



IN HONOUR OF ACADEMICIAN BOJAN ŠOPTRAJANOV'S 80th BIRTHDAY

Bojan Šoptrajanov was born on 26 January 1937 in Čačak, Serbia. His parents were then high-school teachers, Nevena a teacher in geography and Todor a teacher in history. He was given a name which, that time, was rather rare.

He grew up in Čačak and Prokuplje (then Kingdom of Yugoslavia) and in 1941 moved to Skopje (then under Bulgarian occupation). Later on he lived in Belgrade and Veles, returning to Skopje in 1950 and stayed there ever since, except for a year and a half while working for a master degree in USA.

In 1965 he married Lidija, presently a retired full professor of chemistry.

He has two daughters, Jasna and Lada, a granddaughter, Viktorija and three grandsons: Ivan, Bojan and Marko. Lada is married to Velimir (Veljo) and Viktorija and Marko are their children.

EDUCATION

His first grade (which, during the war times, lasted for only three weeks) was in Skopje (in Bulgarian) and the rest of the primary schooling took place in Skopje (in Macedonian), Belgrade (in Serbian) and Veles (again in Macedonian). He then attended a high school ("Cvetan Dimov") in Skopje up to 1955 when he enrolled in the studies of chemistry at the Ss. Cyril and Methodius University in Skopje. He graduated in 1960 as the best student of the Ss. Cyril and Methodius University on graduation and was the best student of the Faculty of Natural Sciences and Mathematics in the first 25 years of its existence (1946–1971).

His graduate studies were at Indiana University in Bloomington, IND (1964–1965) completed with the master's thesis entitled "*Vibrational Assignment of the Infrared Spectrum of 1,2,5-Thiadiazole*".

The doctoral thesis (1973) of Bojan Šoptrajanov is entitled "*Spectroscopic Investigation of Crystallohydrates with Particular Attention to the Spectrum of Water – Systems with Very Low $\delta(\text{HOH})$ Frequencies*" (The original title in Macedonian is "*Спектроскопско изучување на кристалохидрати со посебен осврт на спектарот на водата – Системи со мошне ниски $\delta(\text{HOH})$ фреквенции*").

TEACHING POSITIONS

The first teaching position of Bojan Šoptrajanov was as an assistant-lecturer at the then Technical Faculty – Technological division (1960–1961).

After a year in the army, in 1962 he was elected to the position of assistant-lecturer in the Faculty of Natural Sciences and Mathematics – Division of Chemistry and held that position until 1969.

In 1969 he was elected to the position of docent (assistant professor) at the Faculty of Natural Sciences and Mathematics, University of Skopje, remaining at that position until 1974.

He became an associate professor in 1974 and held that position until 1974, at first at the Faculty of Natural Sciences and Mathematics – Division of Chemistry and then at the Faculty of Chemistry (1978).

Bojan Šoptrajanov was elected to the position of full professor in 1978 and held that position until 2002 when he retired.

Nominally he was a professor of physical chemistry but taught (for undergraduate or graduate students in Skopje, Štip and Leskovac) other subjects such as Radiochemistry, History of chemistry, Spectroscopic applications of group theory, Spectroscopic methods for determination of molecular structures, Methodology of chemistry teaching and Methodology of research. Most of these courses were taught for the first time by him except for his two physical chemistry courses that he reshaped and modernized.

PROFESSIONAL AND OTHER POSITIONS

Bojan Šoptrajanov held a number of professional positions, among them:

Vice dean (prodekan) of the Faculty of Chemistry (1983–1985); vice president (prorector) for education and research of the Ss. Cyril and Methodius University in Skopje (1988–1990); member of the Macedonian Academy of Sciences and Arts (MASA) from 1994; vice president of MASA (2008–2011); head of the Division of Mathematical and Technical Sciences in MASA (2003–2007). Presently he is the head of the Research Center for Environment and Materials in MASA.

He is a member of the European Academy of Sciences and Arts (since 2008).

Also: The last president of the Union of the Chemical Societies of Yugoslavia; president and vice president of the Union of Chemists and Technologists of Macedonia (Sojuz na hemičarite i tehnolozi na Makedonija); president of the Commission for Spectroscopy of the Union of the Chemical Societies of Yugoslavia and others.

RESEARCH ACTIVITIES, PUBLICATIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS

- Main area of research: **structural chemistry** (particularly vibrational spectroscopy);
- Other areas of research interest: education in general; use of computers in education; systems of scientific information;
- Principal investigator: A number of projects within Macedonia and former Yugoslavia, and projects for cooperation in science with colleagues from Uppsala, (Sweden), London (UK), Moscow (Russia), Sofia (Bulgaria), Halle (Germany) and Siegen (Germany);
- Papers: Over 200 scientific and professional papers of which more than 100 are included in

the data base of the Institute for Scientific Information (ISI);

- Scientific communications: Approximately 350 communications at scientific meetings (around 150 at international conferences and approximately 90 at meetings outside Macedonia);
- Invited speaker: Plenary lecturer at scientific meetings in Macedonia, in former Yugoslavia, in Ukraine, in Turkey and key-note speaker at Colloquium Spectroscopicum Internationale;
- Lectures abroad: In Uppsala, London, Halle, Siegen, Belgrade, Sofia;
- Scientific journals: Founder and editor-in-chief of the *Macedonian Journal of Chemistry and Chemical Engineering* (formerly *Bulletin of the Chemists and Technologists of Macedonia*), presently member of the Editorial Council of the Journal, previously member of the editorial boards of two Yugoslav journals (*Hemijaska industrija*, *Yugoslav Chemical Papers*).

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- Subjects taught (for undergraduate or graduate students in Skopje, Štip and Leskovac): Physical chemistry, Spectroscopic applications of group theory, Spectroscopic methods for determination of molecular structures, Methodology of chemistry teaching, Methodology of research;
- Mentor of eight doctoral candidates of which seven are already university teachers (active or retired) and eighteen candidates for the master degree;
- Author of a number of high-school text-books in chemistry and texts for university students.

ORGANIZATION OF SCIENTIFIC MEETINGS

- President of the scientific committee at four all-Yugoslav congresses;
- Other organizational activities: Member of the organizing and scientific committees of a number of meetings (one international), mainly in chemistry.

AWARDS

- Best student of the Ss. Cyril and Methodius University on graduation;
- Best student of the Faculty of Natural Sciences and Mathematics in the first 25 years of its existence;

- Medal: Merits for the people with a silver star;
- Two plaques (1999 and 19840 of the Ss. Cyril and Methodius University;
- The national award "11. Oktomvri" in 2005;
- The Throne Medal "Macedonian Cross" of the Macedonian Orthodox Church;
- The Tomasius Medal of the University of Halle;
- President of the Board for awarding the "Sv. Kliment Ohridski" award (two terms), member of the Board;
- Member of the Board for awarding the "Sv. Kliment Ohridski" award;
- Member of the Board for awarding the "Goce Delcev" award;
- Others such memberships.

OTHER INTERESTS

- He was an active "izvidnik" (boy scout);
- He has a keen interest in the language in general and, especially, in the language of chemistry (holding a degree of *honorary linguist* bestowed by the members of the Research Center for Areal Linguistics at MASA);
- Bojan Šoptrajanov has been, for quite a long time, abstractor in the best known referral publication Chemical Abstracts;
- His work has been appreciated by colleagues from abroad and within his research group.

Editorial Board

BOJAN ŠOPTRAJANOV

PERSONAL



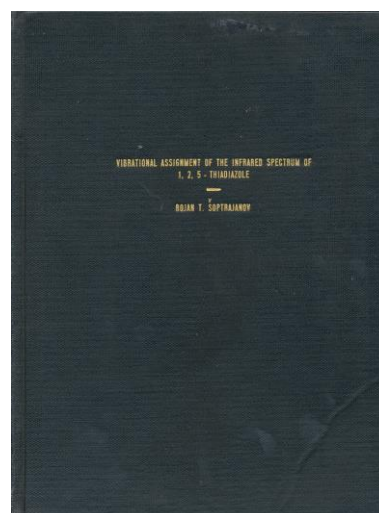
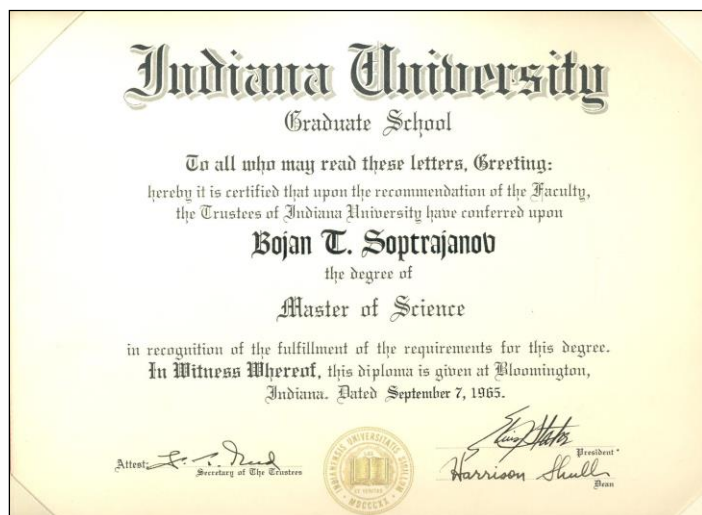
Nevena (left) and Todor
(Bojan`s parents)



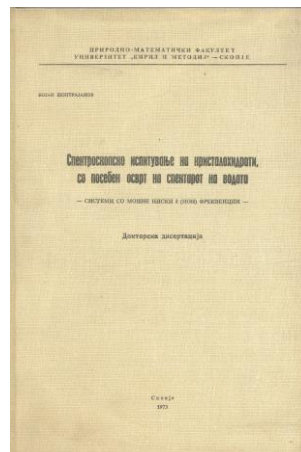
Bojan`s wedding



Bojan`s family



The master`s thesis entitled „*Vibrational Assignment of the Infrared Spectrum of 1,2,5-Thiadiazole*”



The doctoral thesis (1973) of Bojan Šoptrajanov (right *b*) entitled „Spectroscopic Investigation of Crystallohydrates with Particular Attention to the Spectrum of Water – Systems with Very Low $\delta(\text{HOH})$ Frequencies–“



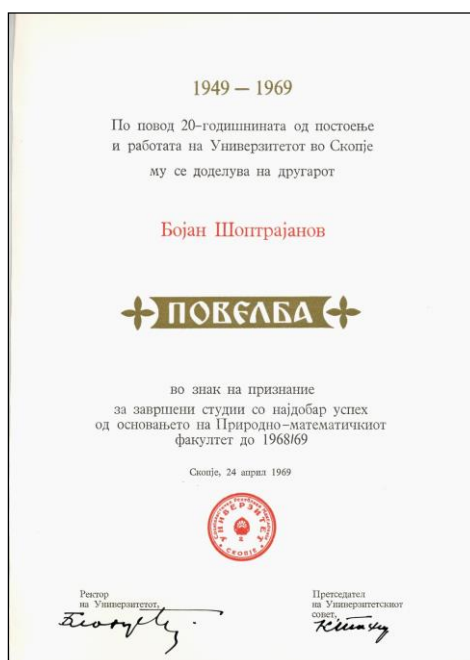
Member of the Macedonian Academy of Sciences and Arts (MASA) from 1994



Member of the European Academy of Sciences and Arts (since 2008)



Author of a number of high-school text-books in chemistry and texts for university students



Best student of the Faculty of Natural Sciences and Mathematics in the first 25 years of its existence



Medal: Merits for the people with a silver star



The Throne Medal “Macedonian Cross” of the Macedonian Orthodox Church



The Tomasius Medal of the University of Halle



Two plaques (1999 and 1984) of the Ss Cyril and Methodius University



President of the Board for awarding the “Sv. Kliment Ohridski” award (two terms), member of the Board



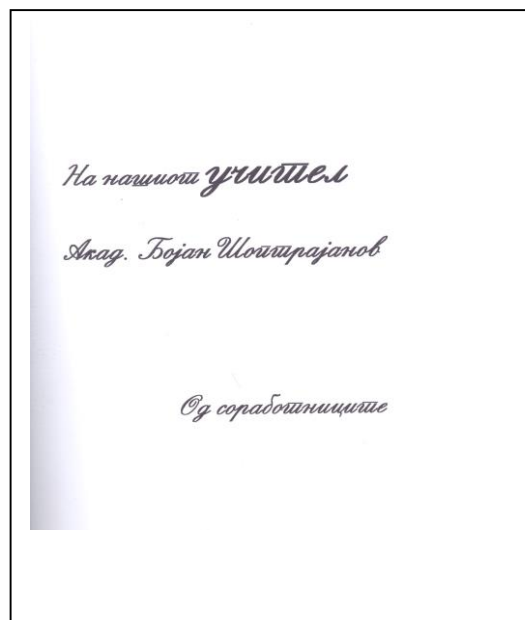
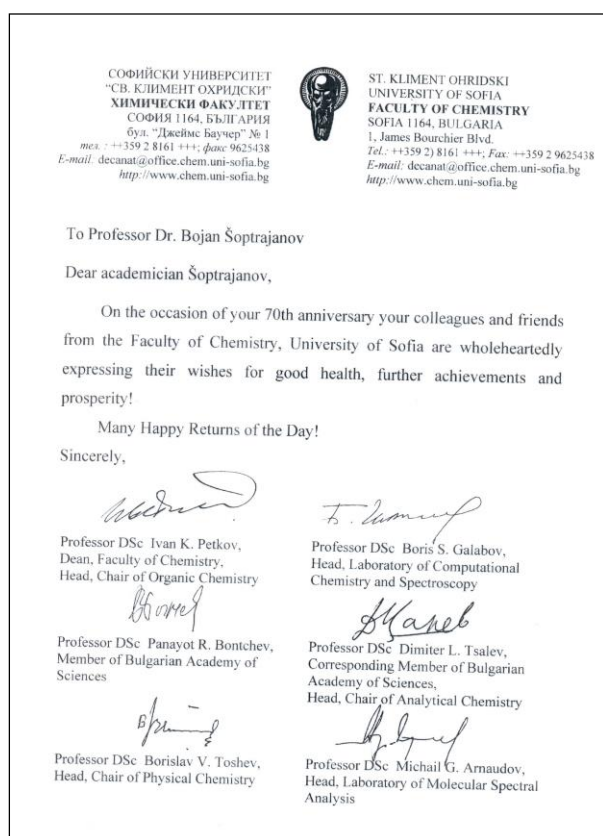
Active “izvidnik” (boy scout)

Years ago, right after the establishment of the Research Center for Areal Linguistics at MASA (Macedonian Academy of Sciences and Arts), we the “centrists” bestowed the title of an honorary linguist to academician Bojan Šoptrajanov because we were impressed by his understanding of the tasks of linguistics, his real interest in the matters of our language, his publications dedicated to the scientific and professional terminology of his discipline –

A degree of *honorary linguist* bestowed by the members of the Research Center for Areal Linguistics at MASA



Bojan Šoptrajanov has been, for quite a long time, abstractor in the best known referral publication Chemical Abstracts



His work has been appreciated by colleagues from abroad and within his research group



His work has been appreciated by colleagues from abroad and within his research group