

Obituary

In memoriam: Prof. Kosta D. Maglić (1934–2018)

Prof. Kosta D. Maglić, an internationally known and distinguished researcher in the field of thermophysical properties, passed away on April 16, 2018 in Belgrade, Serbia. He is mourned by his wife Gordana, magister of technology, by his son Rastko, doctor of gynaecology and obstetrics, and by three grandchildren, along with the entire thermophysics community.

Prof. Maglić was born on June 6, 1934 in Zagreb, at that time part of the former Yugoslavia. He received B.Sc. and Ph.D. degrees from the University of Belgrade, Faculty of Mechanical Engineering and a M.Sc. degree from the Applied Physics Department of the University of Wales, Cardiff, UK. Soon after graduation he initiated research on thermophysical properties and established a laboratory for thermophysical characterisation of solid materials at the Department of Thermal Engineering and Energy of the Institute of Nuclear Sciences VINČA in Belgrade.

From July 1960 to June 2001, when he retired, Prof. Maglić worked continuously at the Institute VINČA as the head of the laboratory. He designed and built with co-workers a series of apparatus for measuring thermophysical properties, such as thermal conductivity, thermal diffusivity, specific heat capacity, electrical resistivity, normal spectral and hemispherical total emissivity over a wide temperature range. Thanks to his activities the laboratory has become an internationally well-known research institution recognised for the reliability and accuracy of its results. He also contributed significantly to the establishment of primary temperature metrology in the country through the realization of the national temperature fixed point standards, such as the triple point of water and the gold point according to the IPTS-68 and to the ITS-90.



The laboratory covered not only the needs of the country, but also those of the related international scientific and engineering communities. Prof. Maglić contributed to several international programs on standard reference materials, such as CODATA and other ones coordinated by ASTM, GOST, NIST and DIN. Between 1979 and 1992 Prof. Maglić led an international collaboration for the standardisation of methods for thermophysical property measurement established by the European Conference on Thermophysical Properties (ECTP). That group, with the participation of 29 leading world experts produced a two volume “Compendium of Thermophysical Property Measurement Methods reference series”, published by Plenum Press in 1984 and 1992 [1, 2]. He also initiated cooperative projects with NIST, KFA Jülich, IVTAN Moscow, INSA Lyon and IAEA. During his entire career, Prof. Maglić maintained intensive scientific contacts with colleagues from many laboratories and scientific institutions all over the world.

Prof. Maglić was chosen as a principal research fellow in 1986, and became a full professor at the Faculty of Physics of the University of Belgrade in 1995. He was a member of the editorial boards of three international journals: “High Temperatures – High Pressures”, “International Journal of Thermophysics” and “Revue Internationale des Hautes Températures et Réfractaires”. He was the author/co-author of many publications, monographs, book chapters, papers in leading international journals, conference proceedings and technical projects. He presented invited lectures in the USA, Japan, the former USSR and Greece. Under his guidance 17 B.Sc., M.Sc. and Ph.D. theses from various areas of thermal properties and temperature metrology were prepared and defended.

Prof. Maglić was the recipient of many awards, such as the Award of the XV Yugoslav Conference of ETAN in 1974. He was made Fellow of the 16th International Thermal Conductivity Conference, Chicago, in 1979. Additional recognitions were the Award of the Yugoslav Society of Thermal Engineers, Ohrid, in 1984, the Award for Fundamental Research of the Institute of Nuclear Sciences in 1984, and the Award of the City of Belgrade for Science in 1986. His most coveted recognition was the “European Thermophysics Award”, “given for his outstanding research work to investigate the thermophysical properties of materials and of his dedicated commitment to promote the dissemination of knowledge in this field” assigned by the ECTP in London, 2002.

One of us (NM) had the privilege to work with Prof. Maglić for many years. He taught his associates that persistent work and a continuous desire for personal improvement were the most important things in their careers. Besides a commitment to science, he was characterized by universal human virtues – conscientiousness and honesty, possession of ethical and moral principles, dedication and readiness to pass on his knowledge and experience to others. His dedication and support enabled younger associates to go to scientific conferences, stay in top world laboratories and expand their scientific

knowledge. On a daily basis, he motivated associates by telling them to think exclusively about regular work, not about possible results. He assured them that the results and acknowledgments will surely come as a consequence of dedicated work.

Prof. Maglič appreciated communication and cooperation with scientists from other institutions all over the world. He was among the early participants in the ECTP and was chosen in 1974 by the ECTP founders as the first Secretary of the International Organizing Committee (IOC) of that conference, serving up to 1990. In that position he was at the forefront of the work on thermophysical properties in Europe for many decades. The founding fathers of the conference series had good foresight in opening up the event to both Eastern and Western European countries even in times when political differences were high in the continent. The ECTP editions in Moscow (1976) and in Dubrovnik (1978, organized by Prof. Maglič) defined the future direction of this scientific event.

Prof. Maglič was much involved and connected to the ECTP activities even in retirement. Last year he coauthored an article on the history of the first 50 years of the European Conference on Thermophysical Properties [3]. That article was made possible by the collection of the ECTP IOC minutes he prepared over the years and passed to the next IOC Secretaries, forming the base of the historical record of the event.

Prof. Maglič contributed much to the development of good international relations in the thermophysics community. Many friends and colleagues of this community join us in offering sincere condolences to his family.

Nenad Milošević
Francesco Righini

REFERENCES

- [1] Maglič K., Cezairliyan A., Peletsky V. (Eds.) *Compendium of Thermophysical Property Measurement Methods. Volume 1 – Survey of Measurement Techniques*. New York: Plenum Press; 1984.
- [2] Maglič K., Cezairliyan A., Peletsky V. (Eds.) *Compendium of Thermophysical Property Measurement Methods. Volume 2 – Recommended Measurement Techniques and Practices*. New York: Plenum Press; 1992.
- [3] Assael, M., Righini F., Maglič, K., *Int. J. Thermophys.*, **39** (2018), 25, <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10765-017-2346-z>.