

IN MEMORIAM M. D. KARKHANAVALA



The Journal of Thermal Analysis commemorates with respect its former Regional Editor, the late Dr Karkhanavala on the occasion of the tenth anniversary of his death. We feel that the Journal as well as the international community of thermoanalysts owe him much, especially for bringing closer Indian and European thermoanalytical literature.

Dr Minocher Dadabhoy Karkhanavala—popularly known as MDK to his friends and colleagues—hailed from a religious family in Bombay. Born on November 29, 1926, Minocher had imbibed at an early age many desirable qualities of the head and heart that made him a lovable person. He was awarded M.Sc. degree (1949) from Bombay University, M.S. (1950) from State University of New York and Ph.D. (1952) from Pennsylvania State University.

Dr Karkhanavala began his illustrious scientific career in 1953 as a Research Officer in the Chemistry Division of the Atomic Energy Establishment, Trombay, now known as Bhabha Atomic Research Centre. As the head of solid state chemistry section, he initiated research in thermal analysis and also encouraged

talented young scientists to form an excellent school in solid state science. A number of students had obtained higher degrees under his able guidance and he is the author of about 120 research papers and reports. In addition, Dr Karkhanavala was a member of the Board of Studies for the Universities of Bombay, Poona and Baroda. In recognition of his abilities, he was promoted as the Head of Chemistry Division and later as Director of the Chemical Group and he adorned these posts with dignity and competence.

Dr Karkhanavala was actively associated with a number of scientific, philanthropic, social and religious organisations. He was the founder President of Indian Thermal Analysis Society (1977–79). He was in the Executive Council of International Confederation for Thermal Analysis, a Regional Editor for Journal of Thermal Analysis and member of the Editorial Board of Indian Journal of Chemistry. Besides, he was the Vice-President of the Indian Chemical Society (1976–78) and the President of the Bombay Branch (1974–77). As founder member and Joint Hon. Secretary (1975–79) of the Maharashtra Academy of Sciences, he worked for better cooperation among industrialists and scientists in this country. He was associated with the Society for Clean Environment as a trustee as well as a member of the Executive Committee and was also actively interested in the Maharashtra Civil Defence Unit.

A dynamic person noted for his acumen, scholarship and organising capacity, Dr Karkhanavala was a member in several national and international organisations. He was a member of the Board of Directors for Bharat Aluminium Co., Ltd. and Indian Rare Earths Ltd., Member, Board of Management, Nuclear Fuel Complex, Hyderabad, Coordinator/Liaison Officer for Indo-German Collaboration and research projects and a member of the Senior Advisory Group on Nuclear Safety of International Atomic Energy Agency.

It is an irony of fate that such a glorious career came to an end on November 17, 1979 due to a jeep accident near Jodhpur. In his demise, ITAS has lost forever a benefactor and guide.

I. K. VARMA