

Charles W. Tobias

CHARLES W. TOBIAS was born in Budapest, Hungary, and obtained his doctorate in chemical engineering at the University of Technical Sciences in Budapest in 1946. He joined the newly formed Chemical Engineering Department at Berkeley in 1947, as one of its founding members. He was a Miller Research Professor (1957-59), Chairman of the Chemical Engineering Department (1967-72), and Acting Dean of the College of Chemistry (1978). He retired in 1991 after 44 years of service at the University of California. Upon his retirement he received the Berkeley Citation for Distinguished Achievement. Affiliated with the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory since 1955, he was Principal Investigator (1958) and, from 1978, a Faculty Senior Scientist. He retired from LBNL's Materials Sciences Division in 1995. Professor Tobias played an instrumental role in the field of electrochemical engineering, and nearly every practitioner in this field has been associated with him, directly or indirectly.

Dr. Tobias served as President of The Electrochemical Society (1970-71) and was elected to Honorary Membership in 1977. He received its Acheson Medal and Prize in 1972 and won the first Henry B. Linford Award for Distinguished Teaching in 1982. In 1990, he received the Vittorio de Nora Diamond-Shamrock Award for Electrochemical Engineering and Technology. Dr. Tobias also served as President of the International Society of Electrochemistry in 1977 and 1978.

In recognition of his research work, Professor Tobias received many awards, including the Alpha Chi Sigma Award of the American Institute of Chemical Engineers, and the Founders Award in 1991. He was elected a Fellow of the AAAS in 1965, and to membership in the National Academy of Engineering in 1983. He became an Honorary Member of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences in 1993.

Tobias maintained that science and art are not necessarily two alien cultures. Before starting his scientific studies, he received formal training as a violinist at the Municipal Conservatory in Budapest. He retained a deep and active interest in music and considered the playing of chamber music the quintessence of musical enjoyment. He was also involved for many years with the University Art Museum at Berkeley, serving as its Acting Director in 1972 and Chairman of its Board in 1972-73 and 1974-75.

Charles Tobias was proud of his Hungarian heritage and followed events in the country of his birth closely. After the Hungarian Revolution in 1956, many student refugees arrived in Berkeley to continue their studies. Charles Tobias became the leader of the university's student refugee program; with his brother, Cornelius Tobias, professor of medical physics, he was instrumental in enabling the integration of the refugee students in study programs and Berkeley's student life.



Thoughts from Friends and Colleagues

“ In addition to his immense talent and enormous contributions to the field of electrochemical engineering, for all of us around him, Charles was a great inspiration to achieve. ”

TED BECK

Past President of ECS

President, Electrochemical Technology Corp.

“ He was not only an outstanding electrochemist and teacher, but he knew, like nobody else, how to guide people by stimulating their independence, critically judging their performance, and last but not least, by sharing his warm personality and friendship with his students... a truly great man. ”

DIETER LANDOLT

*Head of the Laboratory of Metallurgical Chemistry,
ETH Lausanne*

“ Charles Tobias has had a long-lasting and far-reaching effect on the field of electrochemical engineering, from his pioneering research that established it as a discipline, through the training of so many practitioners and of those who would go on to become academic leaders in the field themselves. He has had a tremendous effect on the academic world through his role in forming the department of chemical engineering at Berkeley and growing that department to a world-class research institute. Perhaps his greatest influence was on the lives of those who were privileged to know him personally. To his many students and his younger colleagues, Tobias played the role of a mentor and of a friend, and took great joy and pride in seeing them go on to excel in every arena in which they participated. To his many colleagues in the academic and industrial worlds, he was a cherished friend, whose vibrant personality and enthusiasm for science, art, and culture will be long missed. ”

GINA WHITNEY

Senior Technical Staff Member, IBM

“ The Electrochemical Society knows Charles Tobias as a founder of the field of electrochemical engineering. His contributions to the chemical engineering department at Berkeley went far beyond these scholarly accomplishments. In his later years, Charles was an inspiring figure to younger faculty members in the department. He was willing to spend time mentoring young faculty and encouraging them to educate themselves in areas that were not presently at the core of chemical engineering. It was because of him that the chemical engineering department at Berkeley was the first in the nation to have a program in microelectronics processing. All major departments in the nation now have such programs. He always looked ahead, rather than backward, for signs of how the department should evolve. He continues to inspire the now not so young faculty who use his visionary perspectives on chemical engineering as a guide to the future of our discipline. ”

ARUP CHAKRABORTY

*Chairman of the Department of Chemical Engineering,
University of California at Berkeley*

Charles W. Tobias
Young Investigator Award of The
Electrochemical Society

Purpose

The Award is intended to recognize outstanding scientific and/or engineering work in fundamental or applied electrochemistry or solid-state science and technology by a young scientist or engineer. The awardee must show promise as a developing leader of research in these fields.

The Award honors the memory of Professor Charles W. Tobias. Over the years he has played a seminal role in electrochemical engineering, and nearly every practitioner in this field has been associated with him, directly or indirectly. His example, counsel, and advice have had an impact on many young people, encouraging them to seek excellence in teaching, research, and professional contributions to basic and interdisciplinary science and engineering.

Nature of Award

The Award, to be given biannually, shall consist of a \$5,000 cash prize, a certificate setting forth the reasons for the Award, life membership in The Electrochemical Society, and travel assistance up to a maximum of \$1,000 for unreimbursed travel to help the recipient attend the Society meeting at which the presentation is made. The Award will be presented at the ECS fall meeting awards ceremony.

Eligibility

The nominee must be a young scientist or engineer who has contributed an accumulation of outstanding theoretical or experimental work in the fields of electrochemistry, electrochemical engineering, or solid-state science and/or engineering.

The nominee's thirty-sixth (36) birthday may not precede April 1 of the year in which the Award is made. The Award shall be granted without restriction to ECS membership status, or nationality.

Nomination/Selection

The nominator will submit to the award committee documentation of the nominee's accomplishments including a list of publications, patents, professional and educational experiences, and other documented contributions. Support letters from professionals in the field familiar with the nominee's contributions are encouraged.



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of The
Electrochemical
Society**



the society for solid-state
and electrochemical science
and technology

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