

The editor of Chemical Papers Ing. Karol Babor, CSc. Sixty Years Old



Ing. *Karol Babor*, CSc., the editor of this Journal was born in Bratislava sixty years ago; here, he also got his primary and secondary education, studied chemistry at the Slovak Technical University and, in 1958, he received his CSc. (PhD.) degree.

In 1950 he began his scientific carrier yet as a university student in the Institute of Chemistry of the Slovak Academy of Sciences in Bratislava and since then he remained true to this institution. His early work concerned the synthesis of pharmacologically active model substances related to senecio and erythrophloeum alkaloids, which constituted the contents of his CSc. thesis. Since 1961 he has been majoring in the field of polysaccharides,

where his main point of interest was the chemistry of alpha-glucans, theoretical study and practical applications of starch, its derivatives and modified starches. He investigated the periodate oxidation of starch not only from the analytical aspect, but he traced the reaction course in order to employ this method for determination of fine structure of polysaccharides. His further contributions concerned the preparative chemical and enzymic modifications of starch and synthesis of derivatives of required properties for special applications of this noticeable natural hydrocolloid in medicine, nutrition and technical practice, the study of the appropriate enzymic reactions and immobilization of enzymes for characterization of defined starch fractions. Its main scientific contribution was the evidence of a nonhomogeneous distribution of unequally long inner molecule chains into loci of a dense branching, and thereby characteristic of the amylopectin structure of various plants. He authored and coauthored more than 50 scientific papers, 3 monographs, numerous patents, lectures at domestic and foreign scientific gatherings and special popular articles.

He is engaged in cooperation with the chemistry departments at Comenius University and the Slovak Technical University and many research institutes. Also his pedagogical activity should be mentioned: his lectures on stereochemistry and chemistry of saccharides for university specialist students and postgradual courses for those interested in food industry are well appreciated. Ing. Babor is also active as a referee, consultant, sponsor, a member of the Board of examiners for final exams, an author of successful educational motion pictures, *etc.*

At the Institute of Chemistry he serves as a head of a team of internationally coordinated research on starch, and his experience in nomenclature of organic com-

pounds is employed in the Slovak Committee for nomenclature and in the IUPAC nomenclature board as of an external expert. He is a member of many other boards, a meritorious member of the Slovak Chemical Society and for his merits in research and educational activities he was awarded The Dionýz Štúr Medal.

As far as his engagement in this Journal is concerned, he published his first paper in it in 1954, later he was involved as a referee, since 1964 as a member of the Editorial Board and since 1970 as editor; in this position he expended much energy to contribute to the formal and informative high levels of *Chemical Papers*. His educational authority and the sensitive access to authors reflects his esteem to scientific work of his colleagues.

The time is flying and we all who are familiar with him got surprised that our Charles is already 60! At this occasion we all wish him much patience and a special enjoyment of his numerous family, much health for his further work and his favourable organized and high-mountain tourism. May he enjoy his more than 100 km-on foot tours for fair long.

Z. Votický