

## *The birth of the Journal of Thermal Analysis*

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**J. Simon**  
Editor-in-Chief

It was a privilege for me to be present at the birth of the Journal of Thermal Analysis and to assist in its subsequent production. How did it come about?

There was at one time a polymath professor at the Institute for General and Analytical Chemistry of the Technical University, Budapest, one of the last scientists who dealt with all aspects of analytical chemistry on an especially high level. His name: Prof. László Erdey (1910--1970). At that time, this Institute was the centre of thermal analysis as a consequence of the development of the DTG method and the construction of the derivatograph, due to the Paulik brothers.

Furthermore, there was a more than 100-year-old Publishing House belonging to the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, led by György Bernát, an open-minded man who played a considerable role in the birth of this journal.

Two lovely ladies were then working in the field of thermal analysis at this Institute: Éva Buzágh, who had large experience both in research and in editing, and Judit Simon, one of my favourite students who had graduated from the Technical University some years before. All of a sudden, they came up with the idea to found an international journal in the field of thermal analysis. I welcomed this idea with heart and soul, as I was the author of more than 10 books on the history of analytical chemistry and related topics at that time.

I clearly remember that the summer of 1968 was particularly beautiful. Professor Erdey was spending his holiday in his summer-house at the Balaton when we all unexpectedly appeared. We informed him of our plan and invited him to be Editor-in-Chief of this journal. At first, Professor Erdey had some doubts, as we had expected, but later, infected by our enthusiasm, he gave in and was happy to accept the invitation. The dice was cast.

It was a long struggle to organize both the scientific and business aspects but finally – 25 years ago – the first issue of the journal was published. We were all delighted to witness Professor Erdey holding it in his hands before his untimely death.

The two founders, Dr. Éva Buzágh and Dr. Judit Simon, made tremendous efforts for decades to create an up-to date, international, high-quality journal, and this clearly succeeded. To our greatest sorrow however, Éva Buzágh could not live to see the 25th anniversary.

I do hope that this first 25th anniversary will be followed by many more in the coming years.



*F. Szabadváry*  
**Prof. F. Szabadváry**  
Consulting Editor