

## Professor Erich Hahne on his 75th birthday



For those of us who know Professor Erich Hahne and his legendary vitality, it may come as a surprise that he has celebrated his 75th birthday on February 2nd, 2007. Over the years, he has made outstanding contributions to the field of solar thermal engineering and to heat transfer in general. Hence, this must be another proof that careful enjoyment of sunshine and continuous dedication to efficient heat transfer reduces the adverse effects of the Second Law of Thermodynamics, in this case in the form of ageing.

Erich Wilhelm Perikles Hahne was born on February 2nd, 1932, in Athens, Greece. He subsequently grew up and studied in Munich, Germany, where he received his Diplom-Ingenieur degree in mechanical engineering from the Technical University of Munich in 1958. Subsequently, he worked for almost 15 years in the well-known Thermodynamics Institute, initially headed by Professor E. Schmidt and then by Professor Grigull. In 1964 he was awarded the degree of Dr.-Ing. Following a one-year NASA-funded research fellowship at CalTech in Pasadena, USA, Dr. Hahne was, in 1973, appointed full professor and director of the Institute for Thermodynamics and Thermal Engineering (ITW) at the University of Stuttgart.

Professor Hahne's research activities are mainly in the areas of solar thermal energy utilisation, heat storage, phase change heat transfer and thermophysical properties. His pioneering work on central solar heating plants with seasonal storage, solar collectors and combi-systems, and

the foundation of the ITW Research and Testing Centre for Solar Systems have firmly established him in the forefront of solar research. To date, he has authored and co-authored more than 350 journal and conference papers.

Being a dedicated teacher he has taught a wide range of undergraduate and postgraduate courses such as: technical thermodynamics, heat and mass transfer, heat exchanger design, optimised energy conversion, and solar energy technology. His textbook *Technische Thermodynamik* is now in its third edition.

Professor Hahne is well-known as a very active member of the international heat transfer research community. Being one of the founding members of the International Centre for Heat and Mass Transfer (since 1968 as German representative, later as a member of the Scientific Council, and between 1978 and 1981 as chairman of the Executive Committee), he was the recipient of the 20th Anniversary ICHMT Award in 1988. Presently, he is the German delegate in the Assembly for the International Heat Transfer Conferences which he has served in many responsible positions. Professor Hahne is an editor or co-editor of important international journals, including the *International Journal of Heat and Mass Transfer* (since 1966), the *International Communications in Heat and Mass Transfer* (since 1974) and the *Journal of Solar Energy* (since 1987).

Accepting and enjoying the international nature of his profession, Professor Hahne has hosted many visiting sci-

entists from all over the world. As the University of Stuttgart liaison officer for Chinese universities, he visited China several times and became an Honorary Professor at the Shanghai Institute of Mechanical Engineering in 1983.

In his private life, Professor Hahne is a devoted husband, father and grandfather, and an accomplished sportsman (tennis and skiing). He also enjoys the theatre, dancing, and the pleasure and leisure of cruise ships.

In April 2000, he retired from his chair at the University of Stuttgart. However, not to anybody's surprise, his is not a restful retirement. He has maintained his office at the ITW, where he continues with many of his activities, including the supervision of doctoral students, the editorship of journals and the organisation of conferences such as the recent International Heat Transfer Conferences.

On behalf of his many students, colleagues, and friends from all around the world, including the editors of this journal, we wish him a very happy birthday, many more productive years, continued good health, and happiness with his family and friends.

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