

**Personalia**



**70th birthday of Reinhard Folk**

On April 29, 2015 Reinhard Folk – member of the Editorial Board of “Condensed Matter Physics”, renowned expert in the fields of condensed matter physics, phase transitions and critical phenomena – celebrated his 70th birthday. Reinhard Folk was born in Neuendettelsau, Germany. He studied at the University of Vienna, where in 1973 he defended his doctoral thesis “Hydrodynamic Equations of Dielectric Crystals” (under supervision of Franz Schwabl). In the same year he started working at the Institute for Theoretical Physics, Johannes Kepler University in Linz, at first as assistant, later as an associate professor, then as extraordinary professor, and finally as Director of the research group “Phase Transitions and Critical Phenomena”. His research interests cover various fields of condensed matter physics. In particular, he obtained important results in the theory of ferroelectrics, quantum liquids, critical phenomena in magnets and random systems, spin liquids, superconductors, and neural networks. Reinhard Folk and his collaborators performed a series of studies that became the basis for understanding and quantitative description of phenomena occurring in many systems. Included amongst these are the description of the thermodynamic properties of matter in the vicinity of Lifshitz points, the description of critical dynamics in systems with different types of conservation laws, the analysis of effective (non-asymptotic) critical behaviour, and generalized hydrodynamics of many-particle systems. Computing algorithms, resummation methods of asymptotic perturbation series proposed by Reinhard Folk and his collaborators, cover a wide range of applications. In 1982 (together with Volker Dohm) he was awarded the Walter Schottky Prize of the German Physical Society for his studies of the critical dynamics of helium-4. Those of us who were fortunate to know Reinhard Folk closer, are aware of his interests in the history of culture and the history of natural sciences in particular. Recently, these interests have also led to significant professional work in these fields.

Reinhard Folk is also known for his scientific organisational and social activity. In particular, he was an active member of the Austrian organization BUKO (Bundeskonferenz des Wissenschaftlichen und Künstlerischen Personals der Österreichischen Universitäten und Kunsthochschulen). He was member of the Presidium of the organization in 1997–1999 and Chairman in 1999–2003. He was also an Austrian delegate at the organization of scientific and technical cooperation EU COST. He is the member of the advisory board of the series of annual conferences MECO (Middle European Cooperation in Statistical Physics). These conferences have now established as important and prestigious European physics forums in statistical physics. Lively interest in scientific work, participation in various programs of European scientific cooperation, deep concern about the future of science led Reinhard Folk to the organization of

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and participation in projects with the aim to establish and strengthen links with Central and Eastern Europe. Here we wish to emphasize his long and fruitful links with Ukraine. Since 1990 he was the initiator of cooperation projects under which many Ukrainian physicists from Lviv, Kyiv and Uzhgorod visited the Institute for Theoretical Physics, Johannes Kepler University in Linz. Further, he is an active participant and co-organizer of many international conferences that take place in Ukraine. In cooperation with Ukrainian scientists he wrote more than 70 scientific papers and one monograph. In 2009 he was conferred the title of Doctor honoris causa of the ICMP of the National Acad. Sci. of Ukraine.

On the occasion of Reinhard Folks 70th birthday the CMP Editorial board, his friends and numerous colleagues sincerely wish him continued good health and happiness, and to continue his travels in the worlds of science and of people enriching both of them!