



**RYSZARD BABICKI**  
**FELLOW OF THE POLISH**  
**ACADEMY OF SCIENCES**

- On the power of the Resolution of the General Assembly of 16<sup>th</sup> December 1994, Professor Ryszard Babicki was nominated Fellow of the Polish Academy of Sciences.

- In the entire history of wood science Professor Ryszard Babicki is the first person to have been distinguished with this honour.

Professor Ryszard Babicki was born in Baranowicze in 1927. In 1957 he graduated in forestry from the Poznań University. In 1960 he obtained a doctor's degree in forestry from the Higher Agricultural School in Poznań. In 1966 he received his

post-doctoral degree from the Wood Technology Department of the Main School of Farming in Warsaw. In the year 1972 the State Council bestowed on him the title of Professor Extraordinarius and then in 1978 of Full Professor. In 1983 he became associate member of the Polish Academy of Sciences.

Professionally, Professor Babicki has always been closely associated with wood technology. Having completed his assistantship (1952-52) in the Department of Mechanical Wood Processing of the Higher Agricultural School in Poznań, he began working at the Wood Technology Institute where he specialized in chemical wood technology. His scientific career was to become closely connected with this Institute ever since. He was promoted to all possible positions there: for thirty years he was head of the Wood Chemical Technology Department and then, for over twenty years, director Institute of Wood Technology in Poznań.

His research focused primarily on wood hydrolysis and thermolysis, on the processing of gum oleoresin and wood resin and of tall oil, and on the processing of resin products.

Ryszard Babicki's achievements are impressive. His works number over 200 titles. Out of over 150 publications of his, many are quoted in monographs

and biographies printed in Poland and abroad, e.g. *Holztechnologie Holzfor-schung*, *Wood Science*, *Zellstoffund Papier*, *Sylvan*, *Prace ITD* and *Folia Forestalia*. His works include 70 treatises, 40 articles, 30 papers (published) and 3 highly specialistic monographs.

Professor Babicki has contributed a great deal to the economy - e.g. 19 projects developed by him have been applied industrially. He is designer or co-designer of a total of 60 research documentation projects qualified for in industry and of 18 patents. Between 1975 and 1980 he was head of the priority project 09.11 titled "Complex Utilization of Wood Materials in Industrial Processing". In the years 1986-1990 he supervised the Central Research and Development Project 6.5 on "Materials-Saving Processing of Wood".

Professor Ryszard Babicki organized numerous national and international scientific conferences and symposia. He was also an active participant in scientific conferences abroad where he presented the results of his research.

In addition, Professor Babicki is an extremely committed member of many social and scientific organizations: since 1975 he has been chairman of the Wood Technology Committee of the Polish Academy of Sciences; for 17 years he was member of the Central Qualifying Board for Researchers and Academic Teachers; for 7 years he was member of the Main Council of the Ministry of Higher Education and Technology; he has been on boards of many scientific and publishing bodies.

Professor Ryszard Babicki is also a well-known educator. He supervised two doctor's and three post-doctoral dissertations. In his Wood Chemical Technology Department nine people obtained doctoral degrees, three people post-doctoral degrees and two persons were nominated extraordinary professors of engineering. Commissioned by the Faculty Councils of various universities, by the Scientific Councils of institutes and by the Central Qualifying Board, he reviewed 11 doctoral and 18 post-doctoral dissertations, and wrote evaluations of 21 candidates for extraordinary professorships and of 15 candidates for full professorships.

He was chairman or member of 14 qualifying committees for scientific degrees and titles. While he was director Institute of Wood Technology, 12 persons received full or extraordinary professorships, seven people obtained post-doctoral degrees, and 42 got their doctor's degrees.

He has been distinguished and awarded many times for his research, organizing and social abilities with, for example, the Knight's and Officer's Crosses of the Polonia Restituta Medal.

Having become an associate member of the Polish Academy of Sciences Professor Ryszard Babicki continued to be as active professionally as ever. This fact is worth stressing because in spite of such an honourable distinction not only did he follow applied research in his usual areas, but he expanded it by new ones as well - e.g. rosin size and rosin oil obtained straight from the pine-tree by means of paraquat. He did so in the hope that the results of the latter projects would be a chance for the reconstruction of the Polish resin industry, the products of which, he hoped again, would be competitive to those made abroad.

For many years Professor Ryszard Babicki presided over the Council of Directors of Institutes of the City of Poznań and the Poznań Voivodship, and was member of the Council of University Presidents of the City of Poznań. Moreover, he was a coorganizer of the Second and Third Congresses of Polish Science. Now that he has retired, he is chairman of the Scientific Council of the Wood Technology Institute.

All of his accomplishments in scientific research and as an educator, as well as his leadership qualities, had met with high recognition from academics, and resulted in his nomination for the Polish Academy of Sciences Fellowship.

Congratulating Professor Ryszard Babicki on this honourable distinction, we wish him the best of success in his further research work - all to the benefit of Polish science and economy.

Prof. dr Edmund Urbanik  
Instytut Technologii Drewna  
60-654 Poznań, ul. Winiarska 1