

## OPEN LETTER TO DR. R. C. MACKENZIE

Dear Robert,

When the Editorial Board of *J. Thermal Analysis* decided to devote a special issue to the 75th birthday of the 'Great Old Boy' of thermal analysis, they invited me to express congratulations on behalf of the Board, and of thermoanalysts in Central-Eastern Europe, especially those who have participated in *Thermal Analysis Abstracts*.

This invitation is a great honour for me, I was delighted to accept it, for I respect you very much indeed, both as an outstanding scientist and as an excellent person.

When I look back over the past 25 years, I feel that our relationship has deepened and developed into a friendship during our frequent correspondence. Sadly, we have been able to meet merely at international conferences, only on a few occasions. It seems to me that I should maintain the tradition of our correspondence, so I have chosen this open letter as the most appropriate way to greet you.

Let me browse among my memories to recall how it all happened. We first met in Davos in 1971, when you had just started to organize *Thermal Analysis Abstracts*. You were the life and soul of this very important and successful activity. You were convinced that this journal would be complete and fruitful only with the representation of the whole of Europe. You used your influence and made every effort to bring about the participation of the Eastern European countries in this international venture. In those times, for various political and economic reasons, this could be achieved only with enormous difficulty. But thanks to your persistent and stubborn work, the Eastern European countries, including even the Soviet Union after a delay of 10 years, were taking an active part, with the aim of informing our fellow-thermoanalysts throughout the world of the results attained in this region.

Our deeper connection developed during our regular correspondence. It was characteristic of you that you undertook tasks that far exceeded the duties of an Editor in many respects. You could treat all problems with such endless patience and tact. Those of us who were helping in this work will never forget your tireless efforts.

Since 1969, the year in which *J. Thermal Analysis* was officially established, you have been a Member of its Editorial Advisory Board. You have always felt the journal to be yours and have done your best to develop and support it. We are all fully aware of the enormous extent to which your activity has contributed to the present success.

What can a letter-writer wish on such a celebrational occasion? I can wish you and your charming wife Hilda many more years of health and happiness. I further hope that we shall have the opportunity to greet you in this way on many future occasions, and that you will continue to support the developing family of thermoanalysts with your precious advice for as long as possible. With warmest regards,



(Prof. G. Liptay)