

**55 YEARS OF HIGHER EDUCATION
IN NON-FERROUS METALLURGY IN BULGARIA
AND
90 YEARS FROM THE BIRTH OF PROFESSOR D. Sc. CHRISTO VASSILEV**

This year marks two jubilees for the staff of the Department of Non-Ferrous Metallurgy and Semiconductors Technology at the University of Chemical Technology and Metallurgy in Sofia. The first one is connected with the 55 years of higher education in the field



of non-ferrous metallurgy, while the second one refers to the 90-th anniversary of Professor D. Sc. Christo Vassilev, one of the earliest Heads of the Department.

The Jubilee celebration was attended by the Academic Board of the University of Chemical Technology and Metallurgy (the former Higher Institute of Chemical Technology), representatives of the Managing Committee of the Bulgarian Association of Metallurgical Industry, Directors of foreign and Bulgarian metallurgical firms, representatives of the Bulgarian Chamber of Economy, lecturers, students, alumni. They presented their congratulatory addresses thanking the staff of the Department for their fruitful work in bringing up specialists for the industry, for their active participation in founding and development of the non-ferrous metals production in the country.

The Department of Non-Ferrous Metallurgy was founded in 1960. Associate Professor Dr. Tzvetan Tzvetkov was its founder and first Head. Until then the education in non-ferrous metallurgy was carried out at the Department of Mechanical Technology and Metallurgy. Professor C. Vassilev, Professor P. Bakurdjiev,

Professor R. Dimitrov, Eng. A. Mechenov were members of the staff at that time. They were helped in their work by Russian experts, the Associate Professors I. Tzaregorodtzev and N. Kuznetzov. Several years later Professor V. Karoleva, Professor G. Haralampiev, Professor R. Dimitrov, the Associate Professors I. Grozdanov, D. Kunev, P. Lesidrenski, M. Chimbulev, I. Gruev, V. Stefanova and D. Chavdarova joined the Department. The Senior Research Fellow D. Sc. E. Petkova, the Assistant Professors I. Dokuzov, I. Abrashev, J. Trifonov, V. Petkov, P. Iliev and B. Lucheva worked there too. The educational and research activities at the Department were assisted by 37 research fellows, chemists, laboratory assistants and technicians.

Over 1100 students got their engineering education in the field of non-ferrous metallurgy since the foundation of the Department of Non-Ferrous and Rare Metals Metallurgy. Foreign students from Vietnam, Poland, Panama, Guinea, and Greece were among the Department's alumni. Twenty seven Ph.D. Theses and





three D. Sc. Theses were defended during the period considered. Four Ph. D. students are working at present.

For fifty years the scientific work carried out at the Department has been connected with the solution of theoretical and practical problems of importance for the non-ferrous metallurgy development. Foreign experts and lecturers consulted the educational and research activities of the Department. Professor A. Vanyakov, Professor V. Zaitzev (both from Russia), Professor G. Bjorling (Sweden), Professor L. Edwin (England), Professor T. Rosenquist (Norway), Professor F. Habashi (Canada), Professor Z. Kucharski (Poland) were among them.

The results obtained in the research studies carried out are reported in hundreds of papers in Bulgarian and foreign journals, certificates and patents. Some of the investigations are of practical importance and are highly appreciated by the partners in the industry at home and abroad.

The foundation of the Department is connected with another jubilee - the 90-th anniversary of Professor Christo Vassilev, who headed (1962-1984) it for 22 years. He has supervised 110 diploma projects and 3 Ph.D. Theses. He is the author of more than 150 papers

published in Bulgarian and foreign journals and the textbooks "Metallurgy of Noble Metals", "Rare Metals Metallurgy", "Hydrometallurgy of Non-Ferrous Metals", Metallurgy of Noble and Rare Metals". The latter is in co-authorship with Associate Professor D. Kunev. Professor Vassilev has 9 patents.

He participated actively in the Institute's management as well. For 4 years (1972-1976) he worked as Deputy Director of the Research Sector of the Higher



Institute of Chemical Technology. For his educational and research work he received a number of awards. For his contribution to the development of the Department and his long term pedagogical work he was distinguished by the University Badge of Honor.

During the years of joint work at the University we have admired the enthusiasm and ever lasting energy of Professor Vassilev. For us, his students and colleagues, he will always be an example of an extraordinary teacher and a friend, a man worth of following.

We wish him to stay with us for many years ahead.

Congratulations!