

Obituary



Professor Anna Sopkova

Prof. Ing. Anna Sopková DrSc, a respected member of the Czechoslovak chemical and thermoanalytical community at the age of 73 died on November 26th, 1999.

We all, who knew her exceptional activity and engagement – feel, that her decrease means a considerable loss for our social and professional life.

After graduating as a chemical engineer (MS) from the Slovak Technical University in Bratislava in 1951 she started her professional career by joining a mining company. In 1954 – just being the mother of two children – she was appointed Head of the Department for Technical and Economical Information at the Slovak Pharmaceutical Works in Banská Bystrica. Being gifted for languages she acquired there – and later in the Scientific library in Košice (eastern Slovakia) – a well – founded knowledge in professional literature.

In 1963 she assumed a position of a lecturer at the Institute of Inorganic Chemistry at the University in Košice, where she completed her doctorate (PhD) and was appointed Assistant Professor (1971). After the 'velvet revolution' she defended her DrSc-theses at the Technical University in Pardubice (Czech Republic) and received a full Professorship (1991) at her maternal Institute. For over 20 years she led the research activities there and served – 1981 as the Head of the Institute for Inorganic Chemistry in the period 1971.

She published over 140 papers and contributed significantly to the development of the chemistry of clathrates and inclusion compounds in Czechoslovakia. With efficient cooperation, in 1981 and 1991 she organized the First and the Fourth International Seminars on inclusion compounds – attended by world-known experts in this field. Prof. A. Sopková was a respected expert in Thermal Analysis, a member of ICTAC and recently the correspondent of ICTAC News for Slovakia. From 1993 she was a member of the editorial board of the *Journal of Thermal Analysis and Calorimetry*.

In 1973 she founded the East-Slovakian group of the Slovak Chemical Society and chaired this institution for years.

During her 31 years' activity Prof. Ing. Anna Sopková DrSc became an appreciated teacher and researcher in Czechoslovakia, well known in her fields of interest also in the international community. For her contribution to the progress of Chemistry in Czechoslovakia she was awarded by the 'Hanuš Medal' of the Czechoslovak Chemical Society. She was an excellent companion, always ready to communicate, having an air of friendliness about her - with an ability to enliven even the most official debates.

Her personality will be kept in the memory of our community.

On behalf of the Slovak Group for Thermal Analysis and Calorimetry

Victor Jeszenák