

### *Obituary*

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On July 18, 2000 Professor Ing. Viktor Jesenák, PhD, a respected member of the Czechoslovakian chemical and thermoanalytical community, died at the age of 74.

He graduated from the Faculty of Chemical Technology, Slovak Technical University, Bratislava in 1952. Shortly after graduation he started his teaching and research activities at the Department of Inorganic Technology. The courses organized by the Polarographic Institute of the Czechoslovakian Academy of Sciences under the supervision of J. Heyrovský, a Nobel Prize winner, contributed considerably to his scientific development. In 1961 he presented his dissertation Kinetics and Dynamics of Heterogeneous Reactions and obtained the degree of Candidate of Sciences (equivalent to PhD). In 1973 he was appointed a full professor at the Slovak Technical University. For over 25 years he led the research activities at Department of Technology of Silicates.

Professor Jesenák was an inspiring teacher of more than 400 undergraduate and post-graduate students in inorganic and silicate technology. He delivered lectures on inorganic technology, applied physical chemistry, inorganic chemistry and general chemistry at the Slovak Technical University in Bratislava, Technical University in Košice and at the Teacher College of Komenský University in Bratislava.

His research work focused on applied physical chemistry and chemical engineering. He contributed significantly to the explanation of the mechanism and reaction kinetics of decomposition of complex compounds and clathrates. His achievements in the investigation of roasting of sulphide and oxide ores, material properties, inorganic fertilizers, fluidization technique and production of ceramic and inorganic binding materials, provided a strong impetus to the development of Slovak inorganic, metallurgical and silicate industries. He presented the results of his research in over 200 papers published in Czechoslovakian and other prestigious international journals and proceedings. His work on the mechanism and kinetics of reactions in solid phase earned him international recognition. The theory and experimental proof of oscillating reactions in solid phase is an example of the wide field of his interests.

Professor Jesenák was highly regarded for his participation in the organization of Czechoslovakian basic research in materials science. He strongly promoted the cooperation in solid phase chemistry between institutions from Czechoslovakia and abroad. He was greatly respected not just for his scientific work, but also for his personality. He was an excellent companion always ready to communicate, having an air of friendliness around him and with an exceptional ability to enliven serious debates.

Professor Jesenák's death is a considerable loss to the social and professional life of those who were privileged to have known his exceptional qualities. He will remain in the memory of the scientific community he served so well.

**Peter Šimon** and **Eva Smrčková**

On behalf of the Slovak Group for Thermal Analysis and Calorimetry