

Editorial

It is a great pleasure and honour to dedicate this double issue of Microscopy, Microanalysis, Microstructures to Raimond Castaing, Emeritus Professor of Physics at the University of Paris Orsay and Member of the French Academy of Sciences, in celebration of his 70th birthday. Among many other affiliations and responsibilities during his very rich career, Raimond Castaing has been the first president of the French Society of Electron Microscopy (SFME) in 1959. This volume is a recognition of our society to his major contribution to the initiation, development and use of new methods of microanalysis of solids : electron probe microanalysis (which was the subject of his doctorate thesis in 1951, under the supervision of Professor André Guinier), secondary ion microanalysis and microscopy (with his student Georges Slodzian) and magnetic filtering of energies in electron microscopy (with Lucien Henry, another of the first generation of his students).

To bear witness of the vitality of the microanalytical fields which he has pioneered, we have chosen to collect and gather manuscripts of present impact in these different domains, rather than contributions of historical nature. These texts constitute the bulk of this Festschrift. Their high scientific interest and the wide range of subjects that are covered, from instrumental innovations to biological applications, pay the tribute of the scientific community in France and from abroad to the importance of Castaing's scientific achievements.

If the main emphasis is devoted, along these fifteen papers, to science under present development, it is impossible to pass over the person of Raimond Castaing in silence. Four eminent scientists, contemporary of his early work in the fifties, have kindly accepted to remind of their first encounters with him and to acquaint us with their recollections. These Short Stories offer us a few lively and humoristic glimpses of his character, together with an international testimony of the wealth of the man and the importance of the work.

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Professor Raimond Castaing during the official ceremony of “Remise d’Epée d’Académicien” in Paris in June 1978, following his election as a member of the French Academy of Sciences in 1977. From left to right, G. Slodzian, his first student, P. Contensou, General Director of the French Office National d’Etudes et de Recherches Aéronautiques (ONERA), which had been previously chaired from 1968 to 1972 by R. Castaing, R. Castaing, J.P. Kahane, President of the University of Paris-Orsay, A. Guinier, his thesis supervisor from 1947 to 1951, M. Chauvet, ONERA.

