



To the memory of
Władek Świątecki

First time I met Wladek Swiatecki it was in 1966 when he stopped by for few days in Poland on his way to the conference in Dubna, Russia. He has visited our Institute and I have presented to him our calculations in tripartition, which is a nuclear fission with the emission of light charged particle. He made few critical remarks and one of the most important one was: **"Why don't you make it simpler"**. After his visit we have simplified the calculations in the spirit he told us and in two years due to him we have written few publications. At the same time Wladek was visiting the town of his childhood, Lublin where he went to his school and met his teacher of mathematics. Wladek spent with this teacher one evening trying to recollect all the other teachers and colleagues. One year when Wladek was travelling through Poland with his brother they first visited Grotowski's at their house south of Krakow and after that they went to the very far south-east of Poland. Kazimierz Grotowski warned them that the area is not very safe and people are not too friendly so they should to be careful. And it happened that when they stopped their car at the edge of the road another car came and stopped just behind them which made it somewhat suspicious. Then the guy from the car behind get off the car approached Wladek and said: "Look I am going to the wedding, could you please help me to tie a necktie".

Another stop they made was in the village called Obrucz where they being teenagers were spending their hollidays with parents. When they were approaching a village they noticed an old farmer in the fields so they stopped and started to talk to him. At some point the farmer still not knowing who is Wladek and his brother said that before the last war there was **mr Swiatecki (Wladek's father) who came to Obrucz by plane even piloting it**. Now nobody would notice it but at that time it was quite an event which was remembered for many years.

Next time I met Wladek it was at the end of 1972 in Dubna. At that time I did not know that I will be going pretty soon to visit Wladek in Berkeley. Nevertheless when I was awarded a Fullbright scholarship and was told that I can choose a laboratory whatever I want to I felt after our two meetings that I can ask Wladek if he is willing to accept me in Berkeley as a visiting scientist working with him. I did not get an answer from Wladek immediately and I started to worry that Wladek is not interested in me but finaly I got a letter and Wladek said he is happy waiting for me. So in September 1973 I came to Berkeley and started my cooperation with Wladek which lasted up to last year.

At the beginning our cooperation did not work too well and it was because my English was very poor so I forced Wladek to discuss physics in Polish. On the other hand as Wladek was not using Polish for quite some time he was not very happy being forced to use it again. I remember that when we started our discussion Wladek was very happy when somebody else appeared what gave him an excuse to switch immediately to English and I was left alone not understanding too much. Then Bill Myers told me that if I want to discuss physics with Wladek and do it in Polish I should start jogging with him. So I did as Bill said which was hard for me as I did not do it before. Nevertheless after some time I started to enjoy my jogging and free discussions with Wladek where I could pick up some of his ideas. On the other hand I have noticed that Wladek is more and more happy using his Polish language. So the situation became much better than at the beginning and after one year Wladek proposed an extension of my stay in Berkeley for another two years.

These two years were the most productive periods in my life. Together with Wladek and other people we have published the most important for me publications like the one about the proximity forces or another one about one-body dissipation. These papers are the most cited papers from all the ones I have published.

I have to tell that at the end of my three years stay in Berkeley the situation has been changed and even reversed. Wladek was enjoying very much our discussions in Polish and even if somebody else appeared he did not interrupt and continued the discussion in Polish. This time I felt somewhat

uneasy and switched to English but Wladek did not even noticed it just continuing our conversation

in Polish. **I was very proud of myself when one day Wladek said that due to me his Polish came back to him.**

After three years I left Berkeley going back to Poland but that did not mean the end of our cooperation. I was keeping in touch with Wladek and visiting him every year for shorter periods of time up to three months. At the same time Wladek was visiting Poland from time to time. He enjoyed very much these visits and brought few times his wife Uta and even one time his daughter Elke.

In 1980 we (Wladek and me) putted in a Berkeley preprint a big atlas of the potential energy maps. Then all of the sudden after more than 20 years I got a message from Wladek telling me that something is wrong with our calculations of the inertia. It was at the time Janusz and Krystyna Wilczynski were in Berkeley and after they came back Janusz told that for three days Wladek locked himself in his room not talking to anybody. Wladek wrote to me that he thinks he is right telling that something is wrong in the calculations but if he is wrong **he is willing to take part in the pilgrimage to the Czestochowa sanctuary.**

These pilgrimages are organized every year in Poland and depending on the place people start it can take up to two – three weeks.

Fortunately I was still keeping all the numerical programs so I could pretty fast recalculate what Wladek suspected was wrong making some additional checks. So after exchanging few letters Wladek was convinced that everything is o'k. After that every year Wladek was coming to Poland I asked him: „Should I enlist you to the pilgrimage this year?”

He also met his brother and sister in Poland who came from Great Britain. They were going to the places of their childhoods meeting people they knew in the past.

Besides Wladek was participating few times in Polish schools of physics organized at Mazury region and in Zakopane. Recently he was participating regularly every year in the workshops organized in Kazimierz. In all these meetings Wladek as an invited speaker was presenting his own ideas and calculations or giving an overview talks like the one two years ago about fifty years of nuclear fission. Anyway our cooperation did not stop and on top of our meetings we were able to use an internet connection which allowed us to be in touch every day. Last year I was doing calculations Wladek asked me to do. These calculations suppose to enter Wladek's studies of the fusion process.

In Poland Wladek was awarded by the Polish Physical Society a Smoluchowski medal which every year is given to an outstanding person from abroad who is coworking with Polish people. Besides Wladek is an external member of the Polish Academy of Sciences and a doctor honoris causa of one of the oldest universities in the world the Jagellonian University in Krakow.

I have to tell that Wladek was the most wonderful person I have ever met.

I am an extremely lucky guy meeting Wladek and having a chance to work with him for so many years. He has also influenced very much my scientific career in Poland.

Owing to him I became a professor at our Institute in Poland.

My younger son named also Wladek was born in 1989 and **Wladek** Swiatecki was his Godfather. One day my son intends to go and visit his Godfather in Berkeley and I do hope he will be able to do it.

This last sentence I wrote last year when Władek was still with us. Right now when Władek is gone my son will not be able to visit his Godfather.

Figure captions

Fig. 1 Władek Świątecki with his Godson Władek Błocki (my son). This picture was taken in Warsaw

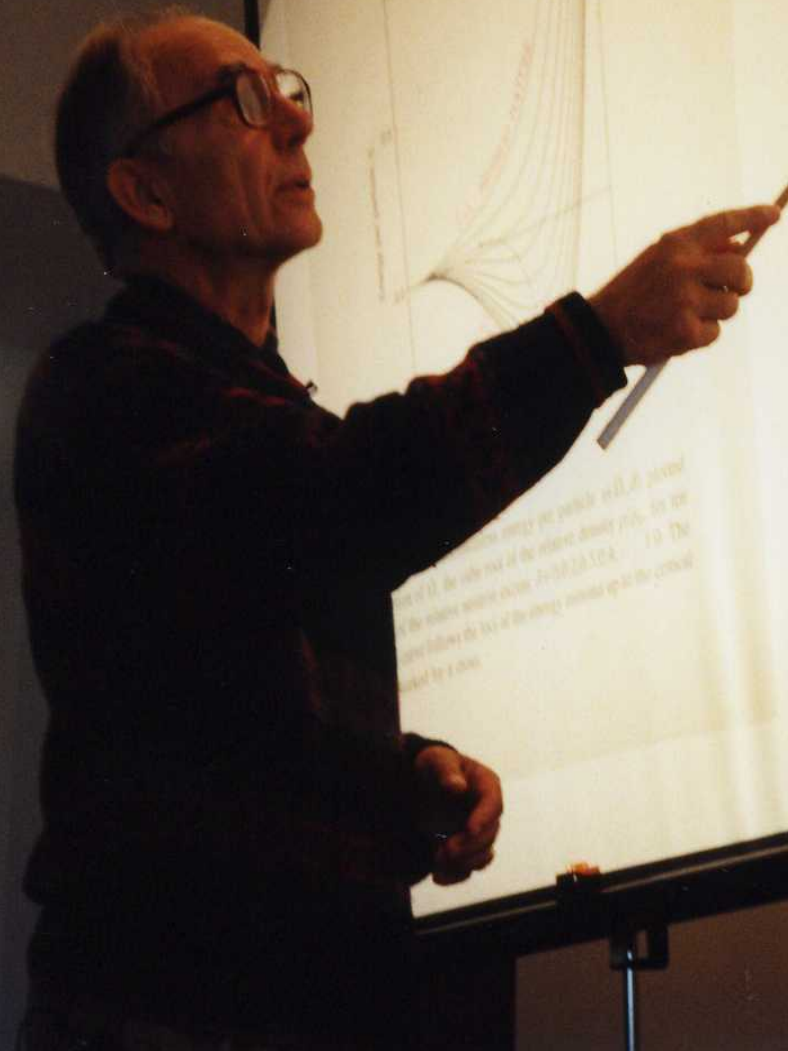
Fig. 2 Władek lecturing in one of the schools

Fig. 3 Władek at campfire in Zakopane school

Fig. 4 Władek and his wife Uta enjoying an evening life in Zakopane

Fig. 5 Władek during the ceremony at the Jagiellonian University. In front is his Godson.





... energy per particle will be given
... the value of the relative density ρ , as the
... follows the law of the energy increase up to the critical
... by a factor.

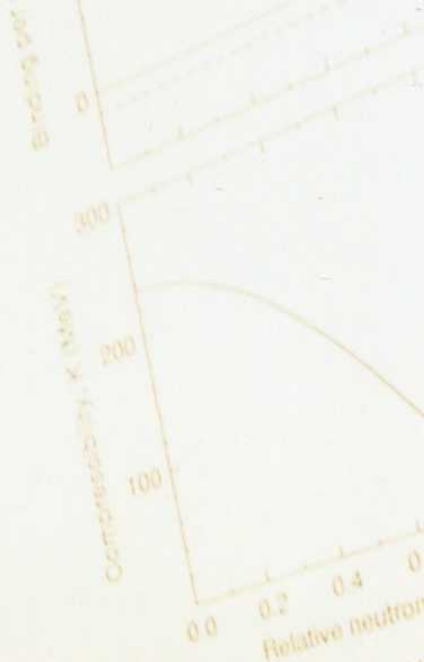


FIG. 2. The saturation density ρ_0 of the
the compressibility $K_0(\delta)$ at saturation
relative neutron excess δ . The compres-
sibility point defined by $\delta_1 = 0.8213$, where
 $K_0 = 1.1029$ MeV. Note the similarity of
 $K_0 \sim \rho_0$. (The dashed line corresponds





