

Obituary



It is with the profoundest regret that we must report the death of Dr. Cyril Keatch, who was the *Journal of Thermal Analysis and Calorimetry* Regional Editor for the U.K., Australia and South Africa. Cyril suffered a fatal heart attack on July 9, and his funeral took place at Taunton, Somerset on July 16. Our most sincere condolences are extended to his widow, Jean, and his children, Alison and Martin.

Cyril will perhaps be best known to readers of *JTAC* as a Regional Editor, but his contribution to the world of thermal analysis was far more wide-ranging than many will realise. He was born in Hampstead, London, in 1928, and was educated at Battersea Polytechnic, then the Northern Polytechnic, where he gained his ARIC. In 1961, he was awarded his FRIC, and at the same time left the Non-ferrous Metals Research Association to join the International Nickel Company. His first active involvement with thermogravimetry occurred during this period. He subsequently joined the construction company, John Laing, where he demonstrated the value of thermal methods in the study of building materials. Following the first UK meeting specifically devoted to thermal analysis at Battersea in 1964, the Thermal Analysis Group of the (then) Society of Analytical Chemistry was founded in 1965, with Cyril as Honorary Secretary, a post he held until his death. In this position, he guided the Group through the changes in administrative structure for chemistry in the U.K., until the formation of the Thermal Methods Group as a branch of the Analytical Division of the Royal Society of Chemistry.

He was instrumental in the organisation of the first ICTA (ICTAC) in Aberdeen in 1965, and the first ESTA (ESTAC) in Salford in 1976. Cyril was an original member of the ICTAC Nomenclature Committee, and its Secretary for many years. He was also the Editor of *ICTAC News* for 27 years, and was strongly involved in the organisation of the 10th ICTAC at Hatfield in 1992. In 1967 he moved to Dorset to combine a consultancy practice with running a hotel business, which did not diminish his active involvement with the Analytical Division of the RSC. As a result of his long membership, and chairmanship for 4 years, of the Group Liaison and Policy Committee, resulted in him being presented with the Analytical Division Distinguished Service Award in 1986.

In 1975, he co-authored the book 'An Introduction to Thermogravimetry' with David Dollimore, which stimulated many workers new to the field, and still continues to be a valuable reference on the subject. His interest in the history of balances, and thermobalances in particular resulted in several fascinating publications, the subject matter of which bordered on scientific and industrial archaeology.

The level of activity shown by Cyril in all aspects of life were an inspiration even to far younger acquaintances, not only in professional matters, but in his private life, where he passionately followed his interests in woodwork, tennis, motor sport and, latterly, golf. His assistance and kindness to incoming members and chairmen of the TMG was considerable, as the present writer can attest, and his hard work and humour will be missed by all who were fortunate enough to meet him.

S. B. Warrington