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In Memoriam

Stanisław Kielich – A personal memoir

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In the 1950s I became interested in the interaction of electric fields with gases and liquids. Professor Arkadiusz Piekara was performing pioneering experiments in Poznań on dielectric saturation. He had discovered "the inverse saturation effect" in which the permittivity of dipolar liquids like nitrobenzene *increased* in strong applied electric fields; he correctly interpreted this effect in terms of the favouring of the more dipolar configurations of clusters of molecules by the applied field. I was invited to visit Poznań in April 1959 and there met Stanisław Kielich, Professor Piekara's outstanding young colleague. I particularly admired the close interaction of theory and experiment that was a feature of the Instytut Fiziki in Poznań. Kielich was four years my senior and his interests closely overlapped my own in optical, electric and magnetic properties of matter and in intermolecular forces We had many conversations and I remember his excitement on hearing about a new method of measuring molecular quadrupole moments. Poland was a poor country at that time but I was very generously and graciously entertained and had the pleasure of dancing with Stanisław's delightful wife Clare. When I departed from Poznań on the train for Warsaw he presented me with a paper knife bearing the arms of the city. It has been on my desk ever since.

Kielich went on to become a leader in various fields of molecular physics, and particularly in non-linear phenomena. He enjoyed the respect and affection of colleagues around the world and brought great credit to the Adam Mickiewicz University and to Poland. I am grateful for this opportunity to pay tribute to a friend and distinguished colleague.

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