

## IN MEMORIAM



**Marijan Brezinščak** (Tavija near Bosanska Kostajnica, 24 July 1926 – Zagreb, 29 September 2009), graduate of electrical engineering, was a prominent Croatian metrology expert. He graduated in 1954 from the Department of Electrical Engineering, Faculty of Technical Sciences of the University of Zagreb.

He worked at the Electrical Utility Institute in Zagreb from 1954 to 1961, designing the power network and on voltage measurements. Then, until 1969, he worked for the Electrotechnical Institute of the Rade Končar factory as head of the Department for the Nuclear Equipment Development for particle accelerators and nuclear energy. From 1969 to 1972, he worked at the ELKA electrical cable factory, as head of the Modernisation and Development Sector, and later as Deputy General Manager. From 1978 until his retirement in 1986, he worked at the Chemical Technological Institute on seawater corrosion protection.

In addition to his fundamental profession, he was active for decades in the area of theoretical and applied metrology, the development and promotion of standard and legal metrology, and he personally advocated the use of the Croatian professional terminology. He published about 650 expert letters, overviews, criticisms and polemics in domestic and foreign journals, half of which concern metrology and standardisation. He also wrote ten books, of which seven were on metrology, the best known of which is the *Mjerenje i računanje u tehnici i znanosti* (1971), a capital work of Croatian metrology, the likes of which can hardly be found, even in other languages. Popularly called Breza's book, the book was an impressive volume on 1312 pages, and even today is a mandatory piece of literature for any expert delving into metrology. In 1970, one of his metrology books was translated into Czech and published in Prague. He taught the post-graduate courses *Absolute* (later *Fundamental*) *Electromagnetic Measurements and State of Premium Metrology* at the Faculty of Electrical Engineering of the University of Zagreb from 1972 to 1987. In the journal *Jezik*, he published numerous criticisms and sharp polemics on the use of Croatian professional terminology, warning of ignorance, superficiality and errors.

Engineer Brezinščak was an active member of many professional societies, co-founder of the JUKEM professional society, one of the reorganisers of JUREMA, and served as vice-president in both for a time. He was the main advocate of the establishment of the Croatian Metrology Society in 1978, and serves as society president for many years. Within the society, the professional journal *Mjeriteljski vjesnik* was launched, and he served as the first editor-in-chief (1983–1994).

He received a number of recognitions for his exceptional contribution to Croatian metrology, among them well deserved membership in the Zagreb Electrotechnical Society (1973), the JUKEM plaque (1970 and 1980), honorary membership in JUKEM (1980) and plaque with gold coin "for distinctive contribution to the existence and activities" of the Croatian Metrology Society (1996). Just a few days before his death, on 24 September, he received a special plaque on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the Laboratory for Precise Measurements of the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering and Shipbuilding of the University of Zagreb.

The extensive professional, literary and social work of engineer Marijan Brezinščak is woven into the very foundations of Croatian metrology. With this, either directly or indirectly, he was the teacher of today's Croatian metrologists. Thanks to his many written works, he left behind both his knowledge and his ideas for the generations of Croatian metrologists to come.

**Zvonimir Jakobović, PhD**