

OBITUARY

In Memoriam Professor Ing. Samo Stankoviansky

The time elopes inexorably and we can only state that a man with a thousand of extraordinary human qualities Professor Ing. *Samo Stankoviansky* would live to be eighty-five on November 21, 1992.

His life-long credit in the field of educational, exploratory, organizational, and social activities was evaluated in detail on the occasions of his anniversaries as well as in obituaries (*Chem. Papers, Chem. Listy*). Despite of the facts mentioned there, it is impossible not to return to two places of his activity — to Banská Štiavnica and Bratislava.



* 21. 11. 1907 † 6.5. 1980

the fact that the year 1953 was his last year at the school where he left a piece of himself and imprint of his personality. It was a sore farewell not only to the school and its students but also to friends and neighbourhood where he had come together with members of the Association of Slovak Chemists during unforgettable congresses under his majoring guaranty.

The activity at the Industrial Chemical High School in Bratislava (1953—1955) was only a short episode in his life because since March 1955 he was appointed Head of the Department of Analytical Chemistry established at the Faculty of Natural Sciences of Comenius University. Within new conditions, his educational, professional, and organizational experience started to develop fully again. With enthusiasm for everything new, so characteristic of him, he created contents of educational process through the new lectures and practices. But the time affected again this start and efforts and in 1959 he was removed from the position of Head of the Department. He did not become reserved but he pursued scientific research work where he realized all his ideas. Finally, he waited to see his full professorship (1965) because disfavour of time obstructed for 10 years its administration. During his contacts and frequent discussions with domestic as well as foreign experts he came to a conclusion that separation of ions would be prospective. Since 1971, it was the subject of his studies and he gained great recognition for the extension of isotachophoresis as a new analytical method. He struggled very hard for commercial production of an improved prototype of instrument for isotachophoresis developed at the Institute of

Banská Štiavnica accepted him already in his 14 years as a student of Higher Industrial School where he took a leaving examination in 1925 as one of the first six graduates in the field of chemistry. He came back to Banská Štiavnica in 1934 as an assistant teacher at a school which he left 8 years ago. That time, he had already gone through a graduation (Technical University, Prague, 1930), military service (Nitra, 1932) as well as first steps of teacher at council school (Plešivec, 1933).

As an assistant teacher he was engaged till 1936 when he became a full member of the teaching staff. In addition to the teaching, he was also devoted to professional work and in 1937 his first paper appeared (*Slovak Technical Review*). In April 1939, in his 32 years, he was appointed director of Higher Industrial School which he run during complicated relations of the World War II and after its termination. As a director, he organized high standard of this school for 14 years. Under his direction, the school educated 549 graduates who found their place not only in Slovakia but also abroad.

It was very hard for him to reconcile himself to political reality of the 50th years and especially to

Chemistry of Comenius University in Slovakia which would find its general application in practice. Owing to many difficulties and lack of understanding, the fortune did not give him a pleasure of the work which he initiated. He did not live to see the production of instrument and its assessments because all this took place when he was already dead. His followers realized and successfully continue in his work.

Of his 72 years of life, he spent 24 in Banská Štiavnica. He had never forgotten this lovely town and whenever it was possible, he came back. There were reminiscences of the years spent in the country under legendary Sitno hill which attracted him there. Bratislava's 27 years, despite of many peripeteia associated with him, successfully came on the top of his fruitful life. The others represented only short stoppings on his way to knowledge.

The conference dedicated in memoriam of the 85th birthday of Professor Ing. Samo Stankoviánsky organized by the Department of Analytical Chemistry on November 19, 1992 was focused on analytical methods for which he gained recognition at the Faculty of Natural Sciences of Comenius University. On this occasion, with great respect commemorated him not only students, doctorants and colleagues, but also large community of chemists — analysts that he directed with love to this scientific specialization.

A. Beňo

NEWS

The Prize of the Slovak Literary Fund

↖ The prize of the Slovak Literary Fund of the section for scientific and branch literature has been awarded to the authors A. Boháč, P. Hrnčiar, and J. Šraga for the paper published in the journal *Chemical Papers* 46, 31—34 (1992).