

# In Memoriam

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## Oswald Kubaschewski (1912-1991)

This issue of the *Journal of Phase Equilibria* is respectfully dedicated to the memory of Professor Oswald Kubaschewski whose demise occurred on 27 October 1991 in Aachen. His contributions and accomplishments in the fields of thermodynamics and diffusion are too numerous to catalog. The papers in this issue are a sampling of the diversity of areas within thermodynamics wherein his influence has been felt. To his associates and friends he was known informally as Kuba. There is no question but that he was a renowned scientist, but he was much more than that.

I was fortunate enough to meet Kuba for the first time in Vienna in 1962 where I reported some work that included the use of one of his approximating procedures. This led to a far-ranging discussion over a friendly glass of wine that evening and an initial visit to his laboratory at the NPL in Teddington following the Vienna meeting. There were many other visits and communications during subsequent years as well as a short sabbatical with



him in 1975. I always found him to be a warm, kind, and charming human being. His wife Ortrud, a well-known scientist in her own right, was ever at his side both in the laboratory and in the home. An evening spent with the two of

them was always relaxing but nonetheless stimulating.

Kuba was a man of broad interests. Discussions with him could range over the course of a few hours from science through history, poetry, philosophy on down to mundane matters of everyday living. He was an inveterate storyteller with a gentle sense of humor so his stories always had an off-beat twist. He could and did use his humor to lighten pompous occasions and to humanize overly formal ceremonies. His humor was one of the reasons that he was frequently asked to participate as an examiner for candidates seeking doctoral degrees. I think there was a little Til Eulenspiegel or Puck in him. He could be critical of ideas or of data, but I never heard him say an unkind thing about another person. I am sure that doctoral candidates found him to be rigorous but kind.

He was truly an unusual man, and I am pleased that I was able to call him friend. I, like many others, will sorely miss him.

**J.F. Smith**  
Editor  
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