

ANNALES  
UNIVERSITATIS MARIAE CURIE-SKŁODOWSKA  
LUBLIN—POLONIA

VOL. XL/XLI

SECTIO AAA

1985/1986

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Instytut Fizyki UMCS

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**Professor Stanisław Szpikowski  
60th Anniversary Biographical Sketch**

Anniversaries always provide an occasion for reflection and recollection, for bringing back to memory all the things that shape in our minds the image of those we live and work with, those we learn from. Professor Stanisław Szpikowski's sixtieth birthday and the thirty-fifth anniversary of the beginning of his academic career are such an occasion.

I. We first met Professor Szpikowski, at that time the Chairman of the Department of Theoretical Physics, in 1970, shortly after his return from the United States, where he had spent a year at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. The occasion was his meeting with a group of students of physics active in an extra-curricular research and study circle. Later we attended his lectures in quantum mechanics and then joined his seminar. Closer

and more personal contacts began when one of us (W.A.K.) first wrote a master's thesis and then a doctoral dissertation under his supervision.

II. Professor Szpikowski was born on November 4, 1926, in Lublin, where he attended elementary school and then, in 1939, took and passed entrance examinations to Zamoyski High School. However, the outbreak of World War II forced him to discontinue further education. The war and occupation years brought the well-known and dramatic hardship of daily life and work, which in his case were aggravated by his father's death.

The spring of 1944 brought upon him more traumatic experiences, experiences which he shared with so many representatives of his own generation. Together with some other young men, the then eighteen-year-old boy was arrested by the Nazis and held hostage in the concentration camp at Majdanek. Owing his survival to the sudden arrival of the Red Army, he was soon back in prison, this time at Lublin's Castle, a prison since the times of Poland's partitions. Luckily released, he could take up his disrupted studies and start making up for the lost time.

Between 1944 and 1951 he finished high school and began to study mathematics at the newly opened Maria Curie-Skłodowska University. He wrote a master's thesis in mathematics under the direction of professor Mieczysław Biernacki. At that time he was also attending lectures in physics. In 1948 he gave a lecture on the general theory of relativity which was heard by professor Stanisław Ziemecki, the Chairman of the Physics Department, who immediately offered the young lecturer a teaching assistantship. Thus, while still a student, Stanisław Szpikowski began his academic career. In 1951 he was given the position of senior instructor and in 1955 promoted to the rank of assistant professor. In 1960 he formally corroborated his academic qualifications by defending a doctoral dissertation on "Thermodiffusion processes and determination of the potential parameters of the intermolecular forces".

III. An attempt to utilize his knowledge of mathematics in experimental physics characterized Professor Szpikowski's early research. His inclinations toward theoretical physics were fully

revealed only after he moved to the Department of Theoretical Physics and directed his interests toward the nuclear theory. Already in 1964 his first paper in this field appeared in Acta Physica Polonica [7], followed by a series of articles resulting from his two-year research conducted in cooperation with professor B. H. Flowers at Manchester [8, 11, 13, 15].

The presentation of his post-doctoral dissertation on "The short-range nuclear interaction and new symmetry groups" in 1966 coincided with his nomination for the chairmanship of the Department of Theoretical Physics. He enlarged its staff and intensified the research. Among the major projects undertaken in cooperation with his own assistants as well as scientists from other research centers (Manchester, Ann Arbor, Heidelberg) were: the application of group theory to the study of the nuclear structure, the role of the pairing and quadrupole type nuclear forces and new classification schemes [17-25, 28, 34, 35, 41]. Lublin began to be noticed among centers of theoretical physics in Poland. It should be added, too, that his correct assessment of the increasing role of solid state physics and his support given to such studies helped to develop advanced research carried out by the Solid State Theory Group working within the department headed by Professor Szpikowski.

After structural changes in the organization of Polish universities had been introduced in the late 1960s, Professor Szpikowski was nominated as Head of the newly established Institute of Physics within the Faculty of Mathematics, Physics and Chemistry. As a result, the scope of research was significantly broadened and intensified. The number of faculty members with the doctor's degree and other staff increased, new equipment was added to the existing apparatus, which, together with new international exchange programs, influenced the level and quality of research with telling effect. Professor Szpikowski was largely responsible for these developments. It should be noted that at that time he divided his time between the duties of Chairman of the Department and those of Chairman of Section Three of the Lublin Scientific Society, President of the Lublin Branch of the Polish Physical Society, a member of the University's Senate and, between 1980 and 1981, Dean of the Faculty of Mathematics, Physics and Chemistry. He was also active outside the local academic circles - for example, he presided over the mini-

sterial Committee for Physics Education and the organizing committee of the 27th Convention of Polish Physicists.

In 1972 S. Szpikowski was nominated associate professor and in 1983 full professor. During the ten years between these nominations he visited and did research in several centers abroad, such as Heidelberg (1973), Lock Haven (1977), Ann Arbor (1978), Munich (1983), Brighton (1983) and Trento (1984). Continuing his interest in the nuclear theory, from the middle 1970s on he has focused his research on the new so-called interacting boson model [32, 33, 36-38, 40, 45-50]. He was also instrumental in the introduction of new studies connected with the theory of continua the elementary particle physics, and the general theory of relativity in the Department of Theoretical Physics.

Professor Szpikowski has published over one hundred scientific articles, conference communications, review articles, works for the general public, textbooks and reviews. He has directed seven doctoral dissertations and about ninety master's theses. He has received numerous awards and prizes and is a member of several academic societies and associations in Poland and abroad.

IV. Sketching the academic profile of Professor Szpikowski, we should also mention his interest in the philosophy of science and the history of physics, which has led to the publication of articles on the question of time in quantum mechanics, the role of relativistic quantum mechanics and its reception in Poland [17, 30, 31, 39]. Connected with this is his ability to present these matters in a way accessible to the general public. Regarding the popularization of scientific achievements as a scientist's duty, he has published numerous articles for teachers and high school students which have been published in "Fizyka w Szkole" (physics in the school) and "Postępy Fizyki" (progress in physics). He has also made available to Polish readers such important works originally written in English as N. Bohr's "Atomic Physics and Human Knowledge" (co-translated with W. Staszewski and A. Teske) and I. B. Cohen's "The Birth of New Physics".

V. Our contacts with Professor Szpikowski have continued since the early 1970s. We have got to know him not just as our superior, advisor, critical reader of our works and in tiator of research.

We frequently meet him during our hikes in the mountains or on the sailboat. We have always admired his endurance, determination and unorthodox opinions about subjects not necessarily connected with physics, his thoughtfulness and ability to maintain a balanced view.

We felt deeply honored by the request of the Editor of this special volume of Annales to sketch a biography of Professor Szpikowski. We have used this occasion as a pretext for presenting the profile of a man, a scientist and a teacher, rather than as a pretext for evaluating his scientific achievements and contribution to the development of the academic center in Lublin. Let the appended bibliography of Professor Szpikowski's selected works speak for itself.

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Biography of Professor Stanisław Szpikowski, 1914-1988, written by Prof. Andrzej Kijowski, Institute of Physics and Astronomy, Lublin University, Lublin, 1989.

1. Stanisław Szpikowski (1914-1988). *Annales de Physique*, 1989, 14, 1-10.

