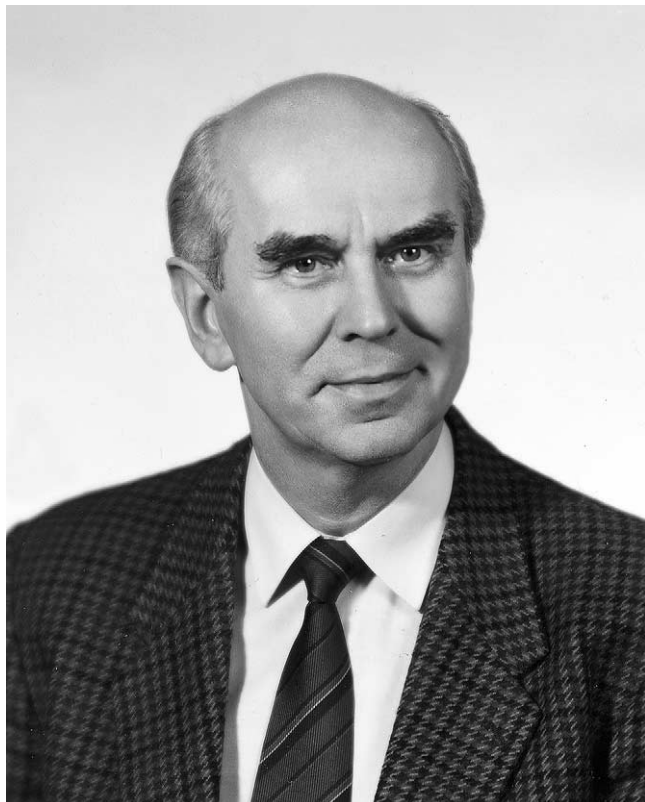


75th Birthday of Dr Karel Macek



If one of these days you happen to visit Prague, particularly in the southern residential parts, you may run into a sophisticated gentleman in his elegant tie and jacket, strolling around or checking the programs of the Prague cultural events. You would never dream that this man just recently celebrated his 75th birthday. You would keep him for a retired movie star rather than a retired scientist. This man is Karel Macek, who in the past contributed a lot to chromatography, in particular in the old days when planar chromatography was the fashion of the day and nobody dared to dream about instrumental and computerized procedures, about capillary and chip separations, molecularly imprinted stationary phases or molecular sieving. However, without the basic knowledge of separation procedures to which he

contributed a lot, the present-day procedures could hardly be developed. It was he (together with the late Ivo Hais) who published the first monograph on thin layer chromatography (in 1954, translated into five languages); it was he who started the Bibliography section of *Journal of Chromatography* (in 1962, and kept the position of Editor of the Bibliography section for the following thirty years) and who, later as the Associate Editor of *Journal of Chromatography* (since 1969) along with Michael Lederer was able to foresee the importance of separation techniques in the biomedical field. The result was the founding of the Biomedical Applications section of *Journal of Chromatography* (now *Journal of Chromatography B*) in 1977 of which he was Editor for 18 years until he retired on 1 January 1996. After the retirement of Michael Lederer in 1989, Karel Macek became a Co-Editor of the present *Journal of Chromatography A* and kept this position until 1994. Thanks to him the Czechoslovak Chromatographic Society was founded in 1960 (and he kept the position of the chairman for the next 30 years). Under his leadership a number of truly international meetings were held that were successful in bridging eastern and western scientists in the days of the iron curtain (between the years 1961–1975). Later these meetings were transformed into Biomedical Applications of Chromatography series of Symposia and it was he who was the main organizer of these scientific gatherings until 1993 (published in *Journal of Chromatography*).

In short, his contribution to the development of chromatography is still lasting although perhaps many students may not be aware of it. The celebration of his 75th birthday appears a good opportunity to commemorate at least these facts.

All good wishes, good health and if there are troubles to be met, let them be solvable by work, as these are the easy ones. Personally I hope I will have the chance to write a page like this celebrating Karel's 90th birthday.

Zdenek Deyl
Prague, November 2003