

A PORTRAIT OF PROFESSOR KROLL

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Most of the physics students of our department might have heard of Dr. Wolfgang Kroll, one of the most senior professors in the National Taiwan University, who is also the only foreigner in our department. Quite a lot of our fellow students, especially the Freshmen and Sophomores who have not yet taken the course of Theoretical Physics given by Dr. Kroll, may be wondering at how Dr. Kroll looks like. This is so because Dr. Kroll seldom appears in our department building other than at his lecture hours. Even the Juniors and Seniors may not know much about Professor Kroll except that he is a courteous old scholar. It is the purpose of this article to introduce to you our most sincere friend from Germany—Dr. Kroll.

Dr. Kroll was born in 1906 in Greifswald which is a small city in North Germany. It is extremely sad to hear that his native place is now unfortunately under the occupation of Polish Communist regime. (I happened to be so silly as to ask Dr. Kroll why this was the case, he just answered helplessly, "It is very simple, because Germany lost the war!" Don't you think that our situation has much difference from his?! It is not difficult for us to share the feelings with him.)

Dr. Kroll completed his university education in the Universität Breslau and ob-

tained his Ph. D. in physics after six years of study. He had been doing research with the great German physicist Werner Heisenberg, the originator of matrix mechanics, for seven years in the Universität Leipzig.

In the third decade of this century, as Adolf Hitler started the Second World War, Dr. Kroll, like many other great German physicists such as Albert Einstein and Max Born, expressed his disgust of war by leaving Germany in 1937. His destination was neither United States nor Great Britain, but Japan. His reason of leaving for Japan was simply that he wanted to see the charming East and at the same time he had many friends in Japan. So Japan was the lucky country he chose. He taught in the Sapporo University for five years before he left Japan for Taiwan in 1942. He took up the post as the professor of Theoretical Physics in the National Taiwan University (called Imperial Taipei University during Japanese occupation of Taiwan). He is presently also the professor of Theoretical Physics in our department. Dr. Kroll has been giving lectures on Theoretical Physics for thirty years, and most of the professors now in our department have once been his students!

Dr. Kroll was so lucky to be born in the era of the greatest advancement in physics. How can we not think of the great German physicists: Planck, Sommerfeld,

Pauli, Heisenberg, Einstein, Born etc.? It is very natural that Dr. Kroll is also interested in the amazing field of theoretical physics. In fact, Dr. Kroll has made many important researches in theoretical physics. Here are just a few of them:

1. On the Determination of the Elastic Spectra of Solids from Specific Heat Data

Prog. Theo. Phys. 8, 457 (1952)

2. Electronic Contribution to the Specific Heat of Metals in a Magnetic Field

Chinese J. Phys. 1, 21 (1963)

3. The van Alphan-de Haas Effect for Bound Electrons

Chinese J. Phys. 1, 49 (1963)

4. The Iris-Loaded Wave Guide as a Boundary Value Problem

Part I *Chinese J. Phys.* 2, 63 (1964)

Part II *Chinese J. Phys.* 3, 98 (1965)

Part III *Chinese J. Phys.* 3, 10 (1965)

Supplement

Chinese J. Phys. 4, 32 (1966)

5. Series Expansions for Functions Satisfying Some Integral Equations

Chinese J. Phys. 5, 86 (1967)

Though sixty-six years of age, Dr. Kroll has still high spirit in doing research work. He is now treating some problems in the Theory of Elasticity.

Here is a secret and interesting point about Dr. Kroll: he does not know Chinese. It seems incredible for one who lives in China for thirty years and yet not knowing Chinese. When Dr. Kroll was asked for the reason, he remarked that Chinese was a difficult language, and if as a result he could only speak bad Chinese, he had better not to speak. That is Why!

As a final word, I would like to express my gratitude to Dr. Kroll for his friendly help in giving me his invaluable information. Without his help, the completion of this essay is definitely impossible. Lastly, I wish to pay my highest respect to our honourable professor—Dr. Kroll.



LEFT. Dr. Kroll at lecture.

RIGHT.: Dr. Kroll before Physics Building.

