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## PROFESSOR EMANUEL KLIER 1918 – 1998

March 25, 1998 took from us forever an outstanding physicist and our respected colleague, Professor Emanuel Klier.

Prof. Emanuel Klier, born on August 7, 1918, could have celebrated this year his eightieth birthday. He was well known both in Czech and Slovak community of physicists as a scholar who gained distinctive recognition for the advancement of physics at Charles University after the second world war.

His studies of mathematics and physics starting in the Faculty of Natural Sciences at the Charles University in the year 1937 were soon interrupted because of the closing of Czech Universities during the years of Nazi occupation. In 1946, having completed successfully the state exams, he entered the Faculty of Natural Sciences as an assistant lecturer. After the university reorganization in 1952 he moved to the newly founded Faculty of Mathematics and Physics, at which he remained for the rest of his life.

For many long years he taught courses in general physics for pharmacologists and later on he had been giving the basic lecture course in physics both for university students of natural sciences in general and for those specialized in mathematics and physics. Later, he lectured predominantly for specialists in physics of the solid state the basic course in the solid state physics and he also launched new up to date lectures on physics of semiconductors and on semiconducting components. Having prepared special advanced courses he organized during the years 1961–64 the first postgraduate studies of solid state physics in the Faculty of Mathematics and Physics at the Charles University.

He worked as a visiting professor at several foreign universities (Baghdad 1960–61, Karlsruhe 1966–67, and at the University in Salvador, Brasil in 1970–72 as an expert for UNESCO). During his long lasting paedagogical tenure he raised two generations of physicists. The great number of them now work in the Faculty of Mathematics and Physics at the Charles University, at other schools or in scientific institutes. All those who came in touch with Professor Klier remember with gratitude their respectable teacher and are amazed at his working efforts and enthusiasm in solving the research tasks he had set out for himself.

They hold in high regard his very responsible approach to work combining at the same time with a practical wisdom, kindness and optimism.

Professor Klier also deserves great merit regarding the advancement of scientific research in the Faculty of Mathematics and Physics at the Charles University. In researching piezoelectricity he continued in a work of Professor Petržílka. The numerous citations prove a longlasting contribution of Professor Klier to this field. He was skillful in predicting timely new perspectives in the development of physics and this was the reason why the study of semiconductor physics in the faculty began to grow from his initiative (since 1952). He established a research group which from the very beginning worked with selenium and later with copper oxide with particular attention to their photoelectric, optical and transport properties. Later he concentrated himself on the study of another semiconducting materials of the type  $A_{II}B_{VI}$ , which are still being researched successfully in the faculty. He has been also involved in the applied research which he supported in cooperation with research institutes and industrial establishments.

During his long lasted tenure in the faculty, Professor Klier was entrusted with demanding tasks: for ten years he led the Department of solid state physics (1962–72) and for two terms he took over the position of Associate Dean (1953–54, 1968–70).

He devoted much of his time and energy to the popularization of science (14 years in the Society for the Dissemination of Scientific Knowledge, as a head of the department at People's University). From the year 1937 he was a member of the Union of Czech Mathematicians and Physicists where he delivered a series of lectures on semiconductors and actively participated in the work of its semiconductor group, which was also led by him. Until the year 1997 he presided over the editing board of the *Acta Universitatis Carolinae*.

Professor Klier carried out the functions of international character. From the year 1961 he was a member of the advisory committee of the European journal "physica status solidi" and was a member of Brazilian Physical Society.

Not even after the year 1983, when he celebrated his 65th birthday, did he diminish his scientific activity. He worked for many years as a part time consultant professor, but for the full work day, like his younger coworkers. In his last period as a professor emeritus he carried out the experimental research on his favorite scientific issues thermally stimulated currents in semiconductors.

In consideration of his whole life's scientific work he has been awarded a commemorative medal at the opportunity of the 650th anniversary of the Charles University.

Almost to the very last moment we were witnesses of his courageous struggle with the perilous malignant disease. It, however, was not able even in his last days to eliminate his permanent preoccupation with working activities.

The life, which was devoted to fruitful and creative work, will be not consigned to oblivion. We will always remember the name of Professor Klier with respect and gratitude.