

Professor Sándor Endrényi on his 90th birthday



IN SEPTEMBER 1986, Professor S. Endrényi, well known for his contributions in the field of heat and mass transfer, celebrated his 90th birthday. It gives us great pleasure to be able to report that this elder statesman among the practitioners in the field is still fully active, both in teaching and in research. In the following short note, only a brief review can be given of his illustrious career and achievements.

Sándor Endrényi was born in 1896 in Budapest, Hungary, where he commenced his studies at the Technical University in 1914, the year World War I broke out. He obtained the diploma of a mechanical engineer in 1918. In those early years he was already drawn to a scientific career, and recognizing his abilities, several of his professors invited him to become their assistant. He had been working for Professors Banki (the inventor of a well-known type of water turbine and co-inventor of the carburetor), Schimanek, Rethy and Wittmann; Professor Banki had also employed him in his consulting office. In 1919, he helped L. Szilard (later of atomic bomb fame) to organize a series of historic lectures with Theodore von Karman as the principal lecturer; other participants included I. Brody and K. Polanyi.

In the aftermath of World War I, and indeed until

the end of World War II, circumstances did not allow him to engage in scientific work. Only after 1945 could he gradually return to his primary interests, research and teaching. Over the years, he made many contributions to the development in Hungary of technologies based on heat transfer processes, and also to the state-of-the-art internationally. He was the first in Hungary to introduce a curriculum on climatic control, and to organize a research committee and a graduate course on drying processes. From 1948 until this day he has been regularly lecturing at the Technical University of Budapest. In 1962, the Hungarian Academy of Sciences awarded him the degree of Candidate of Technical Sciences, and in 1976, that of Doctor of Technical Sciences.

Outside Hungary, he has been active, as a contributor or an organizer, at many international events. He was a member of the Advisory Committee of the All-Union Conferences on Heat and Mass Transfer in 1961, 1964, 1968 and 1972 (Minsk, U.S.S.R.) and a Division Chairman of the Fourth International Heat Transfer Conference in Paris in 1970. He is a member and the Hungarian Representative of the International Centre for Heat and Mass Transfer, and is on the editorial boards of

several journals of international repute. He was invited to present seminars at universities in many countries, including the United States (Princeton University, State University of New York, University of Minnesota, etc.).

Professor Endrényi's main area of interest, within the area of heat and mass transfer, is the study of drying processes. His outstanding results in psychrometry, and in the drying of sorptive and porous materials (documented in the bibliography below) are well known by researchers in the field. But his interests and activities go far beyond the confines of his specialties—he is equally at home in such areas as thermodynamics, hydrodynamics, chemical processes, process control, physics of colloids, or the protection of the environment. He has been involved in the design of a whole range of equipment and systems; examples include thermal plants for industrial consumers, heating and ventilation systems, electric power distribution networks, equipment for paper and textile manufacture, industrial energy systems and industrial processes.

Today, at the age of 90, he is still fully active in research, consulting, teaching and committee work. In addition, he is always ready to share his knowledge and experience and advise younger (and that includes all) colleagues. He will discuss, with equal enthusiasm, technical topics, music, literature, or international affairs. On behalf of his students and former students, co-workers and many admirers, we wish him the best of health and many more years of active life, rich in results, friendship and rewarding experiences.

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