

PROFESSOR ISTVÁN RUSZNÁK



István Rusznák was born in Budapest on 28 January 1920. He took his matriculation examinations at the Archepiscopal Catholic Secondary School (of modern languages, science and Latin) in 1938 (Budapest). He studied chemistry, physics and mathematics at the Faculty of Arts of the Pázmány Péter University from 1938 through 1942 in Budapest. After postgraduate studies at the same university and at the Technical University of Budapest under the supervision of Prof. Dr. Zoltán Csűrös from 1942 through 1944, he received the degree of Ph.D. in 1944 for his thesis entitled 'Products of aromatic nitro compounds with cellulose xanthate', and the degrees of C.Sc. (1959) and D.Sc. (1975) in chemical science from the Hungarian Academy of Sciences based upon the theses entitled 'Preparation and alkali sensitivity of celluronic acid' and 'Thermolysis of cellulose caused by short term thermal treatments', respectively.

He started professional activities at the Goldberger Textile Works, Budapest, where he was employed as chemist, analytical chemist, head of laboratory, deputy works manager in screen printing and works manager in preparation and bleaching from 1942 through 1950.

He was the Head of the Chemical Department of the Hungarian Textile Research Institute from its establishment (1950) through 1969. Simultaneously he was Head of Department at the State Technical College (from 1949 through 1951) and of the Department of Practical Chemistry, Fac-

ulty of Chemical Engineering, Technical University of Budapest (from 1951 through 1960), as Associate Professor. He was re-invited to the Department of Organic Chemical Technology, by the TUB as Associate Professor in 1965 and acted as such till 1969. Then he became full Professor. He was the Head of the Department of Organic Chemical Technology from 1971 to 1985. He was deputy Dean at the Faculty of Chemical Engineering from 1951 through 1955, as well as from 1970 through 1979. He was visiting professor at the National Research Center of Egypt and simultaneously invited professor at the Faculty of Science of Cairo University in Cairo from 1963 to 1965.

He has been external examiner at Cairo University, and time-to-time at other Egyptian Universities since 1956. He was the Head of the Research Group of Organic Chemical Technology of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences from 1975 to 1990. Rather wide field of social activities has been connected with his name. Activities in organizations of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences: he has been member (1952–1973), secretary (1973–1979) and chairman of the Committee of Fibre Technology, member of the Committee of Macromolecular Chemistry (since 1973), chairman of the Working Committee of Natural Polymers (since 1976), member of the Working Committee of Carbohydrate Chemistry (1973–1978), consultative member of the Class of Technical Sciences (1990–1993).

Governmental organizations: member of the plenum of the National Committee of Technical Development (1979–1981), member, later chairman of the Subcommittee for Light Industry of the Kossuth and National (today Széchenyi) Prize (since 1984), member of a chemical commission of the Scientific Qualification Committee (since 1975). Other types of social activities: member (since 1948), president (from 1974 through 1985), co-president (from 1985 through 1990) and honorary copresident (since 1990) of the Hungarian Technical and Scientific Society of the Textile Industry, member of the presidium (from 1968 through 1990), president (from 1980 through 1983), vicepresident (from 1983 through 1990) of the International Federation of Associations of Textile Chemists and Colourists.

He is honorary member of the Polish and the Roumanian Societies of Textile Chemists and Colourists, respectively.

The main fields of his research activities have been macromolecular chemistry, chemistry and technology of fibre-forming polymers, textiles, paper and pulp: He authored and co-authored over 400 scientific articles and 16 scientific and technical books. More than 50 patents were registered under his and his coworkers' name.

He is the holder of the following decorations: silver class of the Order of Labour, (1953), Kossuth Prize (1954), Prize for the Development of the Textile Industry (1960), Outstanding Inventor (golden class 1966, 1983),

For Outstanding Work (1979, 1980), prize of the Federation of Hungarian Technical and Scientific Associations (1978), golden class of the Order of Labour (1985), Commemorative Medal of the Technical University of Budapest (1986), Prize of Creativity (Ministry of Industry, 1986), Gold Medal of the British Society of Dyers and Colourists (1990), Honorary doctor of the Technical University of Budapest (1992).