

Dedication

Professor Frederic F. Lange



The scientific community has received recently the sad news of the death of Professor Fred F. Lange, which has caused a deep sorrow to all friends and colleagues. He had friends everywhere, but also among us. The organising committee of the Shaping-4 conference held in Madrid on November 15–18, 2009, selected him as plenary lecturer to open the meeting. He thankfully accepted and came to Madrid with plenty of energy. When most papers of this special issue are ready, included the one by Fred, it is painful to know he is missing. He was not only a pioneer in our field and a Master for many of us, but he was also a good

friend, always open to discuss your findings, to give you his ideas, to share experiences and to laugh with his brave spirit. He will be missed very much by all ceramists, and by the great number of colleagues and friends he had worldwide. Let me offer this issue to the memory of one of the great contributors to the development of ceramics processing. He will be missed very much.

Rodrigo Moreno

Chairman of the SHAPING-4 conference

An Appreciation

Professor Frederick F. Lange, Fred to all who knew him, was an outstanding figure in the world of ceramics teaching and research. His death on April 2nd 2010 has been a cause of sadness to friends and colleagues across the world who have recognised that they have lost one of the great contributors to the vitality of their community.

His research activities were many. These were, however, accompanied by personal qualities which ensured that his message was received, valued and remembered by all who had the good fortune to meet him. Three aspects of his research style gave it particular character. The first of these was his determination to tackle problems of practical significance. The development of toughened ceramics or the design of elegant processing methods to minimise structural faults in powder bodies were widely recognised as targets of central interest to all in the ceramics community. Fred gave these concentrated attention and presented his conclusions in ways which were invariably helpful; the research path was logical, it went to the heart of the problem, and it gave conclusions which were of eminently practical value. This was not ‘ivory tower’ research; it was immediately appreciated as a sound response to the demands of applications.

The second aspect was the rapid transfer of research results into teaching. All who have heard Fred’s lectures or conference presentations have known his impassioned determination

to communicate results and to make sure that the message was understood and used. He was particularly generous with colleagues at the beginning of their careers, taking time to explain the significance of research findings and giving helpful guidance where help was sought. His strength lay in stating the research outcome rather than in debating the initial uncertainties. This clarity of advice made him a greatly welcomed figure wherever the need was that of translating results into action.

The third aspect of his work, and one of particular relevance to our European Ceramic Society, was its international stage. Throughout his career, Fred participated fully in the international community. A first interaction was at Harwell in the UK in the 1960s; thereafter, the encounters were worldwide, taking place wherever ceramics formed the centre of the discussion. The most recent European visits to last year’s congress in Krakow or to this meeting in Madrid exemplify two constant factors, namely, the affection of European researchers for the work and the person of this outstanding colleague and the corresponding respect which Fred bestowed upon all who shared his passion for teaching and research in the field of ceramics.

Richard Brook
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