

nical community for his contributions to crystal growth and for his leadership, and by his many friends and colleagues for his extraordinary energy, sense of humor, loyalty and encouragement. For the two of us, he was a colleague who enhanced our lives with his clear thinking on critical issues, his relaxed manner and his always present infectious humor.

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John Paul Jakubovics

John Paul Jakubovics, a prominent magnetician and materials scientist, died on 21 January 1998 in Oxford, England, after a short fight with cancer of the pancreas.

Born on 13 July 1938 in Budapest, John went to the UK in 1956 as a refugee from Soviet oppression in Hungary. He received a BSc in physics from the University of Bristol in 1961 and a PhD from the University of Cambridge in 1965. His thesis was entitled "Electron Microscope Studies of Magnetic Domains in Crystals."

After holding postdoctoral fellowships at Cambridge, John moved in 1966 to the University of Oxford, where he remained for the rest of his professional career. At the time of his death, he was a reader in the department of materials and a fellow of St. Cross College.

John was an internationally recognized authority on magnetic materials and their characterization. In addition to being a generally outstanding materials scientist, he made pioneering contributions to the field of magnetic imaging of domains and spin distributions by electron optical techniques. From the late 1960s on, his research group was very active in correlating the magnetic and structural properties of a wide range of alloy, fine particle, thin film and multilayer materials.

John liked to work on problems that were both scientifically interesting and useful—or potentially useful—for practical applications. For instance, in 1989, John and his group successfully made use of a position-sensitive atom probe microanalyzer to discover very small copper-rich precipitates in the magnetic alloy alnico 2 that could improve the alloy's magnetic properties. John was also involved in developing the use of magnetoacoustic emission as a nondestructive testing technique for magnetic materials, such as structural steels.

John was a very important con-



JOHN PAUL JAKUBOVICS

tributor to the theory of micromagnetics, on which he worked in close collaboration with Amikam Aharoni. John published theoretical studies of the statics and dynamics of magnetic domain walls, including his famous definition of the width of a domain wall and his unique study of coupled walls. And in 1974, he worked out an analytic model for the structure of the two-dimensional LaBonte wall, which is the only analytic model published so far of any serious computational result in micromagnetics.

John collaborated in other wall studies and in checking the self-consistency of their computations, and in numerical computations of the magnetization structures in very small spheres, and of the effect of the tip in magnetic force microscopy.

His last paper, which appeared last year in *Journal de Physique (Paris)*, was on a fundamental problem having important practical implications, in this case for the dissipation of ferrites—namely, the calculation of the grain size at which bulk NiZn-ferrite becomes single domain.

In total, John published about 170 papers on all these problems, as well as his highly successful book *Magnetism and Magnetic Material* (Institute of Materials), whose second edition appeared in 1994.

John collaborated with numerous researchers all over the world, who regarded him as the gentlest of gentlemen and as an eminently authoritative scholar. We all remember him with great affection and will sorely miss him.

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