

## In memory of Professor Jerzy A. Janik (1927-2012)

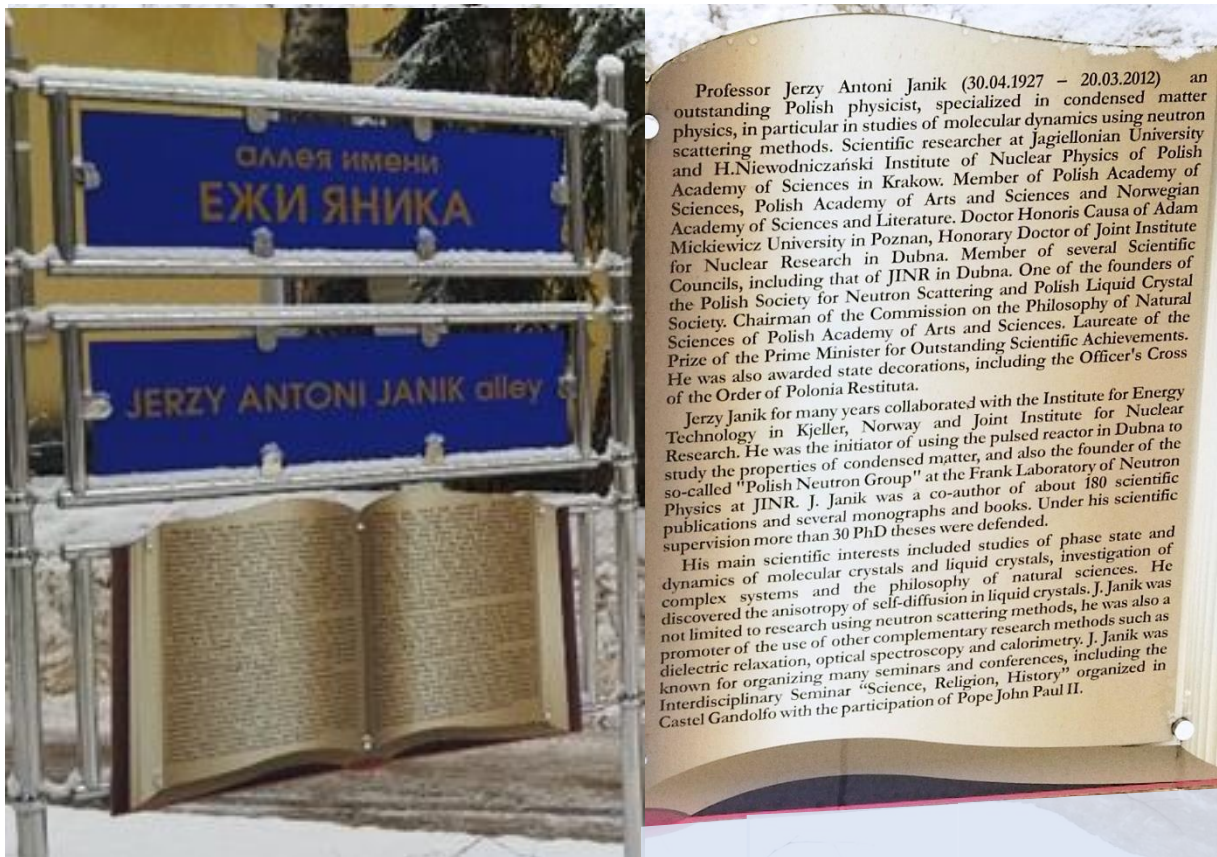
Seminar of The Henryk Niewodniczański Institute of Nuclear Physics  
Polish Academy of Sciences  
March 24, 2022 at 11:00 a.m.



Photograph: Adam Walanus

The doctoral task “You, Colleague, will deal with the absorption of neutrons in matter” set for Jerzy A. Janik by prof. Henryk Niewodniczański about 1948 started the history of the neutron research of structure and dynamics of condensed matter in Cracow. Despite the lack of access to reactors the task was accomplished perfectly (PhD, 1950) and the results were presented as a Polish contribution at the conference Atoms for Peace (Geneve, 1955).

The youngest professor of the oldest Polish university (Jagiellonian University, 1960) convinced the authorities at the Joint Institute for Nuclear Research (Dubna, USSR, 1958) to use the reactor IBR for the studies of condensed matter.



Jerzy A. Janik alley at the Joint Institute for Nuclear Research in Dubna, Russia.

(Photograph: Krzysztof Siemek)

As the founder and the head of the Departments of Structural Research at the Jagiellonian University and at the Institute of Nuclear Physics of Polish Academy of Sciences Professor Janik continued spectroscopic (neutron, infrared, far-Infrared, Raman) and dielectric, calorimetric, etc. studies of mainly orientationally disordered molecular and liquid crystals. But, first of all, he tirelessly promoted

scientific contacts despite the iron curtain and other inconveniences of the epoch. He constituted the Cracow Group of Molecular Crystals and Liquid Crystals and chaired the weekly seminars at the faculties of Physics ("Monday Seminars") and Chemistry ("Saturday Seminars").



**SEMINARIUM**  
**ZAKŁADU BADAŃ STRUKTURALNYCH**  
ZAGADNIENIA UKŁADÓW MAKROSKOPOWYCH  
I MOLEKULARNYCH

**Prof. dr Jerzy Janik**  
Instytut Fizyki Jądrowej PAN

*wygłosi referat*

*Zjawisko filozofujących przyrodników.  
Uwagi filozofującego fizyka o przestrzeni*

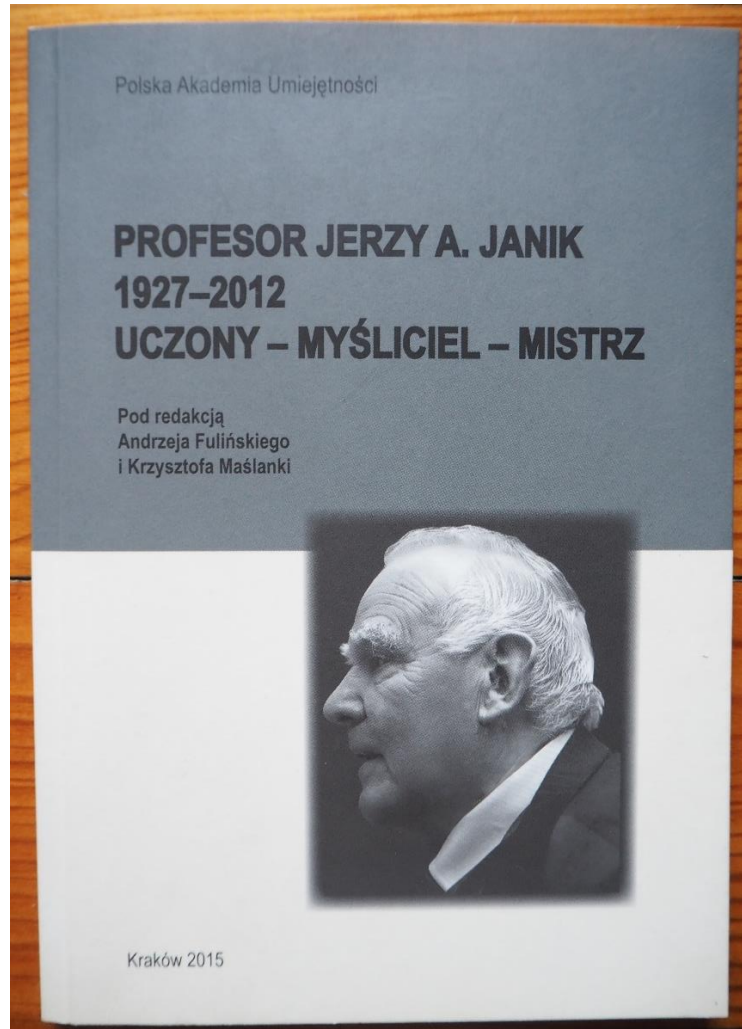
*Sala Konferencyjna IFJ PAN, wtorek, 13.03.2012 r., godz. 11:00*  
*Goście mile widziani!*

Announcement of a seminar, evolved from the "Saturday Seminars", of the Division of Condensed Matter Physics at the H. Niewodniczański Institute of Nuclear Physics of Polish Academy of Sciences Subject: "The phenomenon of philosophizing naturalists. Philosophizing physicist's remarks on space", speaker: Professor J.A. Janik a week before his death.

Every year, Professor Janik invited PhD students from all over Poland to workshops on Przehyba or Krawców Wierch in the Beskidy Mountains. The scientists preparing their habilitations were invited for discussions to the Kalatówki Meadow in the Tatra Mountains. His cross-disciplinary interests gave rise to the biennial conference "Science, Religion, History", organized for the Pope John Paul II in Castelgandolfo, Italy, between 1980 and 2003. These seminars were a continuation of the discussions with many of Professor's friends (including the most eminent one: Karol Wojtyła) that began on a hiking trip in 1953. Professor was also a founder of the Commission for the Philosophy of Sciences of the Polish Academy of Arts and Sciences (initially: Commission for the Philosophy of Natural Sciences, 2005).

The series of international symposia "Neutron Scattering and Related Problems" also known as "Janik's Friends Meeting" (JFM) was initiated spontaneously by a group of researchers at a beach near Dunkerque in early 60-ties of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Remarkable is the number of participants who became directors, heads or leaders of the worldly most prominent neutron infrastructures and international organizations. Here are just a few examples: Jülich Research Centre and Institute of Solid State Studies at the same centre, Germany, The Rutherford Appleton Laboratory and ISIS facility, later Daresbury Laboratory, UK, Neutron Scattering Center at Los Alamos National Laboratory, USA, Institute of Materials Science Vietnam Academy of Science and Technology, Hanoi, Vietnam, Research Center for Molecular Thermodynamics, Osaka, Japan, Institut Laue-Langevin, Grenoble, France, Institute for

Energy Technology, Kjeller, Norway, Dutch Reactor Centre and nuclear infrastructure in Petten, the Netherlands, Frank Laboratory of Neutron Physics at the Joint Institute for Nuclear Research, Dubna, Russia, the Liquids Section of the European Physical Society, and many others. German physicists from the former GDR were grateful to J.A. Janik for facilitating international contacts particularly restricted in their country.



*Professor Jerzy A. Janik 1927–2012 Scientist-Thinker-Master*

<https://pau.krakow.pl/index.php/pl/wydawnictwo/wydawnictwo-pau-poleca/533-profesor-jerzy-a-janik>  
book available in the library of the Institute of Nuclear Physics of Polish Academy of Sciences.

The speaker of the seminar on the 10th anniversary of Professor Janik's death is Prof. Martin Müller, Scientific Director at the Heinz Maier Leibnitz-Zentrum in Garching near Munich (MLZ). The three MLZ partners, Technical University Munich, Jülich Center for Neutron Scattering and Hereon (in Geesthacht), where Prof. Müller leads the Institute of Materials Physics, jointly exploit the scientific use of the neutron source FRM II. Prof. Müller impressed the attendants of the Janik's Friends Meeting in Krynica with his talk on the physical properties of wood. Continuing Professor Janik's idea to disseminate the latest achievements and perspectives of science on an international forum, Prof. Müller will present the current possibilities and plans for the future at his institute.

Piotr Zieliński  
Consultants: Maria Massalska-Arodź, Barbara Poliks, Martin Müller