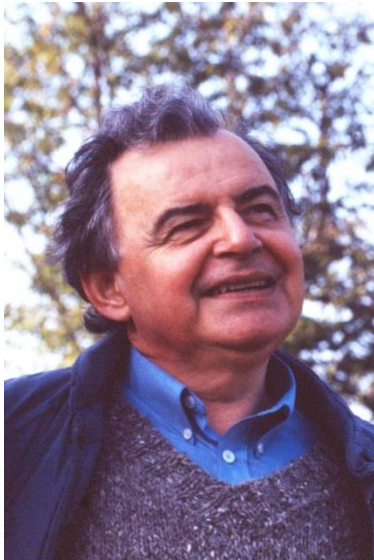


In memory of Francisco Blangetti



Francisco Leonardo Blangetti, born on the 2nd of October 1934 in Marcos Juarez, Argentina, passed away on the 7th of March 2022 in Baden, Switzerland. He was known to us as “Pancho” (short for Francisco in South America), and we believe that many knew him exclusively by this name.

Pancho was born in a small countryside town in the middle of the Argentinian Pampas. His mother run a shop and his father worked as a carpenter. Both had emigrated from Piedmont in Italy and they enabled him to attend a good school. Later he graduated in chemical engineering at the Technical University in Santa Fe, Argentina. There he started learning German, and in 1966 he made his first trip to Europe and to Germany.

A year later he received a two-year scholarship to do research at the University of Karlsruhe, Germany. In 1972 he received an assistant position there, where he operated an experimental facility to study heat transfer, earning him his PhD in 1979. His thesis was at the institute of Prof. E.U. Schlünder on “Local Heat transfer at condensation with superimposed convection in a vertical tube”.

In 1979 he moved to Baden, Switzerland, where his expertise for heat transfer was valued by his employer Brown-Boveri (BBC) and its successors ABB and Alstom. He mostly worked on research, design and operation of heat exchangers such as feedwater heaters, deaerators and turbine condensers. His work also brought him to power plant sites for performance assessments.

During that time, he published articles in technical magazines such as VGB PowerTech. His name can be seen on a considerable number of patents.

Pancho continued working until well after retirement age. He engaged in teaching within the company and in the Juventus technical schools in Zürich, but most notably as a lecturer at the University of Salta, Argentina. He always felt a duty to pass on his knowledge and experience to younger generations and to his mother country. To this end, he arranged internships for Argentinian students in BBC and its successors.

In IAPWS (the International Association for the Properties of Water and Steam) he provided requirements for the industrial formulation IAPWS-IF97 amongst others and supported its introduction in the company.

Pancho was a modest person not in need of being the center of discussion. Despite this, his presence was felt due to his broad knowledge on non-technical areas such as history, philosophy and politics. This made him a natural lecturer. He rode his bicycle, which he named "my cabrio", until great age.

In accordance with his wishes, he was laid to rest in Argentinian soil.

Pancho will be remembered as the person to ask on matters of heat transfer, condensation, and the respective equipment for those applications. He is missed by his wife, his daughter, her family and many former colleagues. We will continue to honor his memory.

Michael Hiegemann

Robert Svoboda