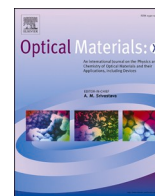




Contents lists available at ScienceDirect

Optical Materials: X

journal homepage: www.journals.elsevier.com/optical-materials-x

Preface

This special issue of 'Optical Materials: X' is dedicated to the memory of Professor George Blasse who passed away unexpectedly on December 30th 2020 in Munich at the age of 86. George Blasse made significant contributions to the physics and chemistry of luminescent materials which established him as an authority in the field of luminescence spectroscopy. He made many important contributions that have shaped the field and paved the way to commercial materials. George Blasse started his career at Philips Research Laboratories in The Netherlands where he discovered many new luminescent materials for lighting and displays, including YAG:Ce. The discovery by George Blasse of the yellow Ce^{3+} emission in YAG marks the beginning of a wide variety of applications of this famous phosphor that later started the revolution in lighting by enabling white light LEDs. Nowadays, the yellow YAG:Ce phosphor is found in almost every white light LED, a bright reminder to all of us of the impact George Blasse has had in our field and on our society. The modern-day white light LEDs have significantly improved lighting efficiency and play an important role in combating climate change.

In 1970 George Blasse made an unusual career move and accepted the position of professor of Solid-State Chemistry at Utrecht University. He led a highly successful research group for over 25 years and became internationally renowned for his research on luminescent materials. He combined groundbreaking fundamental discoveries with societal relevance. George had a deep and intuitive understanding of luminescence phenomena and often relied on clever chemical variations in host composition and structure to obtain insight into the underlying physics. During his career George Blasse published over 700 papers. His publications had a clear message and were written in candid manner, aimed to convey the message. Even now, his work continues to be highly cited and continues to impact the research in luminescent materials globally.

For his research George Blasse received well-deserved recognition in the form of many national and international awards, including the Gold Medal of the Royal Dutch Chemical Association (1970), the Gilles Holst Medal of the Dutch Academy of Sciences (1992) and the ICL Prize (2002). He was inducted into the Royal Dutch Academy of Sciences in

1982. In 1996 he was elected a member of the Academia Europaea and made a Knight in the Order of the Netherlands Lion. George Blasse was not only a famous researcher but also a great teacher, appreciated for his clear lectures, carefully explaining difficult concepts in a simple manner. As a supervisor and mentor, he was inspiring, involved and committed to his many PhD and MSc students to excel in their research and to help them start a successful career. International recognition was also evident from his prominent role in the luminescence community. He was a great speaker. At international conferences such as the ICL and ECS meetings and the famous Erice summer schools, the contributions of George Blasse always formed a highlight. Towards the end of his career George Blasse wrote the book 'Luminescent Materials' together with his partner, Christa Grabmaier. This famous orange book is a classic and continues to serve many newcomers in the field to obtain a solid basis in the field of luminescence and understanding of the fundamentals and applications of luminescent materials.

In his various activities, George Blasse was extremely productive and efficient. He was a no-nonsense person, modest, honest (also when this was not appreciated) and averse to boasting and flattery. It is sad that George Blasse is no longer with us, but we can be grateful for the wonderful legacy he leaves behind. This special issue of Optical Materials: X testifies of that legacy and to the outstanding impact George Blasse has had on the field of luminescent materials. Many of the contributions in this issue builds on the discoveries of George Blasse that reflect his approach by combining chemistry and physics and acknowledging his pioneering work.

The editors are indebted to all authors who took the time to make this issue special by writing excellent articles to honor and remember George Blasse.

Andries Meijerink^{*}, Cees Ronda, Pieter Dorenbos, Alok Srivastava

^{*} Corresponding author.

Given his role as Editor of this journal, Alok Srivastava had no involvement in the peer-review of articles for which he was an author and had no access to information regarding their peer-review. Full responsibility for the peer-review process for this article was delegated to another Editor.

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.omx.2022.100166>

Available online 23 June 2022

2590-1478/© 2022 Published by Elsevier B.V. This is an open access article under the CC BY-NC-ND license (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/4.0/>).