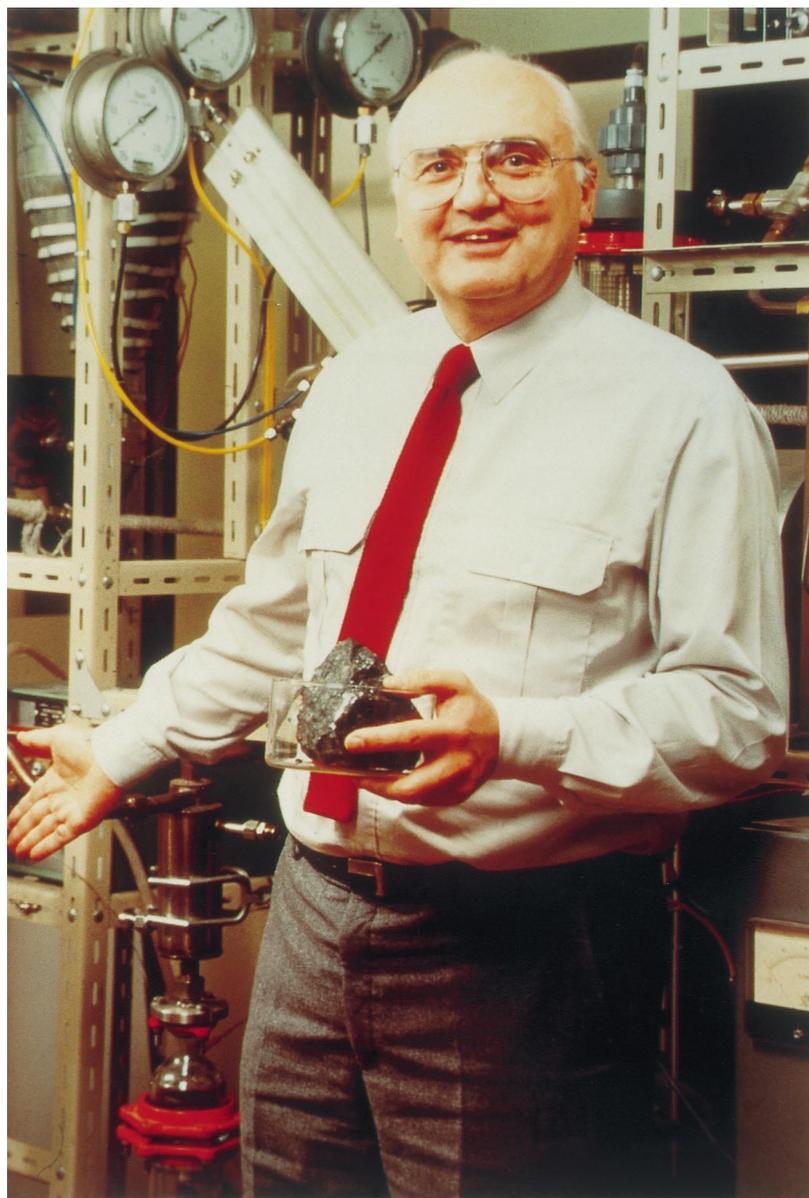


Editorial



The present issue of Chemical Engineering and Processing has been edited to honour the memory of Jacques Villermaux who suddenly passed away in February 1997.

Jacques Villermaux was born in Nancy, France, in 1935 and remained strongly attached to his native town

and the province of Lorraine during his life. His academic career was very rapid. He graduated from ENSIC, School of Chemical Engineering in Nancy in 1958, prepared a doctorate in Physical Chemistry, but rapidly turned towards Chemical Reaction Engineering and became a professor in this field at ENSIC in 1966.

From his first lectures, largely influenced by Octave Levenspiel, but where his own original thinking was already expressed, he created a textbook in French, entitled 'Génie de la Réaction Chimique—Conception et Fonctionnement des Réacteurs', which is the basis of teaching this subject in France.

While always very much involved in teaching and education, Jacques Villiermaux was first of all a great scientist and researcher, enthusiastic and generous, inspired by curiosity and the desire to learn and to communicate. At the end of 1974, he created the 'Laboratoire des Sciences du Génie Chimique' (LSGC), affiliated to the CNRS, the French national research institution, and headed it until the end of 1986. His scientific culture was extremely broad. His research interests included:

- Mixing and micromixing in reactors
- Precipitation and crystallisation
- Catalytic reaction engineering
- High temperature reactions
- Reactor modelling
- Autoadaptive control of batch reactors
- Dynamics of chromatographic interactions

Jacques Villiermaux was always keen to support an activity which he called 'wild research', i.e. non-conventional curiosity driven research without a priori application. It is exemplified by his recent efforts of experimental validation of a model of fractal interfaces, called 'the devil's comb'. However, this activity of basic research did not prevent Jacques Villiermaux from promoting the application of the methodology developed and the results obtained. He created a centre for technology transfer and his relations to the industrial world were numerous and at a high level.

The French community of Process Engineering, and especially the Laboratoire des Sciences du Génie Chimique (LSGC) and the École Nationale Supérieure des Industries Chimiques (ENSIC), are deeply affected by his unexpected and premature disappearance. His memory was honoured in March 1998 by a two day colloquium prepared by his French colleagues and pupils.

It is the aim of the present issue of Chemical Engineering and Processing to honour another aspect of the activity of Jacques Villiermaux: his involvement in organising the national and international community of

Process Engineering. He was a part of numerous national (he was one of the founders of the Groupe Français de Génie des Procédés) and international scientific associations, among which the European Federation of Chemical Engineering, whose president Roel Westerterp accepted to write an *In Memoriam* for this issue; another aspect of this international involvement is his activity as Associate Editor of this journal. To our knowledge, Chemical Engineering and Processing was the only scientific journal which counted Jacques Villiermaux among its editors. This issue of Chemical Engineering and Processing offers the possibility to his former colleagues and friends of the international scientific community to honour his memory through a series of original papers written at this purpose and concerning fields in which Jacques Villiermaux and his coworkers have been active. Jacques Villiermaux spent much time trying to imagine the future of the science he dedicated a large part of his life to; his plenary lecture at the 1996 World Congress of Chemical Engineering in San Diego was a brilliant illustration of this concern. We therefore included one single paper of French colleagues (Jean-Claude Charpentier and Pierre Trambouze) active in this same field of prospective and who used to work with Jacques Villiermaux in organizing Process Engineering in France.

The editors express their gratitude to those colleagues who accepted this task and the accompanying peer review of the manuscripts. Our thanks are equally due to Professor Roel Westerterp, president of the European Federation of Chemical Engineering for writing an *In Memoriam*.

Nancy, June 1998

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