

Obituary

EMANUEL POPPEL (1925-2016)

Emanuel Poppel, professor emeritus at “Gheorghe Asachi” Technical University of Iasi, Romania, passed away on the 5th of July, 2016. He graduated as chemical engineer with honours from the faculty of Chemical Industry of the Polytechnic Institute of Iasi in 1949, and defended his doctoral thesis *Applied research in the field of paper technology* in 1958, under the supervision of professor Cristofor I. Simionescu. Along with him, professor Poppel was involved in the foundation and evolution of the Department of Pulp and Paper at the faculty of Chemical Industry, where he began his education and research activities. Emanuel Poppel became full professor in 1970, teaching the main course of Processes and equipment in the pulp, paper and rayon fibers industries. At the same time, he was granted the PhD supervisor status (16 PhD students defended their theses). His scientific contribution was widely recognized in the scientific world of paper chemistry with more 220 published articles, 11 patents and 7 books (the most important one being *Rheology and electrokinetic processes in the paper technology*, 1979, Fachbuchverlag, Leipzig, German Democratic Republic).

The main subjects that professor Poppel approached in his research activity were: rheology of cellulosic fibrous structure and chemical fibers; paper hydrophobization in neutral and weak alkaline medium; obtaining and use of natural and synthetic polymers as additives or as chemical fibers in papermaking; processes and electrokinetic phenomena in the technology of fibrous materials; processes and operations in papermaking; ageing of cellulosic fibers and paper; equipment and operations in the pulp, paper and rayon fibers. He always worked as part of a team along with scientists and engineers to whose education and development he contributed. The scientific activity of Professor Emanuel Poppel was internationally recognized as he was elected as member of the following organisms and associations: International Academy of Wood Science (1977), British Federation PITA-PIRA (Paper Industry Research Association-1976), International Association of Scientific Paper-Makers (1992), American Academy of Sciences (1994), Committee for The Marcus Wallenberg Prize (1995).

He was member of the Editorial Board of the journal *Celuloza si Hartie* (Pulp and Paper, Romania) and a founding member of the Technical Association for Pulp and Paper Industry (Romania). Professor Poppel was invited as a visiting professor to Germany, Austria and Israel, and presented lectures in the UK, Poland, USA, Netherlands, Hungary, Czech Republic, Russia and

Finland. His students appreciated his high qualities as a teacher and mentor, and they were grateful for his contribution to their formation.

Professor Poppel was a model for many of us and his achievements will long be remembered. There are many of us who miss professor Emanuel Poppel, but his spirits and glow live on through all the people he had an impact on.

Valentin I. Popa, Emeritus Professor, PhD

Fellow of *International Academy of Wood Science*, member of *International Association of Scientific Papermakers*, *International Lignin Institute*,
Editor in chief of *Cellulose Chemistry and Technology* journal