

IN MEMORIAM

Prof., dr. sc. JOSIP KRAJCAR, 1927. – 2020.



Napustio nas je velikan hrvatske metalurgije, prof., dr. sc. Josip Krajcar.

Prošao je trnoviti, ali i gordi životni vijek. Počevši od 1944. god. kada je već sa 17 godina bio na razini učitelja do uspješnog nastavka vlastitog školovanja, upisa 1947. god. prvo na Rudarski odsjek Tehničkog fakulteta Sveučilišta u Zagrebu. Već tada je instinktivno spoznao da je struka metalurgija sveobuhvatna s većim mogućnostima djelovanja, te je u završnici diplomirao na studiju metalurgije u Ljubljani 1954. god. Službovao je kao projektant u Željezari Skopje u izgradnji, a zatim u Željezari Zenica 1958. god. Ovdje je u struci prošao sve stepenice od smjenskog asistenta, do upravitelja, a zatim glavni inženjer za proizvodnju čelika. U ex-Yu Željezara Zenica je bila najveći proizvođač čelika od 4 500 000 t/g sa preko 60 %, te treba shvatiti znanje, veličinu i odgovornost J. Krajcara. Osjetio je „dušu“ proizvodnje čelika, te mu je služio i ostao vjeran sve do umirovljenja 1993. god.

Poslije službovanja u Skopju i Zenici, zaželio se svoje Hrvatske te sa obitelji prelazi 1963. god. u Sisak gdje se zaposlio u Institutu za metalurgiju, šef Odjela čelika i legura. U to vrijeme u Željezari Sisak intenzivno je vođena rekonstrukcija SM – peći u proizvodnji čelika, te je izvrsno poznavanje ove problematike Josip Krajcara uvelike pridonijelo uspješnoj realizaciji projekta. Kasnije je (1964. – 1993.), sve do umirovljenja, uspješno rješava optimizaciju kakvoće čelika (proizvodnja preko 400 000 t/g u Željezari Sisak), te u tom smislu dao niz elaborata, izvješća, studija. Uz ovu stručnu djelatnost imao je široki raspon aktivnosti u svim sferama: obrazovnoj, znanstvenoj, organizacijskoj (bogatopremanje njegovog Odjela) društvenoj i skrbi za opstojnost Hrvatske itd.

Obrazovna djelatnost mu je bila posebna ljubav, počevši od prvih koraka kao učitelj, nastavnik u Zenici, do nastavnika na Visoko školskoj nastavi u Sisku, Odjeli Tehnološkog fakulteta Zagreb, a kasnije od 1979. na Metalurškom fakultetu (MF) Sisak. Tu je bio mentor za 40 sudionika od dodiplomske nastave do doktorata.

Zahvaljujući bogatom iskustvu u praksi, a kao vrsni poznavatelj postignuća u svijetu (služio se sa 5 jezika), njegova predavanja nisu bila ex katedra, nego nadahnuta i prožeta i teorijom i praksom. Na MF-u obnašao je i funkcije prodekana kao i dekana (1984. – 1986. god.) i član mnogih Povjerenstva. Za istaći je i članstvo u Radnoj grupi za suradnju ex-Yu i EEZ, kao i u nizu raznih komisija u ex-Yu kao i u tuđini.

A great man, a true giant of Croatian metallurgy, Prof. Josip Krajcar, PhD, left us.

His life path was thorny but dignified. He started teaching at just 17 years of age and went on to successfully continue his own education, enrolling first in the Mining Department at the Technical Faculty, University of Zagreb, but he soon instinctively realized that the scope of the metallurgical profession was more encompassing, with greater opportunities for action, and opted for a degree in metallurgy, obtaining his degree in Ljubljana in 1954. He first worked as an engineer in the Skopje Ironworks during its construction, transferring to the Zenica Ironworks in 1958, where he climbed all the steps in the stairs in his chosen profession, from shift assistant to manager, and then head engineer for steel production. The Zenica Ironworks was the largest steel producer in ex-Yugoslavia, at 4,500,000 t/y with over 60%, which says a lot about the knowledge, greatness, and responsibility shown by Josip Krajcar. He felt the “spirit” of steel production, serving it and remaining faithful to it until his retirement in 1993.

After his posts in Skopje and Zenica, missing his beloved Croatia, he moved to Sisak with his family, where he became Head of the Steel and Alloy Department at the Metallurgical Institute. At the time, intense works on the reconstruction of the SM-furnace for steel production were in course at the Sisak Ironworks, and prof. Josip Krajcar’s in-depth knowledge in this field greatly contributed to the successful completion of the project. Later, in the period from 1964 to 1993, all the way until his retirement, he successfully worked on optimizing the quality of steel (production of over 400,000 t/y at the Sisak Ironworks), preparing many expert opinions, reports, and studies. In addition to his professional career, he pursued a wide range of activities in various spheres: educational, scientific, organisational, social (richly equipping his department), as well as promotion of Croatia and its independence.

His activities in the field of education were especially close to his heart, starting from his first steps as a teacher, from the teaching position in Zenica to higher education positions in Sisak, at the departments of the Technology Faculty in Zagreb, and later, starting from 1979, at the Faculty of Metallurgy (MF) in Sisak, mentoring 40 students from undergraduate to doctoral studies.

Thanks to his vast practical experience, and excellent knowledge of advances made in the world (he spoke five languages), his lectures were not *ex cathedra*, but inspired and imbued with both theory and practice. He served as Associate Dean and Dean of the Faculty of Metallurgy (1984 – 1986), and as member of numerous committees. We should also mention his participation in the Working Group for Cooperation be-

Prikaz, životopis, opus djelovanje, rezultati Josipa Krajcara su dostupni u mnogim izvorima (npr. Monografije MF-a 1960. – 2000., 1960. – 2010., Kemija u industriji 70 (2021) 1-2, 104-105 itd.

Za svoj neiscrpan, izuzetno uspješan rad, dobio je niz priznanja, nagrada, odlikovanja.

Sada nam je želja istaći njegov veliki prinos :

- Od dolaska u Sisak 1963. god. odmah postao član Društva inženjera i tehničara Željezare Sisak (DITŽS), gdje je izabran za zaslužnog člana. Bio je i zastupnik DITŽS-a u Predsjedništvu Saveza rudarskih, geoloških, metalurških inženjera i tehničara (SRGMIT) Hrvatske.
- Kao zaljubljenik u skrb za budućnost hrvatske metalurgije u kriznom razdoblju od 1990. – dalje, objavio je više članaka, saopćenja, nastupa. Nažalost njegovi vapaji, kao i još mnogo drugih, nisu naišli na razumijevanje i praktički je hrvatska metalurgija do 2012. god. propala (nestalo cca 3 000 000 t/g proizvoda sa preko 20 000 zaposlenika).
- Sudjelovanje u časopisu Metalurgija, gdje je bio zapažen član međunarodnog Uredničkog odbora 1979. – 1984., i 1991. – 1993. (do umirovljenja).

Časopis Metalurgija obilježava 60 godina tiskanja (1962. – 2022.), a u Bibliografiji odmah iskače podatak: Prof. Josip Krajcar od preko 4 000 autora / suautora iz tuzemstva i inozemstvu, po broju objavljenih radova (za svega 22 godine sudjelovanja) čak na trećem mjestu. Već samo ovaj, za pamćenje podatak, svjedoči o veličini, inteligenciji, bogatstvu duha, znanju, mogućnosti Josipa Krajcara.

Na kraju ističemo našu dugogodišnju suradnju, prijateljstvo još od 1963. god. u istoj Instituciji, čak i jedno vrijeme bili susjedi sa stanovima na istom katu, vrata do vrata. Bio sam mu i prodekan za nastavu (1984. – 1986.). Nažalost, za vrijeme mog dekanstva (1990. – 1997.) se umirovio. I poslije smo ostali u kontaktu te mu slali tiskane brojeve časopisa Metalurgija.

Smrću Josipa Krajcara, izgubili smo velikog čovjeka, stručnjaka, znanstvenika, istraživača, profesora, zaljubljenika i uspješnog u svakoj vrsti posla, porodičnog čovjeka, a uz sve to ga je pratilo poštenje, pomoć, podpora, razumijevanje i poštivanje svih.

Svojim opusom djelatnosti i životnom putu, potvrdio je svoju rijetkost, suglasno izreci „Čovjek se često sije, ali rijetko klije“. Laka mu hrvatska zemlja i hvala.

Akad. I. Mamuzić

tween ex-Yugoslavia and the EEC, as well as various commissions in former Yugoslavia and abroad.

Reviews, biography, opus, results of Prof. Josip Krajcar's work can be found in many different sources (e.g. the monographs of the Faculty of Metallurgy 1960 – 2000, 1960 – 2010; Chemistry in Industry, vol. 70 (2021) 1-2, pp. 104-105, etc.).

In recognition of his inexhaustible and successful work, he was awarded many honours, awards, and distinctions.

We would now like to underline his important contributions:

- After arriving in Sisak 1963, he immediately joined the Society of Engineers and Technicians of the Sisak Ironworks (DITŽS), where he was elected as Meritorious Member, and represented the Society in the Chairmanship of the Association of Mining, Geological, Metallurgical Engineers and Technicians (SRGMIT) of Croatia.
- Deeply concerned for the future of Croatian metallurgy starting from the crisis period in the 1990s, he published various articles and communications, and made numerous public appearances. Unfortunately, his pleas, like those by many others, fell on deaf ears, and Croatian metallurgy practically collapsed by 2021 (companies producing about 3,000,000 t/y with more than 20,000 employees vanished).
- He collaborated with the *Metallurgy* journal and served as member of its international Editorial Board in the periods 1979 – 1984 and 1991 – 1993 (until his retirement).

Metallurgy celebrates its 60th anniversary (1962 – 2022), and an entry in the bibliography immediately catches one's eye: out of 4,000 authors/co-authors from Croatia and abroad, Prof. Josip Krajcar is the third most prolific contributor (in just 22 years of collaboration). This impressive fact testifies to the greatness, intelligence, richness of mind, knowledge, and potential of Prof. Josip Krajcar.

In the end, we must mention our longstanding cooperation, friendship, since as early as 1963, at the same Institute; we were even neighbours for a while, living on the same floor, door to door. I was his Assistant Dean for Education (1984 – 1986); unfortunately, he retired during my deanship (1990 – 1997). We kept in touch, and always took care to send him printed copies of *Metallurgy*.

We have lost a great man in Prof. Josip Krajcar, an expert, scientist, researcher, professor, hardworking and successful in all his professional endeavours, a family man who was, on top of all that, admired for his honesty, who provided assistance, support, and understanding to many, and who treated everyone with respect.

His achievements in his professional field and his life path confirm that he was indeed a rare breed, as the saying goes, "Man is often sown, but rarely bears fruit." May he rest in peace in his beloved Croatia with our gratitude!