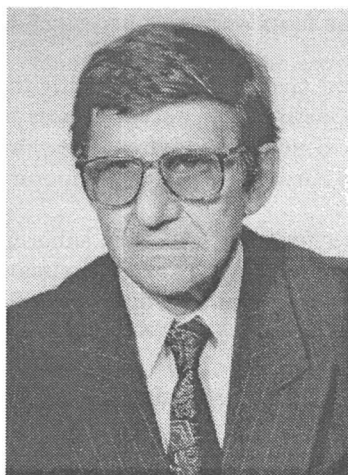


60 Years of Peter Pelikán



Professor Ing. *Peter Pelikán*, DrSc., a great person of the Slovak physical chemistry and chemical physics, celebrated his 60th birthday in August 1999.

He was born on 7 August 1939 in Bratislava. He graduated in 1969 from the Faculty of Chemical Technology at the Slovak Technical University in the specialization of physical chemistry. In 1973 he defended his PhD. thesis and in 1988 his DrSc. thesis in the field of chemical physics. He habilitated in 1990 and in 1991 he was appointed the university professor in the field of physical chemistry. He is a professor at the Faculty of Chemical Technology, Slovak University of Technology in Bratislava and at the Faculty of Chemistry, Technical University in Brno, Czech Republic. His pedagogical work is very extensive and involves practically all the areas of physical chemistry and chemical physics. He gave or gives the lectures on Chemical physics, Fundamentals of NMR spectroscopy, Physics of the solid phase, Theoretical fundamentals of EPR spectroscopy, Symmetry in chemistry, Physical chemistry, and Applied quantum chemistry.

Since his university studies the research activity of Professor Pelikán is oriented to the area of quantum chemistry. He focused his work especially to the parametrization of semiempirical quantum-chemistry methods and their application to selected topical problems in chemistry. He was interested mainly in studies of the stereochemistry, the catalysis by transition elements, the fixation of molecular nitrogen, the Jahn—Teller effect, the high-temperature superconductivity, and the photochemical reactions.

Since 1987 he worked in the area of material engineering. He dealt especially with the interpretation of EPR spectra of randomly oriented radicals in solid phase, the spectroscopy of transition elements and the defect centres in solid phase induced by irradiation. He worked in the field of sol-gel preparation of glassy materials and in the application of EPR spectroscopy to the study of catalytic reactions. Recently he is occupied with the theoretical studies of relationships between the structure and properties of ceramic materials, oriented particularly to the explanation of the relationships among composition, structure, and properties of the high-temperature conductors. Presently he is concerned with the band structure of solid materials with translational periodicity.

Professor Pelikán is a co-author of 10 monographs, four of them published abroad. He is an author of 128 scientific papers and he delivered over 100 papers both in the international and national conferences. His scientific publications have been cited over 700 times.

Besides the broad pedagogical and research work, Professor Pelikán is also great at his managing abilities. Within 1990—1991 he was the vice-chairman of the Academic Senate of the Faculty of Chemical Technology and within 1991—1994 the Dean of the Faculty of Chemical Technology, Slovak University of Technology in Bratislava. He was a member of the Slovak government council for science and technology, a chairman of the Slovak Grant Agency, a member of the scientific board of SUT, a member of the scientific board of the Faculty of Chemistry, Technical University in Brno, a member of the scientific board of Institute of Inorganic Chemistry, Slovak Academy of Sciences in Bratislava, a member of the Editorial Board and the Editor-in-Chief of *Chemical Papers*, and a member of a number of committees for defending PhD. and DrSc. theses. His significant contribution to the Slovak science was acknowledged in 1994 by awarding the honorary Dionýz Ilkovič plaque for the merits in the development of physico-chemical sciences.

Professor Pelikán belongs to the persons who take the position of university professor and scientist as their life mission. This was clearly seen during all his life, either when working with the computer at the department or when teaching new generations of chemists with the chalk at a blackboard.

All his colleagues, students, and friends highly appreciate his contribution to chemistry. They wish him good health, much creativity and inspiration in his future scientific and pedagogical work.

S. Biskupič and P. Šimon

Professor Peter Pelikán, DrSc. is an immensely active man – an active sportsman in his young years and a good worker throughout his professional career, fighting for right ideas. In the past totalitarian regime he was ignored as a disagreeable and dangerous faultfinder.

After the political climate became looser, he has been engaged in many directions, serving in several functions. He took charge also of our Journal when there was a danger of its liquidation. As Dean and Editor-in-Chief, he arranged its continuous publishing at the Faculty; after his retirement from the function it was necessary to transfer the printing of *Chemical Papers* to the present publisher.

Invaluable are his suggestions concerning the organization of universities and their cooperation with the Academy of Sciences, directed to international acceptability of the level of our institutions, successfulness in competition with institutes in developed countries when entering the European Union, and guaranteeing top education of young generation so that the technical intelligentsia with knowledge surpassing the contemporary status of industry be prepared to introduce new technologies.

His fight for academic freedom and autonomy of universities against the past efforts to have them subordinated to political powers, for competent Accreditation Commission, Grant Commission, and Slovak Commission for scientific degrees occupied by most prestigious representatives, for high requirements in awarding scientific titles and appointing to functions deserves not only admiration but also gratitude of the whole professional community.

Dear Peter, thanks for your cooperation with the Editorial Board and Editor's Office of our Journal, for your creativity and attitude!

We wish you good health and contentment, enjoyment of the results of your professional work and of developing your hobbies, and a happy and comfortable life among your dearests.

K. Babor, Editor
and Editorial Staff