Dr. Stan Szpak's Book Released Posthumously

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Before his death in October 2016, cold fusion pioneer Dr. Stanislaw Szpak had completed a book manuscript, *Chemical Aspects of the Pd/^{N}H-H_2O System in Its Nuclear Active State*. The book is now freely available on the internet thanks to the efforts of many of his colleagues and Dr. Thomas Grimshaw of the LENR Research Documentation Initiative (LRDI). The book has been archived in the lenr-canr.org library:

https://www.lenr-canr.org/acrobat/SzpakSchemicalas.pdf

Before Szpak's death, the book was reviewed by his cold fusion colleagues Dr. Frank Gordon, Dr. David Nagel and Dr. Melvin Miles. Gordon, a long-time colleague of Szpak's at the U.S. Navy Space and Naval Warfare (SPAWAR) Systems Command, is credited as a co-author of the book, as he spent many years working with Szpak on the manuscript. In 2016, discussion was underway about how best to approach publication—posting it on the internet for maximum access to the scientific community, or printing the book, which would cost money and limit access. Gordon recalls that "Stan's health declined and when I would go to visit with him about once a week, we increasingly talked about other things." It is during this time that Gordon learned much about Stan's early life, recounted in the *Infinite Energy* memorial obituary that he wrote.[1]

Time passed and, with a recent reminder from Nagel about the historical importance of the manuscript, Gordon moved ahead with internet publication of the book. Grimshaw worked to get the manuscript ready for public release, adding a Preface by Stan's colleagues, and writing a Prologue, Introduction and summary of Szpak's life.

In the Preface, Gordon, Dr. Pamela Mosier-Boss, and Miles write that "LENR is a very complex problem and Stan recognized that it was not going to be solved during his lifetime so he decided to document his thoughts in a book." They call the book his "legacy gift" to the cold fusion community. Gordon notes, "The book represents Stan's thoughts based on his lifetime of work in electrochemistry and the specific experiments that were conducted."

A good summary of Szpak's approach to science is noted in the book:

> At this stage the correct way to proceed is to follow the path: experiment – data collection – data analysis – conclusions – new experiments – etc. That is to say, the development of a model is not the product of a brain wave (storm) but the result of collected empirical evidence. In formulation of such a model one should keep in mind the precise language of thermodynamic reasoning, noting, however, that the *Nature's documents* lead the way.

Mosier-Boss worked closely with Szpak for over 20 years. She said of the book, "I always agreed with Stan that the interphase was very important and that it had a complex structure. I think that discussion will prove to be useful to those who read the book."

Szpak's colleagues all cite co-deposition as his major contribution to the cold fusion field. He used palladium and deuterium to prepare materials in place for LENR experiments. Nagel said, "That was a reproducible means of getting deuterium-loaded palladium, which was faster and more controllable than loading deuterons into palladium metal from some other and often uncharacterized source."

Nagel also cites what he views as Szpak's other two major contributions: "The wide variety of experiments performed by Stan and his colleagues was his second contribution. The team performed a remarkable variety of measurements, and discovered several important facts about LENR. Those experiments resulted in the third type of contribution, a long series of papers in refereed journals. Many of those reports included Stan's analyses of what happened in the experiments. His expertise in electrochemistry, on top of his creativity and experimental skills, make the papers a resource of lasting value." Mosier-Boss notes that she "learned how to write scientific papers" from Stan.

Gordon said of Szpak: "Stan was one of the outstanding scientists that I was privileged to have in the department that I headed. The approach that he and Pam took toward understanding cold fusion was critical. The Executive Director, Commanding Officer and other department heads of the SPAWAR lab were mostly supportive but when challenged, I would tell them that Stan and Pam were following the scientific method where they conducted experiments, repeated the experiments and submitted papers for peer review and publication. Our mission included *research* and development—emphasis on research!"

See the 2015 interview by Cold Fusion Now, "Following Nature's Documents,"[2] with Szpak, Gordon and Miles. In 2015, Boss and Lawrence Forsley prepared a report with information on and links to 48 refereed LENR papers from the SPAWAR laboratory since 1991.[3] The library search tool on lenr-canr shows 51 papers with Szpak listed as an author.[4]

References

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