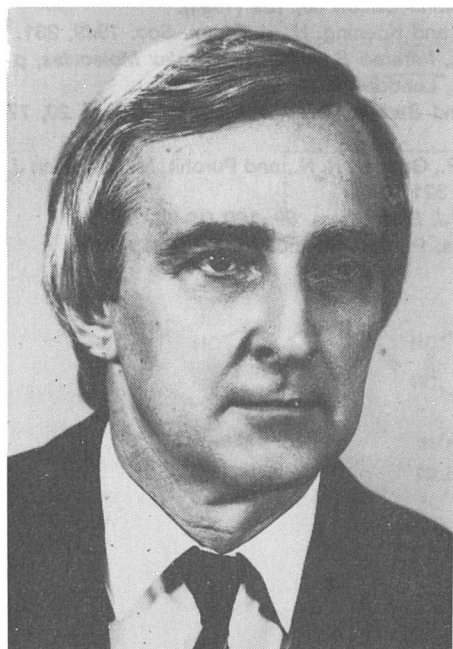


The 60th Anniversary of Jaroslav Bartoň

In the middle of this year, the Corresponding Member of the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences and of the Slovak Academy of Sciences Ing. *Jaroslav Bartoň*, DrSc. reaches the age of sixty. He was born on June 22, 1932 in Košice. After graduating from the Slovak Technical University in Bratislava in 1956, he worked as a technologist and a researcher in Gumon, Bratislava. Since 1962 he has been working in the Slovak Academy of Sciences at the Polymer Institute.



For many years Dr. Bartoň performed the function of the scientific secretary at the Polymer Institute and in 1989/1990 he was its director. He was also engaged in scientific boards of the Czechoslovak and Slovak Academies of Sciences for a number of years. He worked enthusiastically and with success in education of new young scientists as a supervisor and member or head of different commissions for the defence of Ph.D. and doctoral dissertations. He participated in the organization of several international scientific meetings and in the development of international scientific cooperation. He is a member of the International Polymer Colloids Group.

Scientific activities of Dr. Bartoň were in harmony with the development of macromolecular science and technology of polymeric materials. In the field of modified polyolefins and halogen-containing polymers his work contributed significantly to deeper knowledge of peculiarities of crosslinking and grafting of polyolefins and poly(vinyl chloride) and was of fundamental importance for the further development of the research area. He was engaged in the study of the preparation of modified phenolic resins for glass laminates, electro-insulating varnishes on the basis of alkyd resins as well as catalytic systems for crosslinking of polysiloxanes. The main and long-lasting centre of his scientific activities and the activities of his research group has been research into free-radical building-up

reactions in both homogeneous and heterogeneous systems aimed at preparing polymers of "tailored" structure and properties. By solving the problems of polymerization of vinyl monomers initiated by multicomponent initiating systems based on transition metal compounds, a number of special pieces of information about the mechanism of initiation and possibilities of modification of halogen-containing polymers were obtained. From the number of significant achievements we have to mention the ones in the field of photoinitiating systems based on donor-acceptor complexes and charge-transfer complexes in the excited state which contributed to solving questions of energy transfer in systems containing an electron-accepting monomer as well as the questions of the mechanism of copolymerization of electron-donor monomer with electron-acceptor monomer. Since 1980 Dr. Bartoň has been studying the kinetics and mechanism of free-radical polymerization in disperse systems, above all the multicomponent emulsion polymerization of polar and nonpolar monomers. He proposed and defined the principle of the partitioned free-radical polymerization which enabled us to get more information about the site of initiation and propagation of polymerization in heterogeneous systems and about the reaction mechanism of the formation of polymer submicron particles in the process of conventional emulsion and inverse emulsion polymerization of vinyl monomers. Recently Dr. Bartoň concentrates on the research of nonconventional disperse systems of free-radical polymerization (inverse microemulsion polymerization of polar monomers) and preparation of polymer submicron particles for special applications. In cooperation with the research institutions and technical universities Dr. Bartoň applied successfully some of the results of basic research in the production of polymer dispersions and thermoreactive composites on the basis of fluoromethacrylates.

Dr. Bartoň is the author and coauthor of more than 115 scientific papers published mainly abroad, four monographs devoted to free-radical polymerization in homogeneous and heterogeneous systems (published by VEDA, Elsevier and Horwood) and over 20 Czechoslovak and foreign patents. He presented more than 100 lectures at scientific events and at the universities at home and abroad.

Dr. Bartoň's personality as a scientist is noted for inventiveness and resourcefulness, conception in problem-solving and for his interdisciplinary approach to the research problem. He is an inspiration to young scientists. His scientific work was an asset to better understanding of free-radical polymerization. He indicated future directions of research and stimulated interest in the study of this interesting area.

On the occasion of his anniversary, we wish Dr. Jaroslav Bartoň creative vigour in the following years for successful continuation of his scientific activities.

V. Vašková and E. Borsig

The 60th Anniversary of Milan Karvaš, Ph.D.

Born on June 5th, 1932 in Bratislava as son of a known Slovak economist, Professor *Imrich Karvaš*, the jubilarian graduated with honours at the Slovak Technical University in Bratislava in 1957 in spite of difficult student time for his family persecutions.

He started his career at the Institute of Chemistry of the Slovak Academy of Sciences in 1957 and since 1960, when he was dismissed as politically unreliable although his research results were appreciated, he got a job as an unqualified workman in the chemical factory Istrochem; in the production section Superphosphate, working at Dikotex P, he proved true as a good specialist, organizer and an excellent fellow. That was why he was appointed a foreman. Later on, he worked in the factory research institute turning, also thanks to his contributions, to an independent research institute of high professional quality.

He postdoctored for one year at the Technical University in Zurich in 1972 under the sponsorship of Professor *Jäger*; here, he was engaged in the photochemistry of steroids.

In 1990, after 27 years of activities in the well-known Research Institute of Chemical Technology in Bratislava he founded a private commercial laboratory "SYNKOLA" specialized for high-tech chemical preparations. This needed, of course, a great bit of self-confidence at the period when planned state economy is being transformed into a market one.

The jubilarian, an autonomous senior scientist, has supervised diplomas and theses of several students. He is active as a referee and a member of the board of examiners awarding Ph.D. and DrSc. degrees in organic chemistry and organic technology, respectively. He markedly contributed to the chemistry of additives to polymers so that this field of applied chemistry has got comparable with world level.

He is the author or coauthor of 62 original papers with 162 foreign literature citations and more than 100 patents, some of them having international validity in developed countries; 12 patents have been realized. Dr. Karvaš also took responsibility for introducing some special chemicals into production. His results in the chemistry of sterically hindered amines have found a broad response and proved useful in practice.

Dr. Karvaš saved much of his free time in favour of the Slovak chemistry. His long-term activity in the board of the Slovak Chemical Society should be well appreciated; at the time being, he is its vice-president. His natural authority, presentation and expertness were the challenging factors for nominations in various boards, e.g. he is the member of the accreditation board named by the Slovak Government, committee for chemical sciences at the Slovak Academy of Sciences, scientific council of the Slovak Technical University, member of the chairmanship of the Forum of scientists and researchers of Slovakia.

He is known abroad for his scientific and professional skill, patents and presentations. Dr. Karvaš has grown successively into a personality in spite of the fact that he was politically persecuted and contributed greatly to the good name of the research community of Slovakia.

The jubilarian has lived to be sixty in full creative activity and good health. It is our wish that he maintains so for long years to be able to hand over much of his human and professional mastership to others and reach the feeling of highest satisfaction.

J. Durmis

