

**Paul Russo**

**From:** The Division of Polymer Chemistry Discussion List [POLY@umr.edu]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 05, 2002 7:04 PM  
**To:** POLY@umr.edu  
**Subject:** Death of John D. Ferry

> From: Richard Stein [SMTP:stein@ecs.umass.edu]  
> Sent: Wednesday, November 06, 2002 1:44 AM  
> To: Kong Siu-Wai Eric  
> Subject: Re: Death of John D. Ferry

*Slip into  
Ferry Book*

> Eric:  
>  
> Your comments about John Ferry are appropriate. As a contemporary, I  
> knew him. quite well and shall miss him. I think it is more  
> appropriate to say he was a competitor of Tobolsky rather than a  
> collaborator. I was working for Tobo. at the time, and both arrived  
> at superposition and temperature shift factors at about the same time.  
> Ferry's approach was through frequency-temperature superposition while  
> Tobo's was through stress relaxation-temperature superposition. With  
> linear viscoelasticity, these. of course, are equivalent . It was an  
> exciting period in polymer science and I feel fortunate to have  
> experienced it and to have known John as well as several if the other  
> principal "actors". It is kind of passing of an era!  
>  
>

> Professor John D. Ferry was the F in the famous WLF Equation. He was  
> a coauthor in the classic book on polymer viscoelasticity. I think  
> Professor Ferry was a collbaorator of the late Prof. Tobolsky  
> (Princeton University). Professor Garth Wilkes may correct me in this  
> last comment. At any rate, most of us learn polymer viscoelastic  
> theories through reading Professor John Ferry's book. He is a true  
> giant among the early pioneers of polymer science, including Huggins,  
> Flory, and Tobolsky.  
>  
>

> Eric Kong

> > Message text written by "John L. Schrag"

> > > It is with great sadness that I must report the death of John  
> > > Ferry, one  
> > of the great pioneers in polymer science. John died here in Madison  
> > on Friday, October 18 following a brief bout with pneumonia. We  
> > anticipate

> > having a memorial celebration sometime in the spring here in  
> > Madison. The polymer science community and the University of  
> > Wisconsin have lost a great

> > friend, mentor, colleague and exemplar.

> > John Schrag

> > John L. Schrag  
> > Department of Chemistry  
> > University of Wisconsin-Madison