

Professor Ing. Mikuláš Matherny, DrSc. Sixty Years Old



Professor Ing. *Mikuláš Matherny*, DrSc., was born in Prešov on July 3, 1930. Here he obtained his basic education as well as matriculation on an evangelic secondary school in 1948. He graduates from the Faculty of Chemical Technology of the Slovak Technical University in 1952 and starts his professional life as assistant at the Department of Crystallography and Mineralogy of the Faculty of Natural Sciences of the Comenius University in Bratislava. He teaches "Microchemistry", "Methods of Laboratory Investigation of Minerals" and at the same time "Chemical Mineralogy" at the Faculty of Chemical Technology. His research activity is connected with his teaching activities at that time and here the beginning may be found of his more than 35 years lasting research work in analytical spectrochemistry.

In January 1961 he takes the appointment at the Department of Chemistry, Faculty of Metallurgy, Technical University in Košice. Here, a group of young colleagues is just searching for a proper scientific direction. The field of spectrochemistry has become the domain of their research work for many years since. This group, at the beginning under the leadership of Professor Matherny, has later become known in the Czechoslovak and even European spectrochemical scientific community as "Spectroscopic School of Košice"

In 1962 Professor Matherny starts his simultaneous job at the Faculty of Natural Sciences, P. J. Šafárik University in Košice, where he founds and until his retirement, with the exception of the years 1973—1981, leads the Department of Analytical Chemistry. In 1965 he becomes Assistant Professor with a habilitation work concerning, of course, analytical spectrochemistry. His doctorship dissertation work, defended in 1980, is only logical continuation of his whole research activity, and deals with the complex of problems concerning utilization of mathematic-statistical methods and computer technique in the atomic spectrochemistry. He is appointed Professor of analytical chemistry in 1982. With Professor Matherny as leader, 28 students in analytical chemistry were graduated, 14 finished postgraduate study as RNDr., and altogether 13 as PhD. Two DrSc. dissertation works in the field of chemistry (one analytical and one physicochemical) arose at the Department of Chemistry under his leadership.

Given the impulse from the Slovak Academy of Sciences, Professor Matherny founds "Laboratory for Rare Elements Chemistry" in 1985 which is a common institute of the Slovak Academy of Sciences and Technical University in Košice.

The long-lasting successful research activities of Professor Matherny resulted in many

invitations for lecturing visits abroad as well as for plenary lectures on almost all important spectrochemical conferences in the last more than 20 years. Professor Matherny celebrated his 50th birthday as visiting professor at the Rhine-Westfal Technical University in Aachen, Germany. During his one-year stay there, he participated in the research work of the Institute for Nuclear Reactor Materials KFA in Jülich.

Success of the research and pedagogical work of Professor Matherny is reflected also in a respectful number of publications: 4 monographs, 39 single and 75 collective papers, 15 review lectures, and 75 contributions to Czechoslovak or international conferences prove that the years devoted to the scientific work were most fruitful. Professor Matherny was awarded prizes for his long-lasting scientific and organizational work: the Dionýz Štúr Medal of the Slovak Academy of Sciences, the Golden Medal of the Slovak Chemical Society, the Golden Medal of the Faculty of Chemical Technology of the Slovak Technical University.

The representatives of the whole Czechoslovak spectrochemical community wish Professor Matherny many healthy and happy years ahead and plenty of energy to the benefit of further development of chemical science.

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