

OBITUARY

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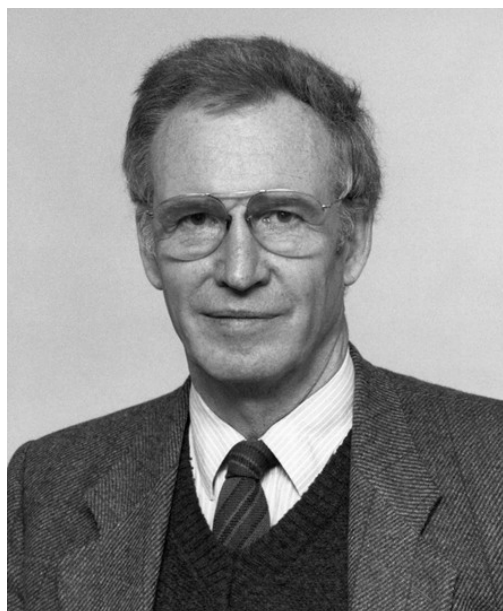
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Dietrich Schulte-Frohlinde

(1924 – 2015)

PROFESSOR Dietrich Schulte-Frohlinde, a distinguished German chemist with long-time relationships to Croatian scientists (e.g. S. Ašperger, M. Randić, J. N. Herak, A. Graovac, I. Kraljić), and this Journal, passed away on Oct 1st, 2015 in Chevy Chase MD, USA. He was born on Dec 17th, 1924 in Munich, went to elementary school 1929–1933 in Berlin, and grammar school 1933–1942 in Wismar without Abitur because he was drafted in 1942. He was wounded on the Eastern Front and imprisoned in the Soviet Union till March 1947. After his return he completed at Heidelberg University a special semester for late home-returners (Abitur) and started there in fall 1947 a study of chemistry that he completed in 1952 with a Diploma work on polarographical determination of keto-enol equilibria. He worked on his PhD thesis on *cis-trans* isomerizations with Nobel laureate Richard Kuhn at the MPI for medical research from 1952–1956. In 1959 he worked under Walter Seelmann-Eggebert (a doctoral student of Otto Hahn) in his Institute for Radiochemistry at Nuclear Research Center in Karlsruhe as a leader of a newly established Laboratory for Radiation Chemistry (it happened that I was as a so-called workstudent from Technical Faculty of the University of Zagreb, one of his first coworkers staying for more than a year and finished with him my diploma thesis on quantum yields of indigoid compounds, returning again in 1965 to his meanwhile Institute as a scientific coworker responsible for teaching quantum chemistry and MO calculations). He habilitated (*venia legendi*) at the University of Karlsruhe in 1963 and started teaching there photo- and radiation chemistry. In 1970 he received a call by Karl Ziegler (Nobel laureate with Natta) to join the MPI for Coal Research in Mülheim as a MPI scientific coworker and director of an independent unit for radiation chemistry (later MPI for Radiation Chemistry) a position that he held from 1970–1992.



Dietrich Schulte-Frohlinde

Of his many coworkers in Karlsruhe he took Clemens von Sonntag to Mülheim and Hans Güsten continued the research in Karlsruhe oriented more to environmental problems.

DSFs research work started in the fields of organic photochemistry, polarography and spectroscopy and extended over the years to radiation chemistry and radiation biology. With coworkers he investigated isomerizations, transformations, degradations and decompositions of organic molecules; with Klaus Eiben he proved spectroscopically the existence of the long-searched hydrated electron in gamma-irradiated ice and working on DNA he showed the basic steps of the radical-induced process of its chain



breakage. All this research was accompanied and supported with state-of-art physical and analytical data as quantum yields, absorption and emission spectra, laser photolysis, pulse radiolysis, NMR, ESR, MS & GCMS, and HPLC determinations. Realising that reparation processes govern the consequences of radiation induced damages he in the last years started gradually to dedicate himself more to their biological aspects. Besides doing research at Mülheim he was also professor at Bochum University. His publications included 258 papers and he was cited more than 5,000 times. He was the recipient of many awards including the J. J. Weiss Medal of the British Association for Radiation Research together with Clemens von Sonntag (1984), and the L. H. Gray Medal of the International Commission on Radiation Units and Measurements (1989).

Dieter, as friends used to call him, was a wonderful person and friend, a great scientist and enthusiastic researcher; in the Karlsruhe years when his group of coworkers grew from three to over forty coworkers everyone got infested with the joy of obtaining new results and

discussing them often long into the nights, at joint lunch breaks and at parties he organized at his home. It was a great time for everybody and many of us are still mutually in contact remembering these great days. He loved his work but also the beauty of life around him, he purchased and renovated a small deserted village in Italy that he left to his first wife and family when he went to the USA and married the artist Ann Mitchell. I used to meet him last years for a lunch and walk at my visits to NIH in Bethesda, during my stay at LSU Baton Rouge as a visiting professor, and enjoyed discussions about science, economy and recently the idea of anthropogenically caused climate change that he opposed. We all who have known, admired and liked Dieter very much will always remember and never forget him.

He is survived by his first wife Heidrun, his wife Ann Mitchell, three children from his first marriage, Heinrich, Verena and Robert and three younger brothers.

*Leo Klasinc (Zagreb, Croatia)
Hans Güsten (Speyer, Germany)*