



## Obituary

## Karel Macek (1928–2011)

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It is with deep sadness that I have to announce that Assistant Professor RN Dr. Karel Macek, DSc., former co-editor of *Journal of Chromatography A* and editor-in-chief of *Journal of Chromatography B* passed away on the 21<sup>st</sup> December 2011.

The personality of Karel Macek can be characterized by his diligence, activity, cultured behaviour, language proficiency and his organizing abilities. These human qualities allowed him to influence both scientific and social events.

Karel Macek was born in Prague on 31<sup>st</sup> October 1928. His university studies in biochemistry took place at Charles University in Prague (1951). This was followed by a postgraduate position at Göttingen University with Prof. Brockmann. He achieved *venia docendi* in analytical chemistry at the Technical University Pardubice (1969) and the highest academic degree Doctor of Chemical Sciences, DSc. (1983) at the same institution.

Much of his chemical career was spent at the Research Institute for Pharmacy and Biochemistry (1951), 3<sup>rd</sup> Internal Clinic of Faculty of Medicine (1970) and the Physiological Institute of the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences (1977), all located in Prague.

His main scientific published works included: A comprehensive book written in Czech with I. Hais – Paper Chromatography (1954) was translated into five languages; a series of original papers on screening methods for identification of pharmaceuticals and drugs used in many clinical laboratories; and extensive book with Z. Deyl and myself – Liquid Column Chromatography (Elsevier 1975), translated into Russian in three volumes (1978).

As a logical result of these activities Dr. Macek has been invited as visiting profesor e.g. on University in Munich, Chelsea College in London, University in Roma and Laboratory of Chromatography of the Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche.

A series of international symposia on flat-bed chromatography and later liquid chromatography has been organised or cooperated by Dr. Macek. Typical for him was the selection of places and cultural arrangement for them on different castles of historical qualities.

Dr. Karel Macek was elected as an honorary member of the Czechoslovak Chemical Society and a member of the German Society for Toxicology and Forensic Chemistry, as well as the German Pharmaceutical Society.

The bibliographic activity of Dr. Macek in the field of classical chromatographic methodology inspired Prof. Michael Lederer (founder and Editor) to open bibliographic section in *Journal of Chromatography* (1961).

Prof. Lederer then asked Dr. Macek to be an associate Editor (see *Journal of Chromatography* 45–1969) of the journal in 1969. This bibliography grew step by step and covered all variants of chromatography. It became an unique information service up to the ninetieth years when it was substituted by electronic media.

On the initiative of Prof. Lederer and Dr. Macek a new independent part of *Journal of Chromatography - Biomedical Applications* (*Journal of Chromatography* 143–1977) was launched, (later retitled *Journal of Chromatography B*), which now serves as a lasting tribute to both men. Following the retirement of Prof. Lederer, Dr. Karel Macek became the Editor-in-Chief of the *Journal of Chromatography B* until 1996.

As a reward for his lifetime efforts, Dr. Karel Macek obtained the Hanush Plaque from the Czechoslovak Chemical Society, and also the Russian (1978) and American (1984) M. S. Tswett Medals.

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