

# Dieter Ott retires from FEM

Last December 2001, Dieter Ott, Head of Physical Metallurgy and Analytical department at FEM (German Precious Metals Research Institute), Schwäbisch Gmünd, retired after 28 years service. Much of his research career has been spent on precious metal alloys and jewellery manufacturing technology, particularly relating to gold.

He is, perhaps, best known for his research into the Lost Wax casting process and the control of defects such as porosity. He has also made significant contributions to the metallurgy of the carat golds and the effects of small alloying additions and impurities. Much of his work has practical application. He has published many papers on his work in *Gold Technology* and *Gold Bulletin* journals (at least 18 by my count) as well as *Aurum* and other technical journals, many co-authored with Professor Christoph Raub, formerly Director of FEM. He wrote the WGC 'Handbook on Casting and other Defects', based on his study of actual production defects in jewellery manufacture and sponsored by the Santa Fe Symposium and World Gold Council, which has already become a 'classic' book in our industry. He has presented at World Gold Council's International Technology Symposium at Vicenza on several occasions and at nearly all the Santa Fe Symposia too.

At his retirement 'fest', held at FEM on 16th December 2001, his many colleagues and friends from the industry worldwide paid tribute to Dieter. World Gold Council presented him with a special leather-bound volume of his Handbook on Casting Defects, inscribed thus,

*"This Volume is presented to Mr Dieter Ott by Dr Christopher W. Corti, World Gold Council, on the occasion of his retirement.*

*It is presented to Dieter Ott at his 'Retirement Fest', 16th December 2001, at the Forschungsinstitut für Edelmetalle und Metallchemie, Schwäbisch Gmünd, Germany, to mark a long and distinguished career in the field of precious metals. It recognises, in particular, his outstanding contributions to the metallurgy of gold jewellery alloys, the understanding of the investment casting process and the causes and prevention of casting defects."*

Dieter Ott has made an outstanding contribution to advancing jewellery technology, He is also a kindly, gentle and unassuming man with a quiet sense of humour as his many friends will attest. His hobbies are music, particularly playing the organ, collecting geological specimens and growing cacti. I am sure you will all join me in wishing Dieter (and his wife, Heidi) good health and happiness in his well earned retirement.

Christopher W. Corti  
*Director, International Technology  
World Gold Council*



Dieter Ott at his retirement 'fest', held at FEM, 16th December 2001



Dieter Ott being presented with a commemorative volume of his book, "Handbook of Casting Defects" by Dr Christopher W. Corti, World Gold Council