

## Foreword

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The Technical University Košice was established in 1952 but its history goes to the Mining Academy in Banská Štiavnica established in 1735 and expanded in 1762. The year 2002 was the occasion not only for the reflection of the 50-year history of the TU, but also for scientific and friendly meetings for graduates and scientists from many countries. This anniversary was the occasion for organization of periodical spectroscopic meeting, which has a long-time tradition in a very nice city Košice in the area of the Technical University.

Thanks to an over 30 years lasting tradition, the spectroscopic community of the Slovak and Czech specialists meets periodically once in two years. After a shy and modest outset in 1970 in Hrabušice, the Slovak Paradise, where some more than 30 participants assembled, the number of participants and the program of the sessions were growing steadily every other year. At the beginning, the agenda of the seminars included mostly topics on atomic emission spectrochemistry, however, by the time going it was enlarged by modern spectroscopic methods as they were being introduced into laboratories and institutions of the Slovak and Czech countries. These were methods like atomic absorption spectrometry, mass spectrometry, X-ray fluorescence spectrometry, UV/VIS and IR molecular spectrometry, *etc.* A significant part of presentations was devoted to chemometry (with high importance of processing of analytical data) and to applications of spectroscopic methods and techniques in various areas and for various analyzed material.

Starting from 1990 the seminars acquired an expressive international character and from the year 1994 number of participants was always over 120 persons and around one third of participants was from the countries outside the Czech and Slovak Republics. In the year 2000 this event, the primary title of which was "Seminar on Atomic Spectrochemistry" was renamed to "Slovak Spectroscopic Conference" and so the last event in the year 2002 was the XVIth one.

The main organizers of this scientific occasion were and are members of the Department of Chemistry of the Metallurgical Faculty of the Technical University in cooperation with coorganizers like the Slovak Chemical Society (until 1992), Slovak Spectroscopic Society, and Slovak Metallurgical Society. However, the main organizational burden lied always on members of the Technical University Košice. In the past, especially on the personality of Professor *Matherný*, who had been the initiator of these seminars and for long years had chaired the organization committees, and later on Professor *Flórián* and Associate Professor *Pliešovská*.

Technical University Košice in the year 2002 was a host of many scientific events and thanks to support of the management of the University, namely rector of the Technical University, Dr.h.c. Professor Ing. *Juraj Sinay*, DrSc., dealing of the XVIth Slovak Spectroscopic Conference could take place in very good conditions and atmosphere.

Scientific program of the conference included 17 invited lectures, 9 oral presentations, and 43 posters and over 100 participants from 10 countries were present. On the program could participate regular and PhD. students on advantageous current not only from both universities with sciences teaching program in Košice, but also students from other universities in the Slovak and Czech Republics.

The organizers in the year 1996 decided to publish *Proceedings* containing all contributions in full extent. This was a way to inform a wider scientific society about the content and scientific level of works presented at this occasion. Since then all presented contributions – invited lectures, lectures, and posters were published, last time (2000) in review proceedings "Contemporary State, Development and Applications of Spectroscopic Methods". In order to maintain the continuity of publishing of full text contributions and especially to provide a possibility for young authors to present their works in a scientific journal, from the last conference the authors have the opportunity to publish their works in *Chemical Papers*. Articles were carefully reviewed and the majority of them are published together in the submitted issue of the Journal.

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