

The Life and Work of Heinz Gerischer - A. Heller (University of Texas)

Heinz Gerischer (1919 –1994) was one of the pillars of modern physical electrochemistry. He defined the mechanisms of electrode reactions and on the processes underlying their rates; the relationship between solid state physical properties of metals and semiconductors and their behavior as electrodes in solutions; and on nature of photoelectrochemical reactions. His papers on electrode kinetics and semiconductor electrochemistry served as milestones by which many scientists have directed work. . He approached problems

systematically, defining future directions of research. His experiments were simple, elegant and decisive. His career began at the University of Leipzig, where he obtained his PhD with Karl Friedrich Bonhoeffer and ended at the Fritz Haber Institute in Berlin, which he directed and where he worked in his last years. He worked tirelessly throughout his life, demonstrating a work ethic that served as a benchmark of high standard. On a personal level, he was kind and had a keen sense of humor. He read prolifically and was deeply interested in the arts. He enjoyed the companionship of his wife Renate whom he married in 1948 and who survived him only briefly, and his four daughters and their families.