

PROFESSOR FERENC PAULIK



Ferenc Paulik was born in Budapest on 24 February, 1922. He took his matriculation examinations in the Franciscan School in Esztergom, then studied at the Faculty of Chemical Engineering of the Palatine Joseph Technical and Economics University, Budapest, where he graduated in 1944. In 1944–1950 he worked in the leather industry and in 1950 he returned to his Alma Mater as an assistant lecturer at the Institute for General and Analytical Chemistry. Later he became a research scientist at the Research Group for Analytical Chemistry of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences at the same Institute, where he still works as Professor Emeritus.

Ferenc Paulik started his research under the guidance of the late Professor László Erdey in the field of thermal analysis in 1950. It appears that the famous scientist had confidence in his young coworker, as Ferenc Paulik had almost free hand in the selection of the subject and strategy of research. His brother Jenő Paulik who died in 1988 joined in the research at the very beginning and the scientific careers of the two brothers ran parallel for 40 years.

They developed various thermoanalytical methods such as derivative thermogravimetry, derivative, thermodilatometry, thermo-gas titrimetry and a simultaneous method the so-called derivatography, combining the above mentioned techniques and differential thermal analysis. A new technique introduced recently enabled all the measurements to be carried out under

quasi-isothermal and quasi-isobaric conditions thus eliminating the adverse effects of heat and gas transport processes on the thermal transformations studied. This opened new possibilities in the interpretation and evaluation of thermoanalytical curves.

The new techniques were embodied in an instrument, the Derivatograph, of which the Hungarian Optical Works produced about 4000 during the past three decades, mostly for export. The number of papers on research results received by the instrument is several thousand.

Ferenc Paulik is author of three books, three chapters in different books and 175 papers. He is presently working on a comprehensive book on thermal analysis. He gave nearly 200 lectures at various conferences, mainly abroad. He took an active part in the teaching of chemistry students, held courses on the theory and practice of thermal analysis for post-graduate students in Hungary and also abroad, in Egypt, Iraq, Russia and India.

Ferenc Paulik is holder of 27 patents, Hungarian as well as foreign (USA, German, British, French, Japanese, etc.). The methods and techniques developed by him are described in more than 40 books, published by different authors, his papers were cited in more than 3000 articles. He was initiator and chairman of the 4th ICTA Conference held in Budapest in 1974.

He is member of numerous scientific committees and of advisory boards of journals, e. g. of the Analytical Committee of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences since 1984, of the Committee for Thermal Analysis of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences since 1972, Chairman or Co-Chairman of the Thermoanalytical Group of the Hungarian Chemical Society in 1965–1992. He was member of the Advisory Board of the International Confederation for Thermal Analysis (ICTA) from 1974 to 1992, and of the Advisory Board of the European Society for Thermal Analysis and Calorimetry (ESTAC) from 1976 to 1985. He is Regional Editor of the Journal of Thermal Analysis and member of the Advisory Board of Thermochemica Acta, Thermal Analysis Abstracts and Hungarian Scientific Instruments, and Editor of the Atlas of Thermoanalytical Curves. He received together with his brother the ICTA Mettler Award from the North American Thermal Analysis Society (NATAS) in 1974, and the Kurnakov Medal from the Society of Russian Thermoanalysts in 1982.