

SOME PERSONAL RECOLLECTIONS CONCERNING THE DEVELOPMENT OF SPECTROSCOPY IN SLOVAKIA

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The beginning of spectroscopic investigations in our country started already in the 19th century with the study of astronomical objects by the world known scientist Nicolaus Konkoly Thege who in his astrophysical observatory situated in Stará Ďala (now Hurbanovo, southern Slovakia), measured, identified and described more than 2000 spectra of different bright stars, 23 comets as well as reflexion spectra of Moon rocks compared with the terrestrial ones. He published in German also several books on spectroscopy. These results belonged practically to the first spectroscopic activities of this kind all over the world.

Spectrochemical analysis of industrial, geological and other samples started in our country during the Second World War. The first Slovak spectroscopic publications appeared in 1947 and for the further development of spectroscopy the Czechoslovak Spectroscopic Society was founded in 1949. The results obtained in this scientific field needed their presentation and this occurred in Slovakia for the first time in 1959 during the Spectrographic Congress held in this very Grandhotel Praha in Tatranská Lomnica. The conference was organized by Prof. M. Matherny and it presents the start of till now existing conferences like this one as well as each two years organized Conferences of Analytical Atomic Spectroscopy (CANAS). The Seminar on the spectra excitation organized in 1963 by me in Smolenice presents the first contacts between eastern and western spectroscopists. These contacts have presented scientifically high valued series of spectroscopic conferences organized in our country.

Our tasks in spectrochemical analysis cannot be valued separately because they belong to a complex development of the whole science forming an immanent part of culture. My endeavour not to separate different parts of analytical chemistry according to separate methods, analytical signal, instrumentation etc. but to find common features of the whole analytical chemistry has led to extraction of procedures common for all parts of analytical chemistry including also spectrochemical analysis. This progressive approach to spectrochemical analysis forms so a part of a higher complex called by me as "General analytical chemistry" and described in details in my book of this title comprising the following chapters: Adequacy of the method to the requirement, Taking and processing of sample, Measuring of analytical signal, Assignment of a property to the signal value, Valuation of the analytical signal. All the cited items form the basis of all analytical procedures inclusive spectroscopic analysis regardless the method, procedure, instrumentation etc. Their knowledge helps so to a correct and reliable performing of spectroscopic investigations too and vouches the quality of obtained results which will be presented also in the program of this conference.