

## BOOK REVIEWS

Marija Kaštelan-Macan

*Vizionari kemijsko-tehnološkoga studija*  
(Visionaries of chemical-technological studies)

Mentor

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This monograph presents the lives and achievements of 16 chemists (scientists, teachers and administrators), who strongly influenced the development of chemical-technological studies at the University of Zagreb since their inception in 1919. A study in chemical technology was first offered at the Department of Chemical Engineering, Higher Technical School (1919–1926), and then the Higher Technical School became the Technical Faculty (1926–1956) and was integrated into the University of Zagreb. In 1956, the Technical Faculty was split into several independent faculties, the first being the Faculty of Chemistry, Food and Mining, and then in 1957 became the Faculty of Technology with three departments: Department of Chemical Technology, Department of Food Technology and Department of Mining. Finally in 1991, the Department of Chemical Technology became the Faculty of Chemical Engineering and Technology. This colorful history of chemical-technology studies is summarized in part by the author through the biographies of 16 people portrayed in the book.

The book consists of the Preface, Introduction and 16 chapters, each dedicated to a particular chemist. Every chapter is accompanied with the photo of the person the chapter is presenting and is supplemented with literature references and bibliography. The author, Professor Marija Kaštelan-Macan, did a superb job of collecting many valuable data about the chemists that shaped the science of chemistry and chemical technology in the 20<sup>th</sup> century in Croatia. Thus, the book should serve as an indispensable source of information for the history of modern chemistry in Croatia.

The chemists presented are listed in the order of their joining the chemical-technological studies: Vladimir Njegovan (1884–1971), Ivan Marek (1863–1936), Ivan Plotnikov (1878–1955), Franjo Hanaman (1878–1941), Matija Krajčinović (1892–1975), Vjera Marjanović-Krajovan

(1898–1988), Rikard Podhorsky (1902–1994), Miroslav Karšulin (1904–1984), Vladimir Prelog (1906–1998), Viktor Hahn (1912–1970), Petar Sabioncello (1906–1987), Marija Gyiketta-Ogrizek (1911–1988), Branko Lovreček (1920–1996), Ivan Lovreček (1918–1981), Ivan Brihta (1903–1960), and Ivan Filipović (1911–1998). The reader learns many interesting things about them. For example, some were foreign-born: Plotnikov in Tambov (Russia), Podhorsky in Milan (Italy), Karšulin in Przemysł (Poland), Hahn in Budapest (Hungary), Sabioncello in Antofagasta (Chile). The majority were born in Zagreb: Njegovan, Marek, Gyiketta-Ogrizek, Ivan and Branko Lovreček. Many were internationally educated: Njegovan (Vienna, Zürich), Plotnikov (Moscow, Leipzig), Hanaman (Vienna), Podhorsky, Prelog and Brihta (Prague), Karšulin (Vienna), Hahn (Paris), and all the others in Zagreb. All prepared either textbooks and/or lecture notes for students. Some of them produced a large number of textbooks and lecture notes, e.g., Njegovan (23), Plotnikov (14), Krajčinović (32), Sabioncello (12), Gyiketta-Ogrizek (15) and Filipović (23). Filipović and Stjepan Lipanović (1926–1987, professor of inorganic chemistry at the Faculty of Technology, University of Split) published a textbook *Opća i anorganska kemija* (General and Inorganic Chemistry) in 1973, which has been reprinted (and revised) 8 times to date.

All the 16 chemists had a large number of students from Croatia and abroad. All of them spent all their professional life in Zagreb. However, Prelog, the second Croatian Nobel Laureate in Chemistry, spent seven years in Zagreb, left it in the late autumn of 1941 and moved to Zürich to join the first Croatian Nobel Laureate in Chemistry Leopold Ružička (1887–1976). Incidentally, Njegovan wanted to bring Ružička to Zagreb, but without success. Prelog had a number of Ph.D. students in Zagreb and many Croatian doctoral and postdoctoral students in Zürich. Thus, Prelog's influence on Croatian chemistry is felt even today.

I have known all of these chemists but Marek and Hanaman, and my teachers (I studied from 1956 to 1960, first at the Faculty of Chemistry, Food and Mining and then at the Faculty of Technology) were: Marjanović-Krajovan (Analytical Chemistry, Advanced Analytical Chemistry), Karšulin (Physical Chemistry), Hahn (Orga-

nic Chemistry), Sabioncello (Inorganic Chemical Technology), Gyiketta-Ogrizek (Analytical Chemistry Lab), Ivan Lovreček (Stoichiometry, Chemical Technological Processes and Operations), Brihta (Chemical Catalysis) and Filipović (General and Inorganic Chemistry). I served as a student-assistant to Filipović from 1957 to 1960 and did research for my diploma thesis under his supervision. The examining board for my diploma thesis included Filipović, Karšulin and Branko Lovreček. Filipović and Karšulin recommended me for the graduate school. In my book *100 hrvatskih kemičara* (100 Croatian Chemists),

which appeared in 2002 and was published by Školska knjiga in Zagreb, 15 out of the 16 chemists of this book are presented.

Being interested in the history of Croatian chemistry and in particular in the history of chemical technology studies, I read the book with great interest and learned a great deal about these distinguished women and men who did so much to advance the science of chemistry in Croatia. For anybody intending to study the historical development of chemistry and chemical technology in Croatia, this book is a must-book.

*Nenad Trinajstić*