

Preface

Manuel Cardona was an important figure in science, in general, and in condensed matter physics, in particular. In addition he was an exceptional human being as evidenced by his support of human rights and ethics in science and his deep knowledge of culture, history and languages. This book is meant to document Manuel's achievements and his incredible network of scientists around the world and also to show the many facets of his fascinating character.

In practically all of the following contributions, the reader will find descriptions and accounts of both his personal and scientific lives. A set of words converted to images meant to summarize these facets has been gathered on the preceeding page of this book.

The first word is "Inge", and indeed Manuel's life (and the life of many of us) would have not been the same without his wife Inge. She was inseparable from him and all of us have enjoyed her hospitality and also somehow profited from her support for Manuel. Every time one of the visitors, postdocs, students would need something at the personal level, there was Inge providing all the required help. None of us will ever forget her courtesy during the parties at the Knappenweg. On many occasions, Inge and Manuel together have been as close to us as members of our own families.

Other accounts appearing throughout this book relate to aspects of Cardona's professional life such as: science, knowledge, physics, research, university, PhDs, students, materials, semiconductors, experimental, theory, Raman scattering, spectroscopy, light, synchrotron radiation, optical properties, excitons, bands, electronic states, energy, and temperature.

Work was also something inseparable from, and intrinsic to, Cardona, but a special kind of work, a work that one enjoys and that spreads a contagious passion for physics. Cardona never mentioned to his collaborators that they should work harder; it just came by itself when one worked with him.

These activities are linked to locations all over the world, but special places appear recurrently in the book: Spain, the US, Germany, Latin America, Barcelona, Brown, Stuttgart, Max-Planck-Institute. In these places, he contributed to the education of a cohort of students and scientists, whose common leitmotif has been

to follow his attitude towards science. Those of us who had the enormous luck to interact, learn and work with Manuel will ever keep in our memories how working in his group was like being in a nirvana for doing science. Everybody helped everybody in a friendly atmosphere, where no negative competition was present. Being there aroused the feeling of belonging to a privileged group of people.

Other words appear conspicuously on the preceeding page. “First one”: indeed Cardona, was a pioneer and therefore the first one to start many new research activities in Solid State Physics. “Many” is linked to these facets of his life: the many languages he spoke, the many subjects he could be involved into, his incredible memory and ability to relate facts that enabled him deal with many ideas simultaneously (he mentioned at some time in his later life that a signal of aging was losing the ability of multi-tasking, especially participating in conversations), the many friends, colleagues and disciples that never will forget him.

We thank Claudia Vinzens for organizing the book with so many coauthors and Claus Ascheron for publishing this book with Springer Verlag.

Zurich, Switzerland
Madrid, Spain

Klaus Ensslin
Luis Viña

Manuel Cardona

Memories and Reminiscences

Ensslin, K.; Viña, L. (Eds.)

2016, XV, 174 p., Hardcover

ISBN: 978-3-319-20342-3