

NEKROLOG

OBITUARY

Biserka Tamhina
(1937–2000)

The news of the early death of Professor Tamhina, the longtime Head of the Laboratory of Analytical Chemistry, Faculty of Science, University of Zagreb, deeply aggrieved all who knew her. Professor Tamhina was born on 19th January 1937 at Brestača, near Novska, in the Republic of Croatia. Since 1943 she lived in Zagreb, where she received all her education. After graduating in chemistry from the Faculty of Technology, University of Zagreb in 1962, she joined a research group in the Laboratory of Analytical Chemistry, Chemistry Department, Faculty of Science, University of Zagreb. There she successfully defended her M.Sc. thesis in 1968, and her Ph.D. thesis in 1971. In 1974, she spent a few

months in the Chemistry Department, University of Aberdeen, U.K., as a postdoctoral student.

Since 1962 she was assistant, since 1974 assistant professor and in 1978 she became professor in the Laboratory of Analytical Chemistry, Faculty of Science, University of Zagreb. In 1987 she was appointed head of the same Laboratory, and kept that position until her untimely death.

The broad scientific interest of Professor Tamhina was that of a genuine analytical chemist. She devoted her efforts to the development of new, up-to-date analytical methods and procedures, and at the same time to improvement of the specificity, selectivity, and sensitivity of analytical methods, as well as the simplicity and speed of performance. An important aspect of the development of new analytical methods throughout the world concerns metal ion determinations because of the major role they play in various technological and life processes. With her collaborators, Prof. Tamhina has developed numerous new methods for the separation and spectrophotometric or spectrofluorometric determination of metal ions, either directly in aqueous systems or after extraction. She also studied the effect of the presence of the second ligand, on the assumption that the formation of ternary or

mixed-ligand complexes may influence some of the extractive properties, enhancing the extraction and thereby the analytical procedure. Furthermore, she investigated the reaction mechanisms and complex compositions in solutions, as well as in isolated metal complexes. Her scientific activity resulted in over sixty papers, and a great number of communications presented at international congresses.

The work of the Laboratory of Analytical Chemistry was marked by Prof. Tamhina's activity ever since she had joined the staff. She was the driving force of all activities in students' laboratories, she taught many undergraduate courses to students from almost all departments of the Faculty of Science, giving them an insight into the task and the role of analytical chemistry in interdisciplinary fields, and into the phases of chemical analysis from sampling to final measurement. Professor Tamhina was engaged in postgraduate teaching, and was supervisor for over a hundred graduate, six postgraduate and two doctoral theses.

Professor Tamhina was a guest professor at the J. J. Strossmayer University in Osijek. She was an active member of the Croatian Chemical Society, Head of its Section for Analytical Chemistry, and a member of the Editorial Board of *Croatica Chemica Acta*. She was a member of the Croatian Society of Chemical Engineers.

Professor Tamhina died on 10th February 2000. She has left us but our memories of her are alive. And they will live on in all of us who knew her. It was too early for her to leave our chemical community. We all thank her for the rich heritage she has left to the Croatian chemistry.

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