

22.9.2004
LEUVEN, BELGIUM

On 22 September 2004, Leuven/Belgium, the Laboratory of Applied Rheology and Polymer Processing of the Katholieke Universiteit Leuven and the Belgian Group of Rheology jointly organized a symposium 'Rheology and Microstructure of Complex Fluids' in honour of Jan Mewis, on the occasion of his retirement. The meeting at Arenbergkasteel/Leuven brought together distinguished colleagues and friends of Jan Mewis, and was locally organized by Paula Moldenaers, Jan Vermant, and Peter Van Puyvelde.

Before the academic career of Jan Mewis will be reviewed below, and a laudatio was given at the meeting, the multi-disciplinary auditorium was introduced to the field by former coworkers of Jan Mewis. It was Hans Martin Laun (Ludwigshafen) who opened the symposium with a remarkable speech about 'flow-induced crystallization of polybutene-1 samples with regard to processing'. Morton Denn (New York) followed up by informing about his insight into blends with a liquid crystalline dispersed phase. Giuseppe Marrucci (Naples) was certainly convincing the auditorium about the charm and challenges of associating polymer rheology, and Arthur Metzner (Delaware) gave an interesting comment on the early work on turbulent drag reduction. Actually, Art was not in Leuven, but he gave his lecture over the phone, while his presentation was being projected (it worked surprisingly well).

After lunch, Ken Walters (Aberystwyth) excited the auditorium with 'Something old, something new in rheology', before Hiroshi Masuhara (Osaka) informed about state-of-the-art laser manipulation of individual particles and

dendrimer gels in solution. William B. Russel (Princeton) summarized his works on mechanics of latex film formation, and Roland Keunings (Louvain-la-Neuve) ended the session with an overview over kinetic theory models and simulation techniques for polymer dynamics. Finally, there were no open questions left and after another coffee, and before the final reception, Paula Moldenaers, the head of the Laboratory of Applied Rheology and Polymer Processing, summarized the academic career of Jan Mewis as follows:

Jan Mewis studied Chemical Engineering at the Katholieke Universiteit Leuven in Belgium, where he received his master degree in 1961. While he worked at the IVP Laboratory, the research institute of the Belgian paint and printing ink industry, he obtained his PhD with a thesis on 'Tack of Printing Inks'. In 1969 he returned to K.U. Leuven as a fulltime faculty member, where over the years he taught a wide range of courses. He was chairman of the Chemical Engineering Department from 1989 to 1995 and again from 1999 until 2002. In 1971-72 he spent a year at the University at Delaware with a NATO fellowship, working with professor A.B. Metzner. He was twice a visiting professor at the same university (1981 and 2004) and at Princeton University in 1982. He spent shorter visits at various universities in the US and Australia. The research activities of Jan Mewis can be situated in the general area of rheology and processing of complex fluids. He authored or co-authored about 200 publications and gave hundreds of lectures and seminars all over the world on this topic. He is best known for his, often cited, work in three specific areas. In the area of suspension Rheology he published with A.B Metzner the now classical paper on extensional flow of fibre suspensions, as well as a series of papers establishing the rheology of sterically stabilized suspensions. Later he contributed substantially to the present understanding of the rheology of liquid crystalline polymers and that of immiscible polymer blends. In all these cases his approach was to link the rheology to the underlying flow-induced changes in microstructure. He successfully applied a wide range of rheological procedures for probing the microstructure during flow. This was supplemented very early by adding other techniques for in-situ, time-resolved structural analyses during flow. These included various scat-

Figure 1: From left to right: W. Russel (Princeton University), H. Masuhara (Osaka University), H.M. Laun (BASF Ludwigshafen), M.M. Denn (City College of New York), J. Mewis (Katholieke Universiteit Leuven), K. Walters (University of Wales at Aberystwyth), G. Marrucci (Universita Federico II, Napoli) and R. Keunings (Université Catholique de Louvain).



tering techniques, especially rheo-optics, as well as dielectric techniques. Jan Mewis was quite active in the rheological community. He is a co-founder and former president of the Belgian Group of Rheology, was chairman of the International Committee on Rheology (1992-96) and is still a member of the Executive Committee of the European Society of Rheology. Since October 2003 he his professor-emeritus but still active in research and consulting. He is a.o. working on a book on Suspension Rheology.

MK for AR*

*We thank Paula Moldenaers for providing us with the original text of the laudatio.



Figure 2: Participants of the symposium in Arenbergkasteel/Leuven.



Australian-Korean Rheology Conference 2005

Cairns, Australia
17th to 20th July 2005



The third Australian-Korean Rheology Conference will be held at the Cairns Conference Centre in Queensland, Australia on 17th to 20th July 2005.

This conference is organised by the Australian Society of Rheology and the Korean Society of Rheology and will provide an international forum to showcase rheological research in Australia, Korea and the broader Pacific region. All scientists and engineers interested in rheology are invited to participate in this conference.

Abstracts and Early bird registrations close 31st March.

For more information see the conference website:

Session topics:

- ? Polymer melts and composites
- ? Polymer solutions and gels
- ? Microstructural modelling
- ? Suspensions and emulsions
- ? Rheometry
- ? Food and industrial rheology
- ? Non-Newtonian fluid mechanics

Plenary speakers include:

- ? Tam Sridhar (Monash University)
- ? S J Lee (Seoul National University)
- ? David Boger (University of Melbourne)

<http://www.chequ.e.uq.edu.au/AKRC05>