

In commemoration of Docent Dr. Eng. Ireneusz Wilk



Docent Dr. Eng. Ireneusz Wilk passed away on February 9, 2017. The funeral ceremony was held on February 21 at the Osobowice Cemetery in Wrocław. Upon his decease we have lost a co-founder of Optica Applicata and its past Editor in Chief. His outstanding engagement elevated the position of our journal in international optical community.

Docent Ireneusz Wilk was born on November 7, 1931 in Sosnowiec. He completed his studies in the field of physics (the first degree) at Wrocław University (1953), then got his master's degree (1956) in instrumental optics at the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering of Wrocław University of Science and Technology (former Wrocław Polytechnics). In 1954 he began to work at Wrocław University of Science and Technology, at first as a research assistant and after 1968 as a senior research assistant. In 1968 he defended his doctoral thesis on acoustic wave propagation in an air column with the temperature gradient. In 1969/70 he took a one-year post-doc position at the Institute of Optics, University of Rochester, USA. In 1973 he received a docent position at the Institute of Physics, Wrocław University of Science and Technology. He has made a great contribution to the development of optics at the Faculty of Fundamental Problems of Technology at Wrocław University of Science and Technology. He was a co-founder (1977) of the Central Laboratory of Optical Holography and became its first head. He was a promoter of 8 PhDs, among which two became professors, and one obtained habilitation. In 1981 the staff of the Institute of Physics elected him the head of the Institute, and he held this position for two terms of office, until 1987. He initiated the collaboration with the University of Olomouc, Czech Republic, which resulted in the exchange of students and the preparation of a series of Polish-Czech-Slovak conferences on optics. The jubilee, the twentieth, conference from this cycle was held in 2016, in Slovakia. In 1971 he has played a key role in founding the Optica Applicata, being at first its Vice-Editor, and then in years 1998–2007 the Editor in Chief. He had a great linguistic talent, he spoke fluently several foreign languages. He also promoted bilingual teaching at the Faculty of Fundamental Problems of Technology and at the University. He was the author of English-Polish and Czech-Polish optical dictionaries.

Docent Ireneusz Wilk was also a distinguished lecturer, the author of 2 students textbooks, an eminent teacher of several generations of students in optics. He was awarded the Knight Cross of the Polish Revival, the Golden National Education Committee Medal, the Golden Cross of Merit, the Medal of the Palacky University of Olomouc, the Golden Badge of Wrocław University of Science and Technology.

He devoted all his professional activity lasting 50 years to Wrocław University of Science and Technology. His work contributed to the development of the Faculty of Fundamental Problems of Technology and strengthened its position in international and home optical community.

We will remember him as a modest, good and warm-hearted man.

*Wacław Urbańczyk
Editor in Chief*