

## FOREWORD

The papers in this issue are written by the staff members of the Department of Chemical Technology, and are dedicated to commemorate the 125th anniversary of the foundation of this Department.

The Department of Chemical Technology was founded in October 1870 by the Minister of Education of that time, Baron József Eötvös. The first professor and head of the Department was Vince Wartha, who was mainly renowned for his achievements in the ceramic industry and also in water chemistry. In collaboration with the Zsolnay Porcelain Factory in Pécs, he invented the 'eosine' lustre glaze, which later became famous throughout Europe.

Since that time, the Department has taught fuels technology and hydrocarbon processing, water treatment, silicate chemistry and other chapters of industrial chemistry to generations of chemical, mechanical and transportation engineering students. Presently, the Department teaches an average of 650–700 undergraduate students in an academic year.

The main research fields of the Department are also reflected by the mentioned chapters of industrial chemistry, but were broadened, when the Department of Electrochemistry was merged with this Department in 1957. Thus, certain topics of electrochemistry, corrosion and nuclear chemistry are also dealt with at the Department. In the 1970s and 1980s environmental research and education became an important field in our teaching and research activity.

Postgraduate education in environmental engineering has been organized by this Department since 1974 and since that time, more than 1000 engineers and other university and college graduates have received a postgraduate diploma in environmental engineering after having completed a two-year postgraduate course.

I hope that the reader may find the following papers informative and interesting.

Budapest, September 28, 1995

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