



Harald Stumpf (1927 – 2021)

In memoriam

Harald Stumpf was born on August 13, 1927 in Aussig a.d. Elbe, today's Usti in the Czech Republic.

After graduating from high school in 1947, he began studying mathematics at the University of Heidelberg, switched after completing his intermediate diploma in 1950 to the Technical University of Stuttgart and graduated there in 1952 with a diploma. As assistant to Prof. E. Fues, he switched to physics at the Institute for Theoretical and Applied Physics at the Technical University of Stuttgart, where he received his doctorate in 1955 and completed his habilitation in 1960 with work on the physics of semiconductors and insulators. Further topics were thermodynamics and quantum statistics. Then he moved to the Max Planck Institute for Physics and Astrophysics in Munich under Prof. W. Heisenberg. There emerged further publications on solid state physics, but now especially on high energy physics. He succeeded in building a bridge between Heisenberg's non-renormalizable spinor theory and the renormalizable field theories. In 1967 he was appointed full professor at the Institute for Theoretical Physics at the Eberhard Karls University in Tübingen, where he worked on the further development of quantum field theories.

Even after his retirement in 1995, physics was his great passion and he increasingly turned to nonstandard topics, such as the hypothesis of the occurrence of magnetic monopoles. Here the cooperation with Georges Lochak and the Fondation Louis de Broglie proved to be very fruitful.

His scientific creativity is reflected in ten book publications and over a hundred magazine articles. He published the last one at the age of ninety-one.

In addition to his physical work, he also participated in the solution

of urgent social problems with writings, lectures and discussions. It was important to him to point out the dangers of nuclear power and to give ecology a voice in general. In his book “Leben und Überleben”, published in 1976, he presented both the existential problem of mankind on earth and the life problems of individual regions in an interdisciplinary manner and with scientific precision.

Everyone who knew Harald Stumpf saw him as very committed and reliable university professor and will keep him in fond remembrance as a humble and lovable person. We will honour his memory.

KARLHEINZ WOLF