

SNAPSHOTS FROM APES'04 - PROF. STANKOWSKI IN BANGALORE

CZESŁAW RUDOWICZ

Modeling in Spectroscopy Group, Institute of Physics, West Pomeranian University of Technology, Al. Piastów 17, 70-310 Szczecin, Poland
Email: crudowicz@zut.edu.pl

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In this paper some recollections concerning my interactions with Prof. Jan Stankowski over the years are presented. Prof. Stankowski's role in shaping my scientific carrier is elucidated. Most recent recollections pertain to Prof. Stankowski's attendance as an Invited Speaker and a Distinguished Guest at the Fourth Asia-Pacific EPR/ESR Symposium [APES'04] held in Bangalore in November 2004. This was the first (and regrettably the last) APE Symposium attended by Prof. Stankowski, which was organized by myself as the President of the Asia-Pacific EPR/ESR Society [APES]. It was fortunate that Prof. Stankowski could see at first hand what has been achieved in the EMR/EPR/ESR area in the Asia-Pacific region. Our meeting in Bangalore was crucial for later developments within the Polish EPR Society, after my return to Poland in February 2005. This paper is illustrated by a few snapshots from APES'04, which also enable us to gain insight into another side of Prof. Stankowski, as a person interested in exotic places all over the world and a keen traveler.

INTRODUCTION

This paper is based on my presentation given at the First Forum EMR-PL held in Rzeszów, 19-21 May 2010. As a motto for my presentation I have chosen two sentences: (1) let the memory of Professor Jan Stankowski be alive within us, and (2) let his scientific and organizational legacy serve as guidance for us for further development of research involving techniques based on electron magnetic resonance (EMR) spectroscopy as well as their applications in interdisciplinary research endeavors.

In the first Section a brief overview of Prof. Stankowski's role in shaping my scientific carrier is presented. In the next Section the activities of the Asia-Pacific EPR/ESR Society [APES] are succinctly described. This enables to provide a background for the following Section dealing with the most recent recollections pertaining to Prof. Stankowski's attendance as an Invited Speaker and a Distinguished Guest at the Fourth Asia-Pacific EPR/ESR Symposium [APES'04] held in Bangalore in November 2004.

MY INTERACTIONS WITH PROF. JAN STANKOWSKI OVER THE YEARS

At the very beginning of my scientific carrier in the early 1970's, there were heated debates among young assistants in Prof. L. Kowalewski's group in the Institute of Physics, A. Mickiewicz University, Poznań, on the

foundations of electron paramagnetic resonance (EPR) of transition ions. Especially, we were tackling intriguing questions concerning the effective spin Hamiltonian, fictitious spin, the microscopic spin Hamiltonian theory, and the generalized spin Hamiltonian. Across the town in the Institute of Molecular Physics, Polish Academy of Science, Prof. Jan Stankowski was heading vigorous efforts to study experimentally various materials by the then novel EPR spectroscopy techniques. Prof. Stankowski was a pioneer of research based on EPR spectroscopy and related techniques in Poland. His achievements in this and other areas of science have brought him an international acclaim. Prof. Stankowski was not only an excellent experimenter and manager. He was a true leader and encouraged his younger colleagues to study theoretical aspects involved in their experiments. For this purpose Prof. J. Stankowski has invited a budding theoretician to lecture his EPR group members on the theoretical foundations of EPR. In this way Prof. Stankowski had shaped and reinforced my early interest in EMR (EPR/ESR) spectroscopy of transition ions, which has continued throughout my whole scientific carrier.

My family and I left Poland for Nigeria in early 1978, then moved to West Germany (1980-82). Due to the martial law imposed on Poland, we immigrated to Australia (1982-89). In December 1989 I assumed an academic position at the City University of Hong Kong [CityU], raising to Chair Professor in Sept 95. We have stayed in Hong Kong till February 2005, when

motivated by idealistic expectations we have returned to Poland.

Many years have passed before Prof. Stankowski and I have met in very different settings and personal roles. We enjoyed brief encounters and lively discussions at the Congress Ampere in Kazan in 1994 and in Poznań in 2002. Our crucial meeting was, however, during APES'04 in Bangalore.

ACTIVITIES OF THE ASIA-PACIFIC EPR/ESR SOCIETY

With group colleagues I have organized the first Asia-Pacific EPR/ESR Symposium [APES'97] held at the CityU in January 1997 (Rudowicz, Yu, Hiraoka, 1998). At the Inaugural Meeting the Asia-Pacific EPR/ESR Society [APES] was created. Under the auspices of APES the subsequent Symposia were organized as follows: APES'99 (Hangzhou, China), APES'01 (Kobe,

Japan), APES'04 (Bangalore, India) & the Satellite School to APES'04 (Mumbai, India). I have been elected as the Founder President of the APE Society and served till 2004, becoming Immediate Past President (2004-08). The subsequent APE Symposia were held as follows: APES'06 (Novosibirsk, Russia), APES'08 (Cairns, Australia), whereas this year APES'10 will be organized in Jeju in South Korea.

The brief history of APES outlined above (see, also, Rudowicz, 2007) has served a double purpose. First purpose was to provide a background for the nomination by the outgoing President of the Polish EPR Society, Prof. Stankowski, of the new President for the election during the last RAMIS (*XXII International Conference on Radio and Microwave Spectroscopy*) held in Będlewo in April 2007. Second purpose was to utilize the tested experiences concerning the organization and structure of the APES to work out ways for revival of the Polish EPR Society.



Fig. 1. Group photo at the APES'01 (Kobe, Japan), attended also by Prof. K. Dyrek, to whom I owe a lot of useful guidance.

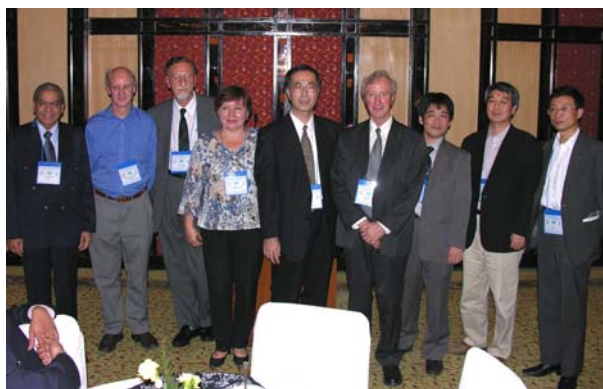


Fig. 2. The APES Council 2004-06.

SNAPSHOTS FROM APES'04

The events described in the first Section have prompted me to include in the Welcome Address as the President of the Asia-Pacific EPR/ESR Society given at the Fourth APES'04 a 'thank you' note to Prof. Stankowski, who was then the President of the Polish EPR Society, for '*shaping my early interest in EPR theory of TM (transition metal) ions*'.



Fig. 3. Opening Ceremony at the APES'04.

In this Section, I will share with you some memories of Prof. Stankowski during the Symposium as well as during the official sightseeing trips and, most interestingly, our 'private' sightseeing and shopping escapades around Bangalore using local transportation by rickshaws. Selected 'snapshots' include some photos taken by Prof. Stankowski himself and kindly sent to me after APES'04.



Fig. 4. Two EPR luminaries: Profs Stankowski & J. Pilbrow.



Fig. 5. Group of participants at the APES'04.

Prof. Stankowski has appeared very surprised when called from the floor by the APES'04 Chairman, Prof. S. V. Bhat, to hand in to me the Silver Medal at the General Meeting of the Asia-Pacific EPR/ESR Society held during APES'04 at the Indian Institute of Science in Bangalore. Silver Medal was presented "*in recognition of outstanding contribution to founding and fostering APES*".



Fig. 6. Prof. Stankowski at the podium.



Fig. 9. Helping Prof. Stankowski to select a gift for his family.



Fig. 7. Prof. S. V. Bhat, myself, and Prof. Stankowski after the handing in ceremony.



Fig. 10. At a Catholic Church in Bangalore.



Fig. 8. At the official sightseeing trip around Bangalore.

CONCLUSIONS

This short presentation has showed us Prof. Stankowski not only as a scientist, who always liked to tackle new problems in emerging areas, but also as a human person and a keen traveler, who enjoyed exploring the world. I do also hope that the background information revealed would enable a better understanding of the proposals for continuation of the Polish EPR Society traditions, which have been presented during the First Forum EMR-PL.

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