

## Dedication to the honor of Professor György Liptay on the occasion of his 80th birthday

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Dear George,

When I first met you almost 40 years ago, I was just a beginner in thermal analysis. Consequently, I greatly benefited from my visits to Budapest and from our friendly discussions in your laboratory. I appreciated very much your vast and profound knowledge of thermal analysis which not only encompassed the methods but also the various applications. Through your contacts and our discussions I also got an access to the vast thermoanalytical data accumulated over the years in Hungary and elsewhere.

Your work as an editor of the Atlas of Thermoanalytical Curves as well as the Journal of Thermal Analysis and Calorimetry and other thermoanalytical publications served to me as good examples to follow when I became one of the Regional Editors of JTAC.

While sending you my best personal regards and greetings on your birthday, I wish you many happy years to come and look forward to a continuing collaboration.



Prof. Lauri Niinistö, Finland

I was lucky to have the opportunity of organizing with George the “Israel–Hungary Binational Conference on Thermal Analysis and Calorimetry of Materials” which took place in Ein-Bokek, on the Dead Sea, on March 17–19, 1996. As a co-chairman George was very careful in selecting presentations of a very high scientific standard and he brought with him to Israel the leading Hungarian thermal analysts of that time, including Prof. Simon and the late Prof. Paulik. I was surprised when he insisted to be involved in the after Conference tour program which was planned for the Hungarian guests. Although he was in Israel in 1988 during the 9th ICTAC Congress, and toured the country, for this purpose he read some literature about panoramic views and historical sites

in Israel and according to his suggestions the tour went to Eilat through Mount Sodom, the rock of Lot's wife, and the Arava and returned to Jerusalem through the beautiful desert mountains and Waddies of the Negev and the unique crater Maktesh Ramon. We stayed the night in Eilat and in the morning I was looking for him, but he appeared only at nine o'clock. It was a very cold winter day and he explained to me that after the experience he had in lying on the water of the Dead Sea he could not leave the country without swimming in the water of the Gulf of Eilat. This is for me Gorge. On one hand, a leading scientist and on the other hand a human being who knows how to enjoy the gifts of nature.



Prof. Shmuel Yariv, Israel

George, more than 40 years that we know each other and progressively became friends. I remember, with you, only one bad memory and many good ones. The bad one was when, in Sophia-Antipolis, in 1990, you had your wallet and purse stolen in your room, the burglar being apparently insensitive to the fact that you had to drive back to Hungary, cross a number of boarders and refill the tank of petrol a number of times...Among the good memories we have together, let me remind at least two. One was during the 9th ICTAC, in 1988, in Jerusalem. We were accommodated in the brand new Hyatt Hotel (where I was bitten by a mouse during the night!) and, as the two of us had a swim in the pool in the early morning, we discussed about the publication of the proceedings of ESTAC-5, which I was organizing 2 years later with Lucien Elégant. I do not remember who started the discussion on that topic, but I certainly remember that we both agreed, during this short time, that they should be published by the Journal of Thermal Analysis. Another memory is that of the last time we visited you in Budapest and of the unforgettable

reception you organized in your home, for a few friends of our Thermal Analysis community. The romantic atmosphere of your flat, against the opera house, enhanced by the light of the candles, provided the exact jewel-case for the so kind and warm reception by yourself and your wife Gabriella. You were illustrating one of your convictions that science is a human and collective activity from which the heart cannot be absent. Best wishes, George, for the years to come!



Prof. Jean Rouquerol, France

I first met George at the 3rd ICTA Conference in Davos in 1971 and was particularly delighted to meet one of the pioneers of simultaneous TG-DTA, having started work myself in this area in the mid-1960s. I was immediately struck by his deep knowledge of thermal analysis and by his warm and friendly manner and gentle sense of humor.

It was therefore a great pleasure to meet him again at the 4th ICTA in Budapest. This Conference was attended by over 600 scientists who all received the warmest of welcomes from George and his many Hungarian colleagues and their kindness made a considerable impression on me. I was therefore delighted to be able to visit Budapest again in 1998 for the Advisory Committee Meeting preceding ESTAC 8, where George and his wife Gabriella hosted a memorable party at their elegant apartment near the Opera House.

There have been many other memorable occasions to renew my friendship with George since he has attended every subsequent ICTAC Congress and all but the last ESTAC meeting. This is a remarkable achievement, particularly considering the travel difficulties from the Eastern European in the 1970s and 1980s, and showed his considerable determination to maintain the links with scientists in the West at a difficult time. To the delight of his many friends and colleagues his exceptional contribution to

ICTAC was recognized at the 14th ICTAC Congress in Brazil where he received the ICTAC Distinguished Service Award. It has been a real pleasure to have been associated with George over so many years and I am delighted to have this opportunity of wishing him a very happy 80th birthday.



Prof. Ted Charsley, England

I have lots of recollections concerning my relations with professor George Liptay. I met him for the first time during one of his visits in Bucharest sometime in the 1960s. We had a very instructive discussion concerning the thermal analysis equipment (illo tempore the derivatograph). I felt that I had to do not only with a colleague but with a good friend. Since, then we have met many times at various international meetings, in Budapest and again in Bucharest. Each opportunity to meet him, each discussion on professional and personal life matters, contributed to a strengthening of our friendship.

As an editor of the Journal of Thermal Analysis and Calorimetry, his contribution is essential to increase the level of this publication. As well as the ESTAC 7 is concerned, professor Liptay as chairman of the organizing committee together with his team realized one of the best meetings, if not the best, I ever attended. A year before the meeting I wanted to offer some help in the organizing activity. Professor Liptay told me: "bring as any participants

as you can from your country". The result of our discussion was that the Roumanian delegation at ESTAC 7 was the most numerous from the foreign ones.

My relation with professor Liptay reinforced my feeling of belonging to the rather big family of thermoanalysts.

As an old friend of George Liptay, I am happy to use this opportunity to wish him good health as well as a successful and rewarding professional activity.

Gyuri bacs, many thanks that you exist! Many happy returns of the day!



Prof. Eugen Segal, Romania

It is my privilege to have a friendship over more than half of this 80 years. We have been friends since 1965 which started in Budapest and was going on in the following years. In addition to a continuous correspondence, we have had meetings more than 45 times either privately or at conferences in different parts of Europe. A really special occasion for me, as the representantative of the German group, GEFTA, was to have the honor and pleasure of organizing together a very successful Hungarian-German Symposium on Thermal Analysis in Sopron in 1995.

It was a special occasion to see him this summer in Budapest, in spite of the fact that we have not seen each other for a long time, our friendship remained the same.



Prof. Werner Ludwig, Germany

When I met first professor Liptay dates back to the beginning of 1990s. I was a postdoctoral fellow at Technical University of Budapest. He was introduced to me, but his smiling face was that encouraged me to approach him and we began to speak with each other more often and often. He offered me very soon to join his international research group which resulted in joint publications. He invited me to attend conferences organized by the Hungarian Chemical Society and asked me to give my CV to be listed in the publication “Who is Who in Thermal Analysis and Calorimetry”. As I was a beginner in this field at that time, at first I resisted, but he insisted on me to enroll. Now, 20 years later, I am truly committed to the small, but outstanding community of scientists dealing with thermal analysis and calorimetry. Professor Liptay, thank you for trusting me. I wish you a happy birthday and many happy returns of the day.



Prof. Katalin Mészáros Szécsényi, Serbia

If participants of a thermal analysis event go for an excursion—and the temperature is not high—you see a corpulent, cheerful, and dynamic person with a tartan cap in the center. Not a Scotsman at all, he is Prof. György Liptay, surrounded by friends and colleagues. As a member of (as he would specify) the second generation of Hungarian thermal analysts, he became well known in years which can perhaps be called the Golden Age of Thermal Analysis, and has been an important figure of our community ever since.

A life for thermal analysis? Or thermal analysis for life? The two together would be adequate to describe Prof. Liptay’s career. Important contributions on the one hand to new applications and to the literature basis for our field of science; exceptional ability to build lasting professional, and personal contacts on the other.

Professor Liptay, George or Gyuri, please, come again and again—we need your advice and your company. And do not forget the tartan cap!



Prof. György Pokol, Hungary

Is Prof. György Liptay really 80-years old? He is the fatigueless engine of the Hungarian thermoanalytics and that of the Association of Hungarian Chemists. He is the doyen of the deservedly acknowledged Hungarian thermoanalytics. Does it mean that time has stopped or is he ageless?

We need him immensely as he can always find an immediate solution to any difficulties. His professional remarks and his criticism can be taken as mild strokings, so they—beyond their rightfulness—can easily be accepted. He knows all the experts and can soon arrange a meeting between persons who can help to solve the given



problem. The above-mentioned words may seem to be excessive politeness but, in fact, they are only approaching the truth.

He is one of the first ones who assisted to publish the investigations carried out in medical/biological fields in professional forums and in the JTAC. It is also well known that he has outstanding skills in organizing conferences and managing young researchers both in Hungary and abroad as well.

I first met him at an international congress organized by him in Sopron (Hungary) in 1995. Since, then I have been feeling his long-sighted support from the background in my career.



Prof. Dénes Lőrinczy, Hungary

Dear Prof. Liptay, let me wish us to enjoy your paternal affection in the patronage of the Hungarian and international thermoanalysts for a very long time. I wish you many happy returns!

George—belonging to the first generation of Hungarian thermoanalysts—was strongly committed to the development of the field and to the support of young colleagues. As a real gentleman and a good friend, he was never short of good advices and encouraging words. Telling stories and anecdotes by him from old times makes his very pleasant company especially enjoyable.

In spite of his age, his dynamic personality often surprises us. After the Polish-Hungarian Symposium on Thermal Analysis and Calorimetry in Zakopane, we

decided to drive back to Hungary in a different way to see the other side of the Tatra Mountain. Having no maps, we agreed with Judit Simon (who picked up George) to follow her “back”. Upon seeing George behind the wheel, we disappointedly took notice of a late arrival at home. Then George—like a formula one driver—stepped on the gas and we could hardly follow him on the narrow, tortuous roads losing sight of him several times. That was one of my earliest arrivals at home.



Prof. János Kristóf, Hungary

I have had the great pleasure of knowing György for many years since the early 1960s when the innovative field of thermal analysis started to emanate within the cluster of enthusiastic scientists, just to mention a few legendary Central European pioneers like S. Gál, L. Erdey, Brothers J. and F. Paulik, G. Liptay, Z. Adonyi, J. Zsakó, E. Segal, R. Barta, V. Šatava, V. Jesenak or I. Proks. It was a hard road toward today’s accomplishments, moreover complicated owing to the discrimination of scientists due to the political division of Europe: disjointing thus the so-called Eastern Block from the other world by an “iron curtain” dismantled only by the early 1990s. Since, 1971 it was György who helped to ease and expand the information flow for 20 years as a Regional Editor of Thermoanalytical Abstracts accentuating that at least one-third of the contributions came from the Eastern countries, and their payment in foreign currency was very much appreciated in those difficult periods. He was one of the central figures in organizing the first thermoanalytical conference behind the “iron curtain” on 4th ICTA in 1974 in Budapest, Hungary)



Prof. Jaroslav Šesták, Czech Republic. In the middle of his friend and co-workers (Slovakian High Tatras, TERMANAL 2011; from right: Prof. P. Šimon, Mrs. J. Novak, Prof. G. Liptay, Prof. C. Novak, Prof. P. Šulcová, Prof. J. Málek and Prof. J. Šesták)

and 10 years later much helped me to arrange my scientific program of the 8th ICTAC in Bratislava in 1985. The growth of thermal analysis would be unthinkable without his authorship of the influential five-volume Atlas of Thermal Analysis Curves (1971–1976). Despite his age György is still a very welcome lecturer, participant and cheerful companion at various conferences and I can only wish to György many happy days to come. It was a real pleasure and honor to cooperate while being on familiar terms with György appreciating the high degree of his professionalism, eagerness, and human nobleness that is really hard to describe in full in few sentences.