science and Higher Education, His Magnificence Professor Stanisław Lorenc – rector of AMU, family members of Professor Marek Kwiek who had created and was the first head of the Chair of Acoustics and Theory of Vibrations, representatives of the Committee on Acoustics at the Polish Academy of Sciences headed by the chairman Professor Andrzej Rakowski, Deans of the Faculty of Physics, the Institute of Acoustics workers and students. There was also a large group of retired professors who remembered Professor Kwiek and worked with Him.

There it is the really very strong connection between the foundation of the academic centre of acoustics in Poznań and the personality and attitude of Prof. Kwiek. He was that of a Master in the best meaning of the word. The renaissance character of his scientific interests is a good illustration of the interdisciplinary character of acoustics. It is hard to find a branch of “the acoustics tree” that had not been tended by Him, the more so that often He was the one who grafted them into this tree. Prof. Kwiek was very demanding of himself and of his co-workers, which did not stand in the way of his kind and supportive attitude towards them. He had great intuition for expanding the research area and knew how to best encourage his workers to work with great effort.

It should be mentioned that Professor Kwiek was interested in the theoretical backgrounds of a given problem as well as in its experimental verification, which often implied construction of necessary experimental equipment. The problems of his scientific interest include the pioneer research on the hearing sensitivity, assessment of loudness and timbre of sounds, composition and theory of music (Professor Kwiek has written 28 compositions), the design and construction of the organs⁽¹⁾. Professor Kwiek was the first to start the cooperation of acousticians with industry (construction and design of the piano and evaluation of loudspeakers). He was a consultant in the area of improving the acoustic quality of theatres, cinemas, radio broadcasting studios. Professor Kwiek initiative was to organise a cycle of Open Seminars on Acoustics.

To honour the memory of Professor Kwiek, Professor Stefan Jurga unveiled a special plaque mounted in the vestibule of the Institute of Acoustics.



(author of the photo: Kazimierz Fryś)

The celebrations ended with a session on the present researches of the Institute of Acoustics. Professors Rufin Makarewicz, Anna Preiss and Edward Ozimek presented the projects realised within the Framework Programme 6 “Silence” and “HearCom”.

Professor Edward Hojan discussed the current works on the modelling of the hearing system directly related to the fitting of the hearing aids. Professor Mikołaj Łabowski presented a report on the use of acoustic methods in the investigation of magnetic fluids.

Urszula Joras

⁽¹⁾ The result of Prof. Kwiek work has been the technical and artistic documentation of many organs in the Kielce-Sandomierz District where Prof. Kwiek lived in the period of German occupation.