

PEOPLE

LEEVI MÖLDER 70

A member of Editorial Board of the journal *OIL SHALE*, professor *emeritus* of Tallinn Technical University **Leevi Mölder** celebrates his 70th birthday on the 4th of July 2003.



Leevi Mölder was born in East Virumaa, the oil shale region of Estonia. All his life has been connected with and dedicated to this natural resource of his home country. The main part of L. Mölder's life work has been devoted to technical education. He has succeeded in coupling his intensive pedagogical and organizational activities with successful research. Oil shale processing and oil shale chemistry have belonged to the main sphere of his scientific interests.

In 1957 L. Mölder graduated from Tallinn Technical University with the diploma of an engineer of fuel chemistry and tied his activities with the *alma mater* starting as the head of laboratory (1957–1959). In 1963 he defended the Ph.D. thesis "Characteristics and Application of Molecular Complexes of Phenols for Shale Oil Separation". In 1964 he became a docent, in 1973–1985 was a professor, as well as the head of the Chair of Organic Chemistry, and in 1992–2000 again a professor at Tallinn Technical University. In 1983–1988 he headed the Laboratory and in 1988–1994 the Department of

Oil Shales and Shale Oil at the Institute of Chemistry of the Estonian Academy of Sciences. Since 2000 L. Mölder is a professor *emeritus*.

The main trends of L. Mölder's scientific activity have been physical chemistry of solutions of organic compounds, chemistry of liquid fuels. His systematic studies in the fields of association and self-association of phenols and alcohols, thermodynamics and partition of polar compounds from their polycomponent mixtures by liquid-liquid and solid-phase extraction and crystallization, as well as in the field of hydrolysis and oxidation kinetics have created theoretical basis both for separation of phenolic compounds, especially resorcinol derivatives from shale oil processing products, and for transformation of sulphur compounds in solid heat carrier units.

Scientific contribution of L. Mölder comprises more than two hundred scientific publications including textbooks on organic chemistry and fuels and co-authority of Russian-Estonian and English-Estonian-Russian dictionaries of chemistry, as well as numerous popular-scientific papers.

Many honors have been bestowed on professor Mölder in recognition for his professional accomplishments, such as medals *mente et manu* (1983, 1993), Paul Kogerman (1987), and – by IBC, Cambridge – Outstanding Scientists of the 20th Century (1999) and Outstanding People of the 20th Century (2000). His contribution to elaboration of flow sheets for oil shale processing has been awarded by Virumaa Foundation Prize.

L. Mölder's valuable ideas for forwarding physical organic chemistry have enabled him to supervise seven postgraduate students. His interesting lectures and laboratory courses are highly appreciated by the students.

L. Mölder generously shares his rich erudition and experience as expert and consultant being a member of Estonian Energy Council, American Society for Testing and Materials, Committee of Petroleum Products and Lubricants, and International Association for Stability and Handling of Liquid Fuels.

The Editorial Board of the journal *OIL SHALE* and colleagues wish **Leevi Mölder** good health, happiness and more years of successful creative accomplishments.