

Personal report

John D. Ferry was inducted into the International Rubber Science Hall of Fame, November 7, 2003¹

Contributed by Donald J. Plazek

Received 30 June 2004; accepted 1 July 2004

Available online 25 September 2004



International Rubber Science Hall of Fame
Symposium Honoring
John D. Ferry
November 7, 2003
Goodyear Auditorium
Goodyear Polymer Center
The University of Akron
Symposium Chairman: **Prof. Donald J. Plazek**

1:00	Frank N. Kelley	Dean, College of Polymer Science and Polymer Engineering—Opening remarks
1:10	Donald Plazek	University of Pittsburg—Moderator
1:15	Robert F. Landel	California Institute of Technology Jet Propulsion Laboratory—Retired—“Finite Deformation of Elastomers”
2:05	Gregory McKenna	Texas Tech—“Nonlinear Viscoelastic Response of Polymers Below the Glass Temperature”
2:55	Michal Ilavsky	Charles University, Prague—“The Viscoelastic Behavior of Model Endlinked Networks”
3:45	Break	
4:00	John L. Schrag	University of Wisconsin—“The Viscoelastic Properties of Dilute Polymer Solutions”
4:50	Donald J. Plazek	University of Pittsburgh—“The Thermorheological Simplicity and Complexity of Polymers”
5:40	Concluding Remarks	
6:00	Social Hour—Martin University Center Main Ballroom	
7:00	Banquet and Installation Ceremony (By Reservation) Biographer and Personal Remembrances	

¹ Submitted by Michael W. Mosesson, The Blood Center of SE Wisconsin, The Blood Research Institute, P.O. Box 2178, Milwaukee, WI 53201, USA.

JOHN D. FERRY

(1912–2002)

Biography by

Robert F. Landel

John D. Ferry, born in Dawson, Yukon Territory, Canada, received his BA at Stanford in 1932, and then spent a year in England with J. Elford, working in colloids. His PhD thesis at Stanford in 1936, under George Parks, was on determining the T_g of polyisobutylene. He first studied rubber during a year with D. Spence at the Hopkins Marine Station. He then went to Harvard, first, as an instructor and tutor in biological sciences, where his association with J. Oncley's work cemented a life-long interest in proteins, and then as Junior Fellow of the Society of Fellows. Oncley's dielectric studies on proteins revealed to him the power of dynamic methods in evaluating and understanding physical response at the molecular level. Characteristically, he applied the new technique to his own interests and made dynamic mechanical properties the focal point of his subsequent polymer research.

In 1946, he joined the University of Wisconsin. The scope, scale and science of his efforts there touch and often underpin much of our current understanding of polymer properties. The three editions of his book, "Viscoelastic Properties of Polymers", (1960, 1970, 1980), masterfully summarized and integrated the then-current knowledge of the field. Characteristically, its wealth of experimental results was accompanied by theory that explained lucidly

their molecular basis. It became a standard reference work for both beginners and senior research people in both academia and industry.

His students (51 PhD and 15 MS), coupled to postdocs and senior collaborators from all over the world have fanned out into all aspects of polymer areas—carrying seeds of his unique insights into molecular response, implanting and propagating them in their own work environment.

He published 299 papers. He served as Chairman of the Department of Chemistry at the UW from 1959 to 1967, was elected President of the Society of Rheology in 1961–1963 and Chairman of the International Committee on Rheology from 1963 to 1968. Upon retirement in 1982, he became Emeritus Professor and remained actively involved in the Department until his death in 2002.

He has been awarded numerous honors and prizes—Eli Lilly Award in Biological Chemistry, ACS, 1946; Bingham Medal, Society of Rheology, 1953; Kendall Award in Colloid Chemistry, ACS, 1960; Ford High Polymer Physics Prize, APS, 1966; Colwyn Medal, Institute of Rubber Industry (London), 1971; Witco Award in Polymer Chemistry, ACS, 1964; Technical Award, International Institute of Synthetic Rubber Producers, 1977; and Goodyear Medal of the Rubber Division, ACS, 1981. He is a Fellow of the American Physical Society and of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. He was elected to the National Academy of Sciences in 1959, and to the National Academy of Engineering and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.