

Ivan Gutman, Biserka Pokrić, Damir Vukičević (Eds.)

Ante Graovac – Life and Works

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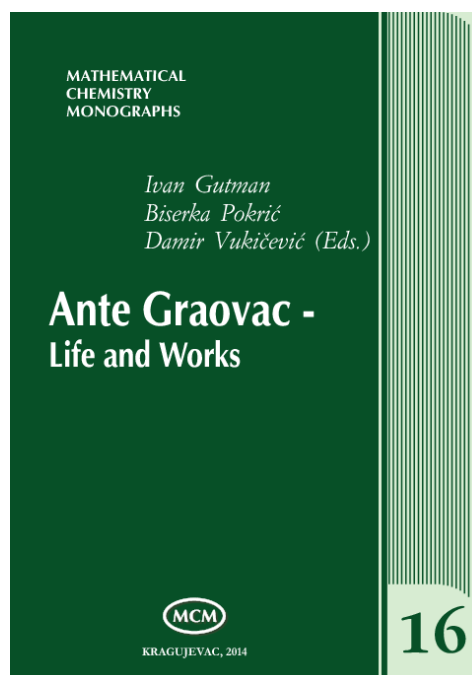
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Review by: Nenad Raos

THERE are many, obviously 16 monographs in this series, but this one is very special. Not only because it is entirely devoted to one scientist, Ante Graovac (deceased on November 13, 2012), but because in it there are not only scientific papers, but also reminiscences on the late director and co-director of the Dubrovnik International Course and Conference on the Interfaces among Mathematics, Chemistry and Computer Science (MATH/CHEM/COMP) in the period 1986–2011.

In short, the book consists of eight scientific papers (143 pages) and 21 reminiscences (87 pages) along with Biography and Publications of Ante Graovac (23 pages). The monograph also comprehends many photographs of Professor Graovac (altogether 26), taken mostly on MATH/CHEM/COMP meetings, and his last paper (A. Graovac, O. Ori, J. Sedlar, D. Vukičević, „On dimensionality of cellular automata“).

The eight scientific papers deal mostly with the main topic of Professor Graovac's research – application of chemical graph theory on aromatic systems. In this respect is the most representative „Late reminiscence of unexplored scientific links with Ante. Parity of Kekulé structures and algebraic structure count“, by Robert Ponec, from the Academy of the Czech Republic, in which the author employed the discovery of Zagreb group that stability of polyaromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) is not directly related to the number of resonance hybrids (Kekulé structures) but to a peculiar quantity known as algebraic structure count (ASC). There are also two similar papers, on coding and ordering benzenoids and their Kekulé structures (B. Lučić, I. Sović, N. Trinajstić), and a survey on computing graph invariants of polygraphs using path algebras (P. Pavlič, J. Žerovnik). Two



papers deal with fullerenes, the first written by O. Ori, M. V. Putz, I. Gutman and P. Schwerdtfeger, the second by T. Réti, I. László and D. Dimitrov, but there is also a related paper on chemical graph theory in nanoscience (G. Katona and M. V. Diudea). Last two papers deal with more general aspects of chemical graph theory; one of them was written by D. J. Klein („Ante in Galveston, graph embeddings, combinatorial & Gaussian curvatures“), the other by J. Cioslowski, dealing with the solutions of the Thomson problem.

But as I said before, the most valuable part of the book are reminiscences of Ante's co-workers, colleagues and friends. Ante Graovac was born immediately after the end of WWII, on July 15, 1945, in Split, the core city of Dalmatia. This is important to note because Split dwellers have a special mentality, so Ante was open, joyful and amiable person as the majority of Split citizens are – or, as Hrvoj Vančik wrote, „Reasoning and reactions, humor and friendship, all together have been co-melted in a figure of the personality who becomes for many of us extraordinary – Ante Graovac“. To say it in another way „Ante was a man of many talents and it is no exaggeration to say that he was a scientist, an intellectual, a man of the world, an organizer, a connoisseur, a gourmand, a gourmet, a bohemian, a traveller, and, most importantly: a friend of many and beloved by everybody“ (Ivan Gutman). „He was open to everything and to everyone. He was never jealous to anybody and was always ready to help, without great words and expecting nothing in return. He was, in a word,

pravi čovik (the right man), as Dalmatians use to say“ – to end this paragraph with my own words as appeared in the book.

Ante Graovac – Life and Works is not devoided of data (e.g. eight-page Biography in the form of chronological table written by Biserka Pokrić), but it does not end with the data, as such books usually do. The idea of biography (or necrology) is to make a portrait of a deceased person, not to give a list of his publications, competences and professional achievements – in the form of a job application. Unfortunately, many of our colleagues are not able to see the difference.

Therefore, I recommend at any rate *Ante Graovac – Life and Works* to every chemist, not only to these interesting in chemical graph theory. From the book one could learn that science is not necessary the job for introvert people, those who are interested in their books and formulas, and nothing else. The rich and fulfilled professional as well as private life of Ante Graovac shows just the opposite.

Nenad Raos