

## ***Birthday Tribute to Leslie S. Ettre***

*In September of 2007 we celebrate the 85th birthday of LESLIE S. ETTRE, one of the most prominent persons in the history of chromatography.*

*LESLIE STEPHEN ETTRE was born on September 16, 1922, in Szombathely, Hungary. He is a graduate of the Technical University Budapest, with a degree in chemical engineering (1945). Later he also received a technical doctorate (Dr. tech.) from the same school.*

*Between 1946 and 1949 Dr. Ettre was an industrial chemist at the Gedeon Richter Pharmaceutical Co., in Budapest. In 1949 he joined the Research Institute for the Heavy Chemical Industries, in Veszprém (Hungary) as a Research Associate, advancing to the head of the Technical Office of the Institute. In 1953, after a brief period as the manager of the department in charge of the industrial chemical research institutes in the Hungarian Ministry for the Chemical Industry, he was appointed as head of the Industrial Department of the Hungarian Research Institute on Plastics, in Budapest.*

*In September 1956 he accepted a position at BUNA, one of the largest chemical plants in the German Democratic Republic (Eastern Germany), but his stay there was cut short by the Hungarian Revolution. After moving to West Germany, at the end of 1956, he became a chemist in the laboratories of the LURGI Companies, in Frankfurt am Main, in charge of the gas chromatography laboratory. He immigrated to the United States in the fall of 1958, joining the Perkin-Elmer Corporation, in Norwalk, Connecticut as an Applications Chemist, soon advancing to the position of a Product Specialist and the head of the Gas Chromatography Applications Laboratory. In 1968 he interrupted his affiliation with Perkin-Elmer, taking over the position of the Executive Editor of the Encyclopedia of Industrial Chemical Analysis, a 20-volume series published by John Wiley & Sons, New York City. He returned to Perkin-Elmer in the spring of 1972, as a Senior Staff Scientist. In 1988 he was promoted to the position of Senior Scientist, the highest non-managerial position at the company. He retired from Perkin-Elmer at the end of 1990, continuing to serve as a consultant to the company.*

*Since 1988 Dr. Ettre has also been affiliated with the Department of Chemical Engineering of Yale University (New Haven, CT) as a Senior Lecturer; in September 1990 he was appointed an Adjunct Professor to the Department. In 1995 he retired from this position; however, continuing his association with the Chemical Engineering Department as a Research Affiliate until 2004. In 1994, he was guest professor for one semester at Johannes Kepler University, in Linz, Austria.*

*During his professional career Dr. Ettre also had other university appointments, concurrent with his primary affiliations. In Hungary, between 1950 and 1952, he has served as a Senior Lecturer at Veszprém University. In 1977–78 he had been a Research Affiliate at the Department of Chemical Engineering of Yale University, and in 1986–88 an Ad-junct Professor at the Chemistry Department of the University of Houston, TX.*

*Dr. Ettre has served as an editor of the international journal Chromatographia from 1970 until the end of 1994 when he became a member of the Journal's Advisory Board; he has also been serving on the Editorial Advisory Boards of the Journal of Chromatographic Science, the Journal of Liquid Chromatography and the Magyar Kémikusok Lapja (Hungarian Chemical Journal). Currently he is a member of the Editorial Advisory Board of LC/GC Magazine, both the American and European (International) editions. He is the author of a regular column published in LC/GC entitled "Milestones in Chromatography," dealing with various aspects of the history of the evolution of chromatography.*

*In the 1960s Dr. Ettre has served as a member of the Executive Committee of Committee E-19 of the American Society for Testing & Materials (ASTM); between 1972 and 1987 he has been a member of the Executive Committee of the (European) Chromatographic Society, and between 1988 and 1994 a member of the Executive Committee of the Chromatography*

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*Subdivision, Division of Analytical Chemistry of the American Chemical Society. For eight years (1982–1990) Dr. Ettre has been a member of the Commission of Analytical Nomenclature, International Union of Pure & Applied Chemistry (IUPAC), where he was responsible for the development of the new Unified Nomenclature for Chromatography released in April 1993.*

*Dr. Ettre is the author and coauthor of close to 300 publications and 19 books, and he is the editor of 43 books. He received the A.J.P. Martin (Gold) Award of The Chromatographic Society (1982), and the National Award in Chromatography of the American Chemical Society (1985), the two highest distinctions in this field in Europe and the United States, respectively. A list of his other professional awards is provided at the end of this resumé. In 1992 he was elected a honorary member of the Hungarian Chemical Society; he received the Golden (1995) and the Diamond (2005) Diploma of the Technical University of Budapest. His 80th birthday was celebrated by a special scientific session during the International Symposium on Capillary Chromatography (Riva del Garda, Italy, May 2002) and the Eastern Analytical Symposium (Somerset, NJ, November 2002).*

*Dr. Ettre has lectured widely in the world on the invitation of universities, scientific associations and academies, research institutions and research laboratories, and he has been active in the organization of several international symposia on chromatography.*

*In the past 45 years Dr. Ettre's major area of research has been chromatography. His activities covered a wide variety of fields including surface area studies, trace analysis, studies on detector response, reaction-gas chromatography, the retention index system and particularly the theory and practice of open-tubular columns: his first pioneering book on this subject was published in 1965. His activities in the field of headspace-gas chromatography (HS-GC) should also be emphasized: for over six years, the short courses on HS-GC held by Dr. Ettre together with Dr. Bruno Kolb during the annual Pittsburgh Conferences were most popular, and the book on HS-GC he coauthored with Dr. Bruno Kolb, and first published in 1997, is the most comprehensive discussion of this subject; the second edition of this book was published in 2006. In the last two decades Dr. Ettre's interest has focussed on the history of chromatography, particularly on the early evolution of the various techniques, looking at them in the proper historical and political context and investigating their interaction with other scientific disciplines.*

*Dr. Ettre's other awards are listed below:*

*Tswett Award in Chromatography of the International Symposium on Advances in Chromatography (1978); Anniversary Chromatography Medal of the All-Union Council on Chromatography of the U.S.S.R. Academy of Sciences (1979); L.S. Palmer Award of the Minnesota Chromatography Forum (1980); Anniversary Medal of Tartu University (Estonia) (1981); Merit Award of the Western Carolinas Chromatography Discussion Group (1987); M.S. Tswett Merit Award of the Russian Chromatographic Society (1991); M.J.E. Golay Award (1992) and the Jubilee Award (1998) of the International Symposium on Capillary Chromatography; K.P. Dimick Award of the Society for Analytical Chemists of Pittsburgh (1998); Csaba Horváth Medal of the Connecticut Separation Science Council (2001); Analytical Chemistry Award of the Hungarian Chemical Society (2001).*

HAPPY BIRTHDAY LESLIE



*Dr. Huba Kalász  
Co-Editor*