

EDITORIAL: X-RAY SPECTROMETRY RECENTLY LOST THREE OF ITS EDITORIAL BOARD MEMBERS, INCLUDING ITS FOUNDER AND FIRST EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

On June 19, 2002, Dr. Ron JENKINS, first editor-in-chief and presently member of the editorial board of this journal, passed away in Pennsylvania, USA. On March 24, 2002, Dr. Themis PARADELLIS, member of the editorial board, died at the age of 59 years, in Athens, Greece. Only a few weeks ago, the news of the death in May 2000, of Prof. Nikolai KOMYAK, Russian member of the editorial board, has reached us. This editorial is dedicated to the memory of these three scientists, who were so important in the recent development of the X-ray analysis technique and in the genesis and growth of the *X-Ray Spectrometry* journal. . .

We thank Walt Shreiner, Andreas Karydas and Igor Brytov for some of the carrier data used in the following obituaries.

René Van Grieken
Editor-in-Chief of *X-Ray Spectrometry*

DR. RON JENKINS (1932–2002)



Dr. Ron Jenkins, Emeritus, the International Centre for Diffraction Data (ICDD), passed away at his home in Downington, Pennsylvania, U.S.A., on June 19th, 2002, after a decade-long battle with prostate cancer. He is survived by his wife, five children, and five grandchildren.

Ron Jenkins was born in England in 1932. He studied Chemical Physics at Oxford Polytechnic.

He was employed as an analytical chemist at the Esso research facility in England, after which he moved to become the head of the Applications Laboratory at Philips in the Netherlands. In the early 1970's, he transferred to the U.S., remaining with Philips until the mid-1980's. During this time, he completed his PhD in Chemical Physics at the Polytechnic Institute of New York. After leaving Philips, he accepted a senior position with the International Centre for Diffraction Data, from which he retired a couple of years ago.

Ron Jenkins was known around the world for his contributions to X-ray diffraction and fluorescence, and for his teaching of those subjects both at X-ray clinics and at the Denver X-ray Conference. His 30 years of contributions to that Conference included presenter of contributed and invited papers, chairman of special sessions, organiser and instructor at workshops, and a member of the organising committee, ultimately the chairman for the last several years. He has received many awards, among which are the Birks Award in X-ray Spectrometry and the Barrett Award in X-ray Diffraction at the Denver Conference, the only person to win both awards. His list of publications includes

some 250 scientific articles, and his contribution to the training of young (and not so young) workers through the medium of his four important books has brought to many the value of the X-ray techniques. It was his driving force that led to the establishment of two journals, Powder Diffraction for the X-ray diffraction community and our *X-ray Spectrometry*, for which he has been the first Editor-in-Chief, during the first 14 years of its existence. In the last few days since his death, many people have stated that nothing will be the same in the X-ray analytical community without him.

If you will tolerate a few personal reminiscences, I should like to talk about Ron from personal memories. My first contact with him was shortly after he came to the U.S., when he visited us at the Naval research Laboratory to renew his acquaintance with Verne Birks, whom he had met at international meetings over the previous few years. I was privileged to sit in on the visit and immediately came to recognise that he was to be a guiding light in our domestic X-ray community. Over the following years during my attendance at the Denver Conference, I came to know him quite well and to reinforce my feeling concerning his stature among his fellow analysts. It was in 1986 that, I believe at his suggestion, and to my great honour, the then Chairman of the Denver Conference, Paul Predecki, asked me to become the Co-Chairman of the Conference, and Ron himself paid me the additional honour of asking me to succeed him as the Editor-in-Chief of *X-Ray Spectrometry*. In addition to serving on the Conference Organising Committee with him, I had the privilege of assisting him with the organisation of workshops and special technical sessions.

It is difficult to pay adequate homage to such a bright light in the X-ray analytical community. To many of us who knew Ron as well as I, it will be a long time, if ever, that we forget the impact that he had on our careers, and for some, our personal relationships. I know I speak for the whole X-ray population when I send our condolences to his family, and remind them that he will not be forgotten as long as there are X-ray analysts who need guidance.

Goodbye, Ron, we all miss you.
(Obituary by John Gilfrich, Former Editor-in-Chief of *X-Ray Spectrometry*)

DR. THEMIS PARADELLIS (1942–2002)



Dr. Nikoforosa Themistokles (Themis) Paradeellis passed away on March 24, 2002. Themis was a member of the Editorial Board of *X-Ray Spectrometry* since 1995.

He was born in Cairo in 1942. He obtained his Diploma in Physics from Athens University in Greece in 1965. He complemented his studies in physics, to obtain sufficient depth in e.g. chemistry or astronomy, which he used later during his carrier. He worked for two years as an assistant in the Physics Department of Athens University and then went to Canada where he obtained his Master's Degree (1967) and Ph.D. (1970), on nuclear physics and nuclear analysis topics, from the University of Saskatchewan. Until 1972, he stayed in Canada as a postdoc at the Foster Radiation Lab, Mac Gill University, Montreal, doing cyclotron research. He then joined the Tandem Accelerator Laboratory, of the Greek National Research Centre "Demokritos", preferring going home to Greece to other tempting proposals (like MIT).

In the Demokritos centre, Dr. Paradellis started with nuclear spectroscopy using γ -rays. He contributed significantly, not only by measuring decay schemes and nuclear level properties, but also by interpreting the data in terms of nuclear models and refining the measuring and analysis techniques. Additionally, he carried out research on reactor physics, heavy ion reactions and novel methods for isotope production.

But soon he felt the need to use his knowledge in applications based on X-rays. He constructed a first XRF set-up in 1975 and initiated research in the Demokritos Centre in the field of PIXE and X-ray microanalysis, and complemented this with studies of basic questions of the interaction of X-rays and ion beams with matter. Very early, from the mid seventies, he realized the potential of the EDXRS to provide solutions for analytical problems in the fields of archaeometry, biomedicine, biology and environmental science. Later, he also got involved in studies on the Chernobyl event, and in astrophysics. Dr. Paradellis has published some 150 articles in these various fields. He has acted numerous times as a referee for *X-Ray Spectrometry* and his reviews were invariably thorough, on-time and impartial.

In 1992, he organised the European EDXRS Conference in Mykonos, Greece; the proceedings appeared later as a special issue of *X-Ray Spectrometry*. And from the late 80's, he initiated, in collaboration with George Vourvopoulos of Western Kentucky University, a successful series of conferences with the title "*Applications of Nuclear Techniques*".

Themis was apparently appreciated very much by the 12 Ph.D. students he supervised. They describe their experience of collaborating with Themis Paradellis as "unforgettable, for his character, spontaneity and humour, as well as for his scientific perceptivity and brilliance." He treated their mistakes with tact, but supported them with warm encouraging into the next steps. For this reason, for the most of his students, Themis Paradellis was not just their supervisor and teacher, but also a good and beloved friend.

Themis used to say that, for having success in the research field, you have to offer a part of yourself, to have confidence and accountability in your work, to proceed without compromises and especially, when you are involved as a scientist in applications with social interest, to have the feeling of voluntary donation.

The loss of Themis Paradellis is painful, not only for his family and friends and for the Tandem Accelerator Laboratory of NCSR "Demokritos", but also for the whole X-ray analysis society. We will remember Themis as a highly esteemed scientist, as a creative colleague full of new ideas, and as a humorous friend who loved life and knew how to live well. His premature death, at the age of 59, after a one-year struggle with lung cancer, still came as a shock and calamity to all that had the privilege to know Themis well. . .

PROF. NIKOLAI KOMYAK (1928–2000)



Nikolai Ivanovich KOMYAK, member of the Editorial Board of *X-Ray Spectrometry*, passed away on May 28, 2000, at the age of 72 years. He was a corresponding member of the Russian Academy of Sciences.

He graduated as an engineer from the Leningrad Electrotechnical Institute, in 1953, and obtained his degree as doctor of engineering science in 1975.

He was the chief of a special design bureau of X-ray equipment (1958–1973) and general director of Bourevestnik Inc. (1974–1980). He was appointed as professor in 1980 and served as the director of the Institute for Analytical Instrumentation of the Russian Academy of Sciences (1995–2000). N. I. Komyak paid much attention to education of young scientists and has been Dean of the Faculty of Fine Mechanics and Technology and Head of the Department of Materials Science at the St. Petersburg State Institute of Fine Mechanics and Optics (Technical University).

N. I. Komyak, a prominent scientist, author of more than 220 scientific publications including 75 inventions and patents, and a leading specialist in scientific instrument engineering, has made major contributions to the establishment and development of new scientific instrumentation in the USSR, namely X-ray diffractometry, X-ray spectrometry, and X-ray microscopy, and to their commercial production. These instruments and techniques formed the basis for the introduction of automated control of material composition and structure into the Soviet metallurgy, cement, and mining industries.

In 1978, N. I. Komyak was awarded the State Prize of the USSR for fundamental studies, the commercial production of X-ray instruments, and their effective application in the national economy. In 1983, he received the State Prize of the Ukraine Soviet Socialist Republic for the development of X-ray microscopes.

N. I. Komyak has made an essential contribution to international co-operation in the field of scientific instrumentation, as a permanent member of Soviet-British, Soviet-German, and Soviet-French working groups and as an organiser of international conferences and seminars on X-ray analysis. For a while, he served as vice-president of the International Union of Instrument Engineers.

He was the main editor of the series "*Apparatura i Metody Rentgenovskogo Analiza*" ("*Equipment and Methods of X-ray Analysis*") in 1967–1991, editor-in-chief of a RAS journal "*Nauchnoe Priborostroenie*" ("*Scientific Instrumentation*"), and regional editor and later member of the Editorial Board of *X-Ray Spectrometry*. Also by the many scientific articles he published in this journal, he has contributed significantly to the growth of *X-Ray Spectrometry*.

The memory of Nikolai Ivanovich Komyak, a splendid person and talented scientist, will remain in the hearts of his friends, colleagues and pupils forever.