

PROFESSOR LESZEK FILIPCZYŃSKI
in memoriam



On 30-th of June 2004 Professor Leszek Filipczyński, Editor-in-Chief of Archives of Acoustics in 1997–2003, passed away forever. The Polish science and all of us have suffered a great loss of a scientist who was an outstanding authority on acoustics, particularly on ultrasonic methods in medical diagnosis. He was the man who created the first Polish production of ultrasonographs, a man who organised the work in his Ultrasonic Department in a way that everybody – scientists, engineers and workshop workers could do their best and feel an important part of the staff.

Leszek Filipczyński was born on the 23-th of December 1923 in Łódź. He spent five years of the German occupation in a mechanical workshop which has been reflected in his future research work by the application of scientific discovery in practice.

After the war Professor Leszek Filipczyński studied at three universities – in Łódź, in Gdańsk and finally in Warsaw, and took his master's degree in radiotechnical engineering. He organized together with Professor Ignacy Malecki the acoustical laboratory which was incorporated in 1953 into the Institute of Fundamental Technological Research of the Polish Academy of Sciences. Professor Filipczyński has been associated with this institute ever since till his death, being the deputy director for scientific problems (1969–1994), the general director of the institute (1969–1974) as well as the chairman of the Scientific Council (1989–1993).

His scientific career was brilliant – in 1955 he took his doctor's degree, was appointed associate professor in 1957, full professor in 1962, corresponding member of the Polish Academy of Sciences in 1969, and full member in 1976.

Professor Filipczyński was the author or editor of 12 monographs and of above 250 original papers and scientific reports published in Polish and foreign periodicals. These works concerned many basic problems in the field of ultrasonics: ultrasonic transducers, material fatigue testing, ultrasonic defectoscopy. He was pioneer in the application of ultrasonic methods in biology and medicine, among other things his works were focused on absolute methods of ultrasonic intensity measurements, ultrasonography of human organs such as brain, abdomen, eye, heart, ultrasonography of pregnant women, a application of ultrasonic Doppler methods in blood flow measurements, thermal effects generated by ultrasonic beams, generation and propagation as well as development of metrology of shock waves for lithotripsy and lately non-linear propagation of ultrasonic waves in soft tissues.

He promoted 10 doctors who became continuators of his scientific activity in Poland. It should be emphasised that Professor Filipczyński, using his knowledge and authority, pushed forward in the home medical environment a notable group of specialist physician sand co-organised the First International Conference UBIOMED (1970) and the Ultrasonic Section of the Polish Physician Society.

Professor Filipczyński was awarded not only several state prizes (the last one was the Cavalier's Cross of the Rebirth of Poland). He was recognised by the world-wide scientific authorities as pioneer in this branch, among other things he was granted by the American Institute for Ultrasonic in Medicine in Washington with the Diploma of Pioneer of Ultrasonics in Medicine, in the years 1975–1979 he was the vice-chairman of the European Federation for Ultrasonics in Medicine.

Professor Filipczyński was always active and full of initiatives – he was the chairman of the Polish Committee for Acoustics of the Polish Academy of Sciences (1972–1996), founder and member of the Polish Acoustical Society, and chairman of the Scientific Council of the Institute for Biocybernetics and Biomedical Engineering of the Polish Academy of Sciences (1982–2004). Since 1993, he was also a member of the New York Academy of Sciences.

Professor Filipczyński was considered as the father of the Polish School of Ultrasonic Medical Diagnosis. He was a man of high erudition and great modesty, a theorist and experimenter, and just a boss respected by everyone who knew him and respecting others. He was a man of personal charm – connoisseur of arts and playing piano...

We shall always remember Professor Leszek Filipczyński not only as a great scientist, but also as a modest and honest man who was, always ready to help others and sensitive to their needs.

*Editorial Board
of Archives of Acoustics*