

In Memoriam



Louis Roesch (1937–2016)

Louis Roesch passed away on 31 January 2016 after a long illness. He left numerous friends in the Metallurgy community, who lost a fellow researcher and a friend.

After graduating from *École des Mines de Paris* (1957–1961), he got an MS at Caltech (California Institute of Technology), which is still today a popular reference [1]. In 1963 he joined the Physics Department of IRSID (The French Research Institute of the Steel Industry).

His first research work dealt with ductile fracture and the effect of non-metallic inclusions: he produced samples of iron-alumina composite by powder metallurgy and used them to develop a model of fracture by void nucleation around the inclusions. This remains the reference model for ductile fracture today [2].

In 1971 Louis Roesch was awarded the Rist Medal of SFM (French Metallurgical Society).

Afterwards, he worked on many research projects related to the plasticity and fracture of steel. He was always keen to connect physical metallurgy with macroscopic mechanical properties. This led him to the study of deep drawing of thin sheets, to the analysis of the tensile test, including the generation of Lüders bands and the fracture phenomena.

At IRSID, he became head of the Mechanical Tests Department (1973–1981) and then of the Steel Properties Division (1981–1991), until he became Technical Director of IRSID's laboratories in Saint-Germain-en-Laye (1991–1994). He was also an active member of many technical organizations such as IDDRG (International Deep Drawing Research Group), where he ran the technical secretariat for a long period, and the European and International Mechanical Testing Standardization Committees.

He was a great teacher and educator. He authored numerous textbooks for training engineers at CESSID (*Centre d'Études Supérieures de la Sidérurgie* – Steel Industry Higher Education Center) and supported young researchers in their initial studies at IRSID.

In the late 1980s, because of his broad technical and industrial culture, he was appointed "ambassador of IRSID" to the Dunkirk steel mill of Sollac, what was known as the Permanent Delegate's position.

After leaving IRSID, his extensive metallurgical culture and his intellectual rigor were usefully invested at OTUA (*Office Technique pour l'Utilisation de l'Acier* – Technical Office for the Use of Steel), as well as at the *Revue de Métallurgie*, the famous journal founded in 1904 by Henri Le Chatelier, of which he was the chief editor from 1995 to 2000.

During his career at IRSID, he published important papers [3,4], and outstanding handbooks and monographs at OTUA [5,6]. At *Revue de Métallurgie*, his elegant pen helped introduce an almost literary quality to a serious technical journal [5].

His discretion was as remarkable as his mind was accurate and sharp. He had a tongue-in-cheek sense of humor. There were two topics that would make him talk endlessly out of character: Alsace, his native region, and the process of choosing a good place for lunch or dinner.

Marc Grumbach, Henri-Paul Lieurade, François Moussy,
Paul Rabbe, Robert Alberny, Jean-Pierre Birat
on behalf of all his former colleagues at work

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