

R. B. Rebak, E. Lunarska

Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, Livermore, CA 94550, US

Institute of Physical Chemistry, Polish Academy of Sciences, Warsaw, Poland, ellina@ichf.edu.pl

IN MEMORIAM
PROFESSOR SUSAN SMIALOWSKA (1925-2015)
ZUZANNA SZKLARSKA-ŚMIAŁOWSKA

Professor Susan Smialowska died at her home in Zalesie (Poland) on Thursday 05-March-2015. She was 89 years old. On 11-March-2015, she was laid to rest in Warsaw next to her husband Michal Smialowski.

Prof. Smialowska was born on 23-August-1925, in Lwów (then Poland, now Lviv Ukraine). In her youth, she belonged to Harcerz (Polish scouts) and she was quite athletic, specializing in the hurdles. She finished her high school education under German occupation. After World War II ended, the family (with her parents and younger sister Romualda) moved to Poland, where she graduated with a Master of Science (1948), and a Ph.D., (1952) in Chemical Engineering from the Silesian University of Technology in Gliwice (Silesia). There she met her future husband Professor Michal Smialowski. In 1952 Susan and her husband Michal moved to Warsaw where they worked at the Warsaw University of Technology and later at the Institute of Physical Chemistry of the Polish Academy of Sciences until 1982. Professor Smialowska was the head of the Electrochemistry and Corrosion Laboratory at the Institute. In 1971 she published her famous book “Inhibitory korozji metali (Metal Corrosion Inhibitors).” During her years at the Polish Academy of Sciences, she was very active in publishing technical research and participating in international conferences in corrosion and hydrogen effects in metals. In some old photographs from conference proceedings in the 1960s and 70s, Prof. Smialowska often appears as a solitary female figure in a sea of white men. In 1973 and then in 1978-1979, Prof. Smialowska was a visiting scientist at The Ohio State University.

In March 1982 Professor Smialowska moved to Columbus (Ohio) in the USA to work at the Fontana Corrosion Center in the Department of Materials Science and Engineering of The Ohio State University. AT OSU, she taught corrosion and was passionate about research. She published near 300 technical papers that are cited continuously today. The major areas of her technical research included: Kinetics and mechanisms of electrode processes, Passivity of various metals and alloys, Pitting corrosion, Stress corrosion cracking, Corrosion inhibitors, Hydrogen embrittlement, Aqueous corrosion at high temperatures (for nuclear power plants), and Ellipsometry and its application in corrosion studies. For several years and until her retirement

she served as Director of the Fontana Corrosion Center. While at Ohio State, she wrote her best seller book “Pitting Corrosion of Metals” first published in 1986, and then in a revised and expanded version as “Pitting and Crevice Corrosion” published in 2005. Prof. Smialowska received the NACE International Fellowship Award and, in 1998, the Cavallaro Medal from the European Federation of Corrosion. She also served in the editorial board of the journal Corrosion Science.

Professor Smialowska retired from teaching at OSU in 1995 but remained as an Emerita Professor at Ohio State completing the second edition of her book on localized corrosion. She traveled back and forth to Poland for several years and finally decided to move back permanently to her country home in Zalesie in 2009.

Prof. Smialowska had a technical tenacity that served her well in her interactions with others. She had strong beliefs and argued them with passion. In the professional side, she never saw herself as a woman scientist, but just as a scientist, never claimed privileges for being a minority. On the personal side, she was warm and charming, and never boring, but also could be biting in her observations. She loved reading and she loved art, animals and gardens. Whenever there was a conference somewhere in the world she always took a few hours off to visit interesting places, museums, zoos, landscapes, etc. with colleagues and students. She was thrifty with herself but generous with others. In winter she kept her house on the colder side and carried food when she traveled to avoid expensive meals at restaurants. Most of all, she enjoyed talking about her niece Agata and her grandniece Maya and grandnephew Kayo. Besides Agata, Maya and Kayo, she is survived by her sister Romualda.



Professor Susan Smialowska

