
Preface

GYÖRGY LIPTAY – one of the pioneers in thermal analysis

The early days of Hungarian school of thermal analysis were closely connected with the name of László Erdey, as well as those of Ferenc and Jenő Paulik who in the 1950ies developed the Derivatograph, a highly successful instrument capable of simultaneous recording of the TG, DTG and DTA curves. György Liptay also deserves to be called as one of the pioneers in thermal analysis because he was the person who quite early applied the technique to a multitude of problems which soon led to the spreading and general acceptance of the simultaneous methods.

As examples of Professor Liptay's early studies on the applicability of thermal analysis to a wide range of materials one may mention the investigations dealing with the thermal treatment of gravimetric precipitates. Other examples include studies on the hydration of cement, aging of polyethylene coatings for high-tension cables and polymorphism in drugs – just to mention a few topics in Liptay's early thermoanalytical repertoire. Many of his studies as well as those of his colleagues were summarized in the Atlas of Thermoanalytical Curves published in five volumes in 1971–76 as a joint venture by Heyden and Sons in London and Akadémiai Kiadó in Budapest. The Atlas is even today – some 30 years later – a valid concept and a valuable reference, found in many libraries and laboratories around the world, because it allows for a rapid comparison of thermoanalytical data of various compounds and materials measured under strictly identical conditions.

Prof. Liptay's talent as a skilled editor and author was put into full use when he served as Regional Editor of Thermal Analysis Abstracts for nearly three decades and as Consulting Editor of Journal of Thermal Analysis and Calorimetry, a task which is still continuing. He has also had a long and successful career as a university teacher. Starting from 1954 he has held various positions at the Technical University of Budapest (now Budapest University of Technology and Economics) finishing up his career as full professor at the Department of Inorganic Chemistry.

György Liptay's deep involvement in thermal analysis is not only demonstrated in his 230 publications but also in his activities in ICTAC and ESTAC where he has held many important positions. He joined the ICTAC family already in 1971 during the 3rd Congress in Davos.

Due to his scientific and personal abilities he succeeded in building good contacts and long lasting friendships with scientists from both Eastern and Western countries. Together with other members of the Hungarian delegation, he convinced the organisation of ICTAC to hold the 4th Congress in Budapest in 1974. He is one of the few scientists who since 1971 did not

miss any of the ICTAC Congresses attending them in different parts of the world. Many of his old friends feel that due to this fact he is one of the symbols of the links between the old and more recent ICTAC Congresses who has always been furthering progress and renewal of the confederation. In spite of the fact that he did not hold any official position in the ICTAC Council, his advice and suggestions on different aspects of ICTAC were always seriously considered by Council officers.

György Liptay was the Vice-President of ESTAC in 1994–98 and the Chairman of the ESTAC-7 Conference held in Balatonfüred, Hungary, in 1998. Since 1995 he has also been the chairperson of the Analytical Branch of the Hungarian Chemical Society. Already in 1982 he was invited to become member of the Analytical Committee of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences.

The many professional contacts Professor Liptay has had with thermal analysts in various countries of the Europe are reflected in the large number of international co-authors in his publications. Travelling being one of Liptay's hobbies, he has visited most parts of the world, giving lectures in 21 countries so far.

All of us, including his many students, co-workers and co-authors who have had the privilege of getting to personally know György Liptay, have learned to appreciate his loyalty to science, colleagues and friends. His beautiful home in Budapest has been open to visitors and to conference participants and the hospitality offered by György and his wife Gabi have made the visits unforgettable.

György Liptay – some personal reminiscences by Lauri Niinistö

I first met Professor György Liptay when making my first visit to Budapest right after the 2nd European Crystallographic meeting held in Keszthely in August 1974. György and his wife Gabriella (Gabi), also a chemical engineer by education and training, were excellent guides to the city and to its Technical University which I knew was one of the birthplaces of modern thermal analysis.

On this occasion he invited me to contribute to the Atlas of Thermoanalytical Curves, which I gladly agreed to. Unfortunately, the Atlas was not continued beyond volume 5 and the curves recorded by myself and my co-workers on our Mettler TA-1 (mainly on lanthanide compounds) had to be published elsewhere. In 1976 György also attended the first thermoanalytical symposium ever organised in Finland giving two comprehensive invited lectures on the basics and applications of thermal analysis. The lectures were translated into Finnish and edited by myself and then published in 1977 in our monthly chemical journal *Kemia-Kemi* in its special issue devoted to thermal analysis constituting what was the beginning of Finnish thermoanalytical literature and nomenclature. It is interesting to note that the venue of the conference was University of Oulu, which then was the northernmost University in the world. The midnight sun provided a unique setting for our discussions. In the 1970ies we also acquired a Derivatograph from MOM and received valuable advice from György for its use and maintenance.

The visit to Finland in 1976 was just a beginning of series of visits, often organised in connection of a symposium or a joint research project. One of the visits was on the occasion of the 7th Nordic Symposium on Thermal Analysis organised at the University of Helsinki in 1982. The conference resulted in proceedings being published as a special issue of *JTA*.

Likewise, I have had the opportunity of visiting Budapest from time to time, often with my family. We have always enjoyed the visits and especially the hospitality and friendship of György and Gabi.

György Liptay – some personal reminiscences by Shmuel Yariv

I first met the smiling, friendly George in 1971 in Davos, where he invited me to attend the Budapest Conference in 1974. Due to the political situation at the time I was not able to attend the Conference and our real friendship started in 1980 during the Bayreuth ICTAC. In spite of the fact that in that year there were still no diplomatic relations between Israel and most Communist countries, Liptay and some of the Hungarian scientists invited the small Israeli delegation to attend their presentations and they also came to listen to our lectures. Our friendship became deeper during the Conference dinner as we were sitting together at the same table. We continued to correspond and had the opportunity to meet later at ICTAC Congresses.

In 1988 we organised the 8th ICTAC in Jerusalem and it was very important to us for George to come. He came indeed and I had the opportunity to show him the city. He impressed me by his vast knowledge of Israel and Jewish History.

I visited Budapest two years later and George and Gabriella invited me to their beautiful home near the Opera building and to their summer- house. Together we worked on strengthening the ties between the Hungarian and Israeli Thermal Analysts. In 1996 and 2000 we held the Hungarian-Israeli binational meetings in Israel and Hungary, respectively. We both hope that the younger generations, from both countries, will continue with these important meetings and other kinds of collaboration.

I kept the album of Budapest that György gave me in 1988 and on my last visit there together we compared the pictures with the new view. George was proud of the great progress and many changes in the city. The beautiful house of George and Gabriella will always be a part of the immortal beauty of this city.

Guest Editors**Prof. L. Niinistö****Prof. S. Yariv**

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