

## Obituary

Professor Dr. hab. Ryszard Babicki (1927-2010)

full member of the Polish Academy of Sciences



Professor Dr. hab. Ryszard Babicki

On 16 December 2010 Professor Ryszard Babicki passed away at the age of 83. He was doctor honoris causa of the Poznań University of Life Sciences, a full member of the Polish Academy of sciences and for many years director of the Wood Technology Institute in Poznań.

He fought against the disease without involving his environment, he was aware of his condition and death that came too early. He accepted the inevitable with dignity that can only be found in a truly mature person.

His whole life was devoted to work at the Wood Technology Institute, where he climbed the professional ladder from assistant to professor and finally to general director.

He was an honest and wise man, kind towards people. He proved that with his everyday work and he was doing his job in hard times and in defiance of his fortune.

Professor Babicki achieved everything that those was to achieve in science. At a relatively young age he became a professor, a full member of the Polish Academy of Sciences, longtime director of the Wood Technology Institute, president of the

Board of Directors of Research Institutes of Poznań, president of the Wood Technology Committee of the Polish Academy of Sciences, a member of the Central Committee on Scientific Degrees and Titles, and an editor of scientific journals. He performed also other duties by choice. In his rich professional carrier those successes were the result of his talent as well as systematic, hard, everyday work.

Professor Babicki had a great contribution to the development of Polish wood-based industry by creating its foundations in scope of production as well as science development. His scientific achievements established his position among the most eminent specialists in wood chemical technology. He was a tutor and teacher of many younger colleagues reaching for scientific degrees and titles.

Important though his work was to him, his family and friends were first and foremost in the Professor's life. The list of important things also contained belles-lettres and diaries, especially from the time of the Second World War in which he took part as a young boy.

He was a good husband and father, and also a friend of many people who won his trust.

Professor Ryszard Babicki was one of few people who had huge influence on his working environment thanks to the virtues of his mind and character.

Professor Ryszard Babicki left rich scientific achievements that will serve future generations, but his unique personality cannot be replaced.

HOMAGE TO HIS MEMORY!

Janina Łęcka  
Władysław Strykowski