

OBITUARY

Vera Mikulčić (1913–2005)

Our associate Vera Mikulčić, who dedicated four decades of her exceptionally long service life to the Central Chemical Library, Croatian Chemical Society and the journal *Croatica Chemica Acta* (CCA), passed away on 22 January 2005.

As far back as in 1957, Vera Mikulčić, graduate economist, started working as a 'librarian-documentalist' in the Central Chemical Library of the Faculty of Science, University of Zagreb. (At that time, the Central Chemical Library was an institution affiliated to the Faculty of Science and the Croatian Chemical Society, in which not only books and journals from their own holdings were registered and kept, but a central catalogue of chemical publications in all professional and science libraries of Zagreb was continually being compiled.). Having quickly mastered library work, Vera Mikulčić passed the state exam for librarians (1960), and then advanced further in this profession and earned the highest professional title of library adviser (1974), which she held until retirement (1980). Many of us, old(er) chemists, met 'Mrs Vera' during our student days, when we stepped into a scientific library for the first time and/or joined the Croatian Chemical Society.

Her successful librarian career was, however, in the shadow of her broader and more dynamic activities associated with the Croatian Chemical Society and, in particular, the Editorial Board of CCA. Namely, since the very beginning of her engagement in the Central Chemical Library, Vera Mikulčić was entrusted with the jobs 'associated with the Editorial Board and administration' of CCA. She continued doing these jobs even after retirement, up to 1999. Since the Croatian Chemical Society, as well as its journal, operate in a cramped little office and are even more cramped for funds, most of the secretarial, administrative and technical jobs fell to one person – Vera Mikulčić. She was a hard-working and reliable collaborator of as many as four Editors-in-Chief of CCA – the late Professor Božo Težak (who reformed the journal), Siniša Maričić, Vladimir Simeon and the current Editor-in-Chief Nenad Trinajstić. She also had a harmonious working re-



lationship with assistant and technical editors as well as the numerous members of the Editorial Board who rotated duties during her long work career. Among her working characteristics, Vera Mikulčić showed a deep understanding of the purport as well as of the rules, written and unwritten, governing the operation of a scientific society and its journal. She was also endowed with a surprising energy and working efficiency, without which she would not have been able to cope with the enormous number of her diverse duties and assignments.

Mention should be also made of her valuable collaboration with some other, chemistry-related professional associations (e.g., Croatian Biochemical Society) and journals (e.g., *Pharmaceutica Acta*). Vera Mikulčić was awarded written awards of merit by the Croatian Biochemical Society (1996) and Croatian Chemical Society (1998).

Croatian Chemical Society and the journal *Croatica Chemica Acta* hereby express their deep gratitude to Mrs Vera Mikulčić for her highly valuable contribution.

Vladimir Simeon