



# Neutron News

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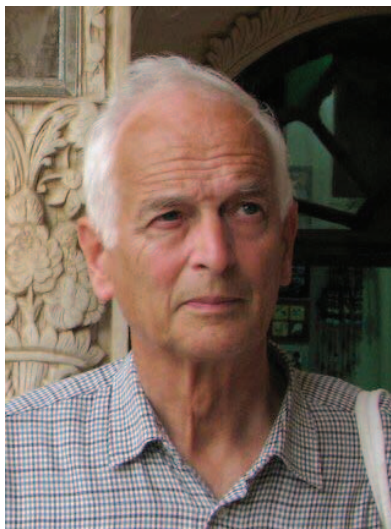
## Konrad Ibel (1938–2017)

**W**e are mourning the passing of Konrad Ibel, a pioneer of neutron small-angle scattering, on November 3, 2017 in his 80th year.

Konrad was born on August 10, 1938 in Bad Aibling, Bavaria, Germany. After his Abitur in Munich (1957), he studied physics at the Technische Hochschule Munich (then still in the center of the city) and obtained his diploma in 1963.

His thesis *Anisotroper Energieverlust von  $\alpha$ -Rückstoßatomen in Goldeinkristallen* in the Laboratory for Technical Physics at the Technische Hochschule Munich (1966) led to a paper with his supervisor R. Sizmann in *Phys. Status Solidi. B* **29** (1968) “Energy Loss of  $\langle 110 \rangle$  Channelled  $\alpha$ -Recoil Atoms in Gold.” Afterwards, he joined the Fritz Haber Institute in Berlin as a postdoc before moving in 1969 to Jülich where he worked with Werner Schmatz and Tasso Springer. In 1971, they published together an article in *Atomkernenergie* “Theory of a velocity focusing instrument for neutron small angle scattering” with Konrad as the first author.

Based on the efforts of the Jülich group, in 1970 Konrad Ibel started to build the small-angle diffractometer D11 as a scientist at the Institut Max



von Laue–Paul Langevin (ILL) in Grenoble, France. Shortly after the first neutrons were produced by the ILL high-flux reactor in 1972, D11 became operational and provided scientists in a wide range of fields—(polymer) chemistry, structural biology, solid-state physics, metallurgy, and magnetism—with experiment time that produced many fundamental publications.

D11 has soon become and still is *the* reference for instruments of its kind, and is also the longest, with an overall dimension of 80 m. In June 2018, 1,560 publications mentioned

D11 in the publication list of the ILL, with more than 80 are by Konrad as an author or co-author.

In 1994, Konrad Ibel left the ILL and joined the University of Osnabrück where he became Außerplanmäßiger (associate) Professor, and from which he retired to Munich in 2002.

Konrad was considered by his colleagues to be an extremely thoughtful, meticulous and reliable man. Some describe him as an aristocratic personality or *grand seigneur*. In private moments, he loved to sing Bavarian songs, and he used to greet everybody in Bavarian, ‘*Grüß Gott*’. Some of us remember the 1970s, when the experimental schedule was not yet too tight and strict, thunderstorms interrupted the reactor, and experimentalists met inside or outside the guide hall to share sandwiches and drinks with a laughing Konrad in the center.

Konrad Ibel was buried in his beloved city of Munich on November 13, 2017.

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