

The 65th Birthday of Milan Lazár

When I came at the Polymer Institute of the Slovak Academy of Sciences in 1967, I was greatly impressed by the personality of its director, Dr. *Milan Lazár* who became at that time a supervisor of my thesis. He emanated new ideas how to manage the particular problems of macromolecular chemistry so strongly that for young aspirants it was not difficult to understand that knowledge in science should always be supported by nonconformed way of thinking and, if necessary, by experimental skill, and only then one can achieve a true satisfaction from the scientific work. I can say that creative atmosphere around M. Lazár underlined by his friendly behaviour and unforgettable meetings with coworkers organized by him and his wife Tanya at his small cottage at Lamač forest formed strong bonds between the Polymer Institute and those who had a luck to work there; in many cases these relationships survived up to now and are one of the reasons of stability and high scientific productivity of the Polymer Institute.

On 8 October, 1992 M. Lazár celebrated the 65th anniversary. From important moments of his life I remind that he was born at Sliač (part Rybáre) of Zvolen district, finished the Faculty of Chemical Technology of the Slovak Technical University in Bratislava in 1951, obtained the PhD. degree in 1957, the degree of Doctor of Science in 1968. He started a professional career at the Research Institute of Cables and Insulators, he founded the Laboratory of Polymers of the Slovak Academy of Sciences (1961) which was in 1963 transformed into the present Polymer Institute. He was its director till 1971. In 1990 he was appointed to be director of the Polymer Institute again and is on this function till the present day.



M. Lazár is an author and coauthor of more than 150 scientific papers and six monographs. In his scientific activity he made a substantial contribution to mechanisms of elementary reactions of free radicals in solid polymers, which specified the scientific profile of the Polymer Institute and differentiates it from the Institute of Macromolecular Chemistry of the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences in Prague; some of the ideas of M. Lazár developed by his disciples are included in the main scientific orientation and projects which continue to be solved. Worth of admiration is his steady seeking for practical aspects of each scientific problem.

The results and scientific productivity make from M. Lazár one of the most distinguished macromolecular chemists of Slovakia.

Being 65 years old, M. Lazár is full of activity and willingness to advise and help younger coworkers in solution of their problems. Regardless of various circumstances in the past he keeps the enthusiasm and life optimism.

On behalf of all his friends and coworkers I wish to M. Lazár unceasing continuation of interesting scientific life, good health, and satisfaction in his personal life.

J. Rychlý