



Prof. Dragutin Fleš at his 60th birthday

Dr. Dragutin Fleš, member of The Yugoslav Academy of Sciences and Arts, former director, now consultant to The Research and Development Institute, INA, Zagreb, professor h.c. of macromolecular chemistry at The University of Zagreb, was sixty years old on August 1, 1981.

Dr. Fleš studied chemical engineering at The Faculty of Technology in Zagreb where he graduated in 1946. In 1952 he obtained the Ph.D. degree at The Faculty of Sciences, University of Zagreb, where he was elected full professor in 1975. For 15 years he worked in research Laboratories of a pharmaceutical company in Zagreb, and in 1963 he established within the Petrochemical complex OKI (now INA-OKI) the first modern, well equipped Institute for Macromolecular Sciences in Yugoslavia. In 1950 and through the academic year 1952/53 he worked on the synthesis of polyenes with professor Nicholas A. Milas at MIT, Cambridge, and during the academic year 1958/59 on stereochemistry of Senecio alkaloids with professor Roger Adams at The University of Illinois, Urbana.

In the Institute of INA in Zagreb, Dr. Fleš has carried out his pioneer work in the field of macromolecular chemistry and technology, encouraging through his enthusiasm and ability the team work which made the

Research Institute in Zagreb a very active center of macromolecular chemistry internationally recognized.

The research work of Professor Fleš covers a wide field of macromolecular and organic chemistry: stereochemistry of natural products, synthesis of polyenes, and preparation and characterization of a large number of optically active polymers like polyamides, poly- β -lactones, poly- β -thiolactones, substituted polybutadienes, poly(phenylvinyl alkyl ethers) and alternating copolymers prepared through the participation of CT-complexes.

Professor Fleš initiated the organization of Yugoslav Symposia on Chemistry and Technology of Macromolecules, and organized several Summer Schools on Polymers where many outstanding internationally recognized experts have participated as lectures. He actively participated in the organization of several national and international seminars and conferences of the Soc. of Plastics Engineers of Yugoslavia. Professor Fleš actively participated in the formation of concept for the development of petrochemistry in Yugoslavia. For his inventive work Dr Fleš was honored with many high awards and was elected a member of The Yugoslav Academy of Sciences and Arts.

One of the most significant features of Professor Fleš's activity is his ability to incorporate fundamental research into industrial application. Among his personal characteristics, the dominant ones are inventiveness and enthusiasm, which he conveys to his collaborators, devotion to research and application of the results of his investigations, and his ability to coordinate the work of large research groups.

The Editors and the Editorial Board of Polymer Bulletin, his friends, coworkers, and students from Yugoslavia and abroad, wish him a happy and fruitful life on the occasion of his 60th anniversary.