

Mister Chairman,
Distinguished Guests,
Dear Colleagues and Friends,
Dear Family,
Ladies and Gentlemen

70 years that have passed is a good time for reflection. The preceding speakers have kindly mentioned my achievements and successes. As I was listening to them, their words made me feel very happy, but I have to say here with great emphasis: there would have been no achievements and no successes or at least they would be very modest if I had not had so good teachers and so many good coworkers.

First of all, I'd like to mention here my first teachers: my parents Ludwika and Bogumił Krygowski and also my older sister Marta – during my childhood they gave me a first glimpse of understanding nature. In particular it was my Father, the professor of physical geography, who had been giving me the first lessons of how to observe the world that surrounds us and how to find relations between the various phenomena.

Then came the time spent at school: first the primary school and then the secondary school – I recall my teachers with a feeling of deep gratitude for all their efforts to educate us (not always polite children), to bring us up and to prepare us for independent life. I recall with particularly warm feelings my first experiments in a chemical circle, the first step into the field of scientific research.

Then the years of university studies – so important and so emotional. During that time I was “infected” by bacteria of scientific research. My first very modest publication appeared in 1957 – it was dealing with sedimentology (precisely speaking with graniformametry) and was done in cooperation with my Father. I wish to express my profound gratitude to my teachers at the department of chemistry in Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznan, many of them opened my eyes and showed a way into the real science. Professor Eduard Dutkiewicz is among the audience now—at your hands I convey my sincere thanks to all of them.

After graduating from university I moved to Warsaw and started to work at Warsaw University. With only a short break I have been

working here to this day, that is for more than 45 years. I am greatly obliged to the supervisor of my PhD – professor Wiktor Kemula, the famous electrochemist who gave me a lot of independence, thanks to which in addition to the necessary electrochemical work I was able to develop my own topics of research, typical of physical organic chemistry such as the substituent effects, solvent effects and problems related to electron delocalization in pi-electron systems. These topics have been a mainstream of my research till now, being recently extended also onto the H-bonding problems.

As I said at the beginning – I owe most of my scientific achievements to my teachers and coworkers – both in Poland and abroad. Cooperation with all of them was a great adventure for me and gave me a lot of satisfaction resulting from solving scientific problems and fascinating discussions.

I wish to express my deep gratitude to professor Zbigniew Galus, the head of the group in which I worked before attaining my full formal independence as a research worker – who – similarly as earlier did professor Kemula – fully accepted the far from electrochemistry fields of research that I was interested in.

I would also like to express my sincere thanks to my former students who made their own very nice scientific careers and are now well known scientists, to mention first of all professor **Iłona Turowska – Tyrk** at the Technical University of Wrocław, professor **Sławomir Grabowski** at the University of Łódź, and professor **Krzysztof Wozniak** who is now not only my successor at the Laboratory of Crystalchemistry but also is the organizer of a very important unit of structural investigations known as the Laboratory of Structural Research. Recently another well-known scientist, Dr. **Michał Cyranski**, has passed his habilitation in the Chemistry Department. Dr. **Beata Frączek** who also worked with me for some years, now moved to different kind of work in the Polish Science Foundation. From the very beginning of my work in crystallography I had a great and invaluable assistance from dr **Roma Anulewicz** who as an experienced crystallographer and a talented teacher together with the above-mentioned former students and early on with dr **Jan Maurin** and **Tadeusz Więckowski**, built a firm ground for educational and scientific successes of the Laboratory of Crystalchemistry. Many thanks to all of you!

I also wish to express my sincere thanks to the organizers of this jubilee meeting; **Roma Anulewicz, Krzysztof Woźniak, Beata Frączak** and **Michał Cyrański** – without your efforts it would not be possible to even think about organizing this kind of event.

Recently appeared two volumes of scientific journals dedicated to me: Polish Journal of Chemistry and Structural Chemistry – I wish to thank all my colleagues and friends who have honored me by contributing to these special issues – in particular I wish to thank **Slawek Grabowski** who worked as the guest editor of them. I also wish to thank **Gunther Haefelinger** who edited the special issue of J. Phys. Org. Chem. for my 65th jubilee.

Coming to the end of my talk, I wish to express my deep gratitude to all of you who have accepted the invitation and come to Warsaw, some of them from very distant countries, as did (Sequence following the decreasing distance)

Sian Howard from Adeleide, Australia
Joel Liebman from Baltimore, USA
Cheriff Matta from Halifax, Canada
Miquel Sola from Girona, Catalonia, Spain
Patrick Fowler from Sheffield, UK
Jacek Klinowski from Cambridge, UK
Sonja Nikolic, from Zagreb, Croatia
Galina Dovbeshko from Kiyv, Ukraina
Serguey Boreiko from St. Petersburg, Russia,
Gunter Haefelinger from Tuebingen, Germany,
Roland Boese from Essen, Germany,
Dietmar and Anita Kuck, Germany

Finally, it is my great obligation to thank all of you who have come to participate in this jubilee meeting for your kindness and friendliness. I also wish to thank all my colleagues and friends with whom I have had a great honor and pleasure to cooperate for so many years of my life. In a special way I would like to thank my family and relations who attend this meeting, some of them have come also from quite distant places such as Hamburg or Munich where **Witek Kroemeke** and **Marek Krygowski** have come. Many of them have come from different cities in Poland, from Rzeszów, Kraków, Poznań,

Gliwice, and other places, some of them just from Warsaw – many thanks once again to all of you!

At the “final end” I wish to say a few words in Polish, my mother tongue:

Panie Przewodniczący, Szanowni Panie i Panowie, Dostojni Goście, Droga Rodzino.

Jestem ogromnie wdzięczny wszystkim Państwu za przybycie na tę uroczystość – pragnę raz jeszcze podziękować wszystkim tym, których spotkałem na drogach mego życia a którzy przysłużyli się do jego wzbogacenia a także do znajdowania właściwych rozwiązań tak licznych przecież problemów życia. Serdecznie dziękuję mojej Żonie Marii moim córkom: Kindze i Oli oraz ich Mężom Krzysiowi i Michałowi a także ich dzieciom a moim wnukom, za stworzenie atmosfery harmonii, wzajemnego szacunku i zrozumienia – to ważne tworzywo dla intensywnej działalności jakiej poświęcałem się przez wiele lat mego życia. Dziękuję też PT Władzom Uczelni oraz Wydziału za życzliwą opiekę nad ich pracownikiem – za stworzenie mi warunków do nauczania oraz prowadzenia badań naukowych na Wydziale Chemii Uniwersytetu Warszawskiego.

Pragnę raz jeszcze – w rodzinnym już języku – serdecznie podziękować wszystkim osobom z którymi miałem zaszczyt i przyjemność współpracować – wiele się od Was nauczyłem i wiele się dzięki Wam udało się nam wspólnie zrobić – serdeczne dzięki. Słowa szczególnej wdzięczności kieruję do organizatorów tego spotkania – Prof. Krzysztofa Woźniaka, oraz doktorów: Romy Anulewicz – Ostrowskiej, Beaty Stępien – Fraczak oraz Michała Cyrańskiego. Gdyby nie Wasza inicjatywa i ciężka praca – to spotkanie nigdy by się nie odbyło! Pragnę też serdecznie podziękować Ks. Prof. Piotrowi Tomasikowi za poprowadzenie liturgii Mszy Św. a wszystkim obecnym na niej za wspólna modlitwę.

Na zakończenie pragnę Państwu zdradzić maksymę, która przyświecała moim działaniom:

Quidquid agis, prudenter agas et respice finem.

Miałem zamiar zakończyć powyższą rzymską maksymą, jednak pragnę jeszcze dodać, nawiązując do czytań podczas Mszy Świętej oraz homilii: życzę wszystkim tu obecnym i sobie samemu aby idąc drogą prawdy i miłości nasze starania były maksymalnie skuteczne.

Dziękuję za uwagę, thank you for your kind attention