

In Memoriam Dr. Ing. Jaroslav Dykyj

Dr. Ing. *Jaroslav Dykyj*, a noticeable physicochemist and a great man left us a short time ago in his 87 years of age.

He was born in Przemysl (today's Poland) on February 10th, 1911, where his father of Ukrainian origin served as a member of the Habsburg's Monarchy corps. The school years started the young Jaroslav in Krakow, later the family moved to Olomouc, and, after foundation of the first Czechoslovak Republic, to Užhorod, where his father was commanded as an officer of Czechoslovakian army. In this town he finished his high-school education and then graduated in Brno at the Technical University gaining the engineer of chemistry academic degree; this university also bestowed the title Dr. (PhD) on him. He was further enrolled at the Masaryk University in Brno attending part-time lectures in chemistry, mathematics, and medicine and passed the state examination for a pedagogic approbation.

He got a stipend from the Sugar-Making Research Institute – branch in Brno, later he was active as a university lecturer at the Department of Carbohydrates and Foodstuffs of the Technical University in Brno. During occupation of Czechoslovakia he returned to the above-mentioned research institute and after the World War II he headed the physicochemical department and also the section of fine chemicals production in the Chemical and Metallurgical Company in Ústí nad Labem; later he worked in the Czechoslovak Chemical Works in Prague. In 1951 he joined the Research Institute for Petrochemistry in Nováky in position of senior scientist and headed the physicochemical department till his retirement in 1977.

In this time period he was concerned with colloidal chemistry and electrochemistry from the physicochemical viewpoint, studied properties of sugar solutions and starch, which modelled a macromolecular electrolyte; he explained phenomena associated with incorporation and economy of ions in organisms and the ability to keep concentration of various ions constant. He devoted majority of time to application of physical chemistry to organic technology, modified, elaborated and introduced the manufacture of many pure and technically important chemicals and also worked out methods for their analysis (*e.g.* vinyl chloride, glycols, nonfreezing cooling mixtures, hydraulic and brake fluids, ethylene chlorohydrin, sodium sulfate and sulfite, thorium(IV) nitrate, tungstic acid). He also investigated separations of condensation reactions of ketones, chlorination of propylene to alkyl chloride and chemical utilization of coal.

He studied important phase equilibria (as *e.g.* absorption and solubility of gases in liquids, tension of saturated vapours over liquids and solids, diffusion processes). His deep interest in technically important physicochemical properties of organic compounds prompted him to tabulate these meaningful data in some helpful manuals for chemists and biochemists. He authored or coauthored more than one hundred original papers appearing in specialized journals and monographs, many patents, popularizations and final reports and was active as translator, too.

Education of young scientists and specialists was one of his systematic priorities together with winning young people for an exact scientific mission. His lectures and supervising hours for university students and stipendists were of high level. He was extraordinarily friendly to young coworkers and was able to distinguish talented and positively featured people quite quickly. As highly educated and inquiring scientist with a broad outlook, he assisted selflessly to his coworkers and therefore, he was favoured – being still an enthusiastic and modest specialist – not only among his friends, but also among a broad mass of researchers and industrial chemists.

This rich experience and knowledge he accumulated by a systematic study could be applied to solution of actual problems. He was ambitious and trustworthy in fulfilling his duties and was also engaged in noble missions. He was extraordinarily demanding against himself and critical towards inconsistency and superficiality of coworkers, but nevertheless, he was utmost equitable and fair, able to bring off new ideas and be an example for others. He was anytime able to offer a proper advice and therefore, he was surrounded with enthusiasts for which the employment became a passion.

During his career he was awarded the appraisal "The Best Worker of Chemical Industry" and the state distinction "For Merits in Development"

He worked and was productive up to his highest capacity, but, at the same time, he loved classic music, hiking, nature and especially mountains and, generally speaking, everything nice.

The zest for living of Dr. Ing. Jaroslav Dykyj, his boundless creative activity, success in research and other fields, his enthusiasm typical of young people lasting almost to his blessed lifetime should be an example for us and a stimulant to express him our word of thanks, esteem, and admiration.

K. Babor and V Macho