

Ilmar Öpik (1917–2001)

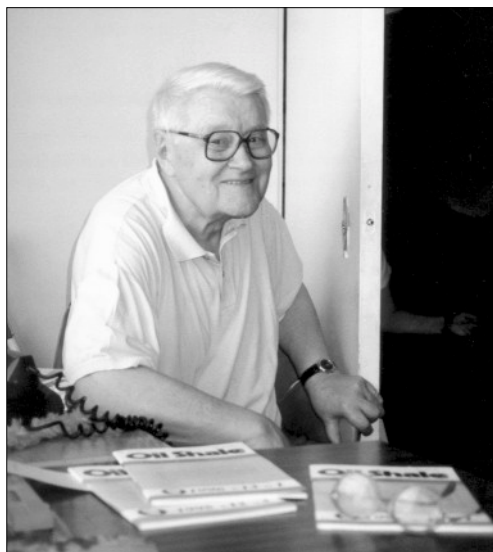
EDITOR'S PAGE

We would celebrate the 85th birthday of Professor **Ilmar Öpik** on June 17, this year. However, the life work of the well-known scientist and research organizer, a member of the Estonian Academy of Sciences, has been completed, and our duty is to generalize and sum up his activities to insert his voluminous scientific heritage into the foundation of technical sciences.

Ilmar Öpik was a concentrate of an engineer, scientist, teacher, research organizer and popularizer, moreover – a great personality being able to incite his colleagues to search for new and better achievements.

The present issue of OIL SHALE contains the complemented personal list of I. Öpik's papers. The first version was published by the Estonian Academy Publishers in 1994.

I. Öpik dealt with Estonian kukersite since his student years. His systematic work in this field brought him among the founders of the World's first power plants fired by oil shale – Estonian local fuel. Ignoring the oil shale chemists who consider it a precious raw material for chemical industry, he succeeded in creation of boiler units successfully operating till today.



The knowledge and experience of oil shale research and exploitation were worth of introducing to a larger audience of engineers and scientists. The scientific-technical journal OIL SHALE founded in 1994 served to this purpose.

Professor Ilmar Öpik was the Editor-in-Chief of this journal since the first issue. Under his expert guidance and active contribution, OIL SHALE developed into an internationally acknowledged scientific journal.

The papers written mostly in English are available for a wide scientific world. We are sure that the interest in oil-shale research is continuously growing, and oil shale resources situated in more than 80 states represent an excellent raw material for chemical industry, power generation and possibly for biotechnology.

Ilmar Öpik maintained an admirably high working ability until the last days of his life. We hope that our readers can find here some new ideas applicable in their scientific activities.

I should like to express my gratitude to everyone who have kindly contributed to OIL SHALE Special dedicated to the memory of Ilmar Öpik: Professor Andres Keevallik (Tallinn Technical University), Ants Pauls and Rein Talumaa (*Narva Power Plants Ltd.*), Pertti Kinnunen and Mati Kaare (*Foster Wheeler Ltd.*), and good colleagues from the Thermal Engineering Department of Tallinn Technical University.

I am also much obliged to the editors and their helpful colleagues – Peet Mati Sööt, Arvi Prikk, Lembe Laanest, Hindrek Tamvelius, Märt Mõtus, and Helja Kulderknup.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Kann', with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

Prof. Jüri KANN