

Monday 30th July 2003

BIOTRANS NEWS

CONFERENCE OPENING

The 6th International Symposium on Bio-catalysis and Biotransformations – BIOTRANS 2003 was officially launched on Saturday 28 June at 5 pm in the conference hall of the Faculty of Law. Miroslav Mašláň, vice-rector of the Palacký University, Martin Novotný, vice-mayor of Olomouc, Jan Březina, president of the Region of Olomouc, Jan Graubner, archbishop of Olomouc, Václav Pačes, president of the Czech Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, Václav Hanke, representative of the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport welcomed all participants. Romas Kazlauskas held the opening lecture on Creating enantioselective hydrolases for organic synthesis: combining rational and random methods.

BIOTRANS 2003 in numbers



Altogether 423 participants from 38 countries have registered interest in the conference.

Many participants are linked to universities or public research institutes (72 %), 28 % of participants are from research centres or institutes of biotechnology companies. The young generation (age limit 30 years) is strongly represented – 40 %.

Registered participants submitted 330 abstracts of contributions, circa 20 % of them will be publicly presented. All abstracts will be published in *Chemické listy* 97(6), 2003 and complete texts of lectures will be available in *Journal of Molecular Catalysis B: Enzymatic*.



Prof. Romas Kazlauskas

Hanuš Medal to David H. G. Crout

During the opening ceremony professor David H. G. Crout was awarded the Hanuš Medal from the Czech Chemical Society on the occasion of his retirement. This award should honour not only his scientific achievements documented by numerous publications and lectures but also his didactic activities. David hosted number of doctoral and postdoctoral students, many of them also from the Czech Republic.

He was a chairman of one Biotrans conference, organized in Warwick in 1993. He was also founder and “*spiritus movens*” of the Biotransformation Club, which published very valuable Biotransformation abstracts.

Thank you very much, David!

Palacký University *few information about the organiser*

Palacký University, Olomouc was re-established by the Act of the Interim National Assembly, passed on February 21, 1946. It followed up with the tradition of the old Olomouc university, which was established in 1573 and closed in 1860. Therefore the Olomouc University can justly be considered the second oldest university in Bohemia, Moravia and Silesia. At present the Palacký University, Olomouc is formed by seven faculties: St. Cyril and Methodius Faculty

of Theology, Faculty of Medicine, Philosophical Faculty, Pedagogical Faculty, Faculty of Science, Faculty of Physical Culture and Faculty of Law. The total number of students is 14 858 (January 2001). Number 1949 gives the total of both teachers and other employees in 2002.



František Šantavý (1915 – 1983)

Professor of Medical Chemistry

Prof. MUDr. František Šantavý, DrSc. was born in Hroznová Lhota, Southern Moravia in the family of a teacher. He matriculated at the Medical Faculty of the Masaryk University in Brno. In 1951 he became Director of the Institute of Medical Chemistry of the Medical Faculty of the Palacký University in Olomouc. The scientific interest of prof. Šantavý centred upon the chemical structure, biosynthesis and biological effects of alkaloids of the plants of families Liliaceae (*Colchicum* and related plants), Papaveraceae (Poppy plants) and Asteraceae (genus *Senecio*). He published the results of his experimental work in about 370 scientific papers.

**For any questions, problems
and emergency call this number:
00420777119190
non-stop service for participants.**

OLOMOUC short trip to its history



The history of the town of Olomouc, which lies on the banks of the river Morava, reaches back to the tenth century AD. At that time it was known primarily as a crossing of important trade routes. Within the course of the centuries the town grew and at present it has a population of approximately one hundred thousand, making it the metropolis of the Olomouc region.

The historical centre of the town is a protected monumental reservation and after Prague forms the **second**

largest complex of historical monuments in the Czech Republic.

A **bronze model** of the town's historical centre is located on the upper square. **Since the year 2000** Olomouc has been registered in the **UNESCO** list, merited by the **Holy Trinity Column**, which is located on the upper square. Also not to be overlooked is the group of six baroque fountains, also a jewel of the historical centre.

2002 saw the construction of a new and thus in chronological order the **seventh Olomouc fountain, Arion's fountain**, which supplements the group of fountains in the town centre. The author of the fountain is the well-known sculptor Ivan Theimer.

Among other important monuments in Olomouc are: **St. Wenceslas' Cathedral, the Přemyslid Palace, and the Archbishop's palace.** The last of these is an important church building, where the emperor Franz Josef I ascended to the Austrian throne. Also noteworthy are **Theresa's gate, the baroque church of Our Lady of the Snows, St. Michael's Church, the former Dominican monastery, the neo-baroque Jan Sarkander chapel, the town hall with astronomical clock, the gothic cathedral of St. Moritz, the Hradisko monastery** etc.

Modern Olomouc also has plenty to offer visitors. The town is the seat of the Regional authority of Olomouc district, Palacký University, the Olomouc Archbishopric and a headquarters of the Czech army ground forces.

The town also offers sporting and cultural opportunities. In the evening it is possible to see various cultural presentations in the Moravian Theatre or a concert in the Moravian philharmonic, or to take in exhibitions in the galleries, Art Museum or Historical and Geographical Museum. As concerns sport, the town offers gymnasiums, as well as bowling, squash and swimming facilities.

You may obtain more detailed information in the Olomouc Tourist Information Centre on the upper square, under the arches of the town hall, or in the branch at the railway station.

*We wish you a pleasant stay
in our town!*

BALLET EVENING

On Sunday night the participants were invited to the Moravian Theatre Olomouc to see the ballet performance **Sun and Shadow.**



WELCOME MIXER – Saturday night at the Faculty of Law

The opening session was followed by the Welcome mixer, where the participants could refresh and taste Moravian wine, Czech beer and local specialities. The party later continued outside with grilling and folk music. The president of the organising committee Vilím Šimánek took a chance to chat informally with the participants.



Informal discussions during the Welcome mixer

Conference sponsors

Interest of sponsors in BIOTRANS 2003 was extraordinary. 66 local and international sponsors support the conference.

One of the world important biotechnology companies – **LONZA BIOTECH s.r.o. – is the general sponsor.**

Major supporters are: B.R.A.I.N. AG, Česká spořitelna a.s., DEGUSSA AG, IVAX Pharmaceuticals s.r.o., KOMERČNÍ BANKA a.s., MERCK s.r.o., MONSANTO ČR s.r.o., RHODIA CR s.r.o., SETUZA a.s., SHIMADZU Handelsgesellschaft mbH, SKANSKA CZ a.s., WALMARK a.s.

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HISTORY OF THE JESUIT CONVENT



The monumental compound of the former Jesuit college buildings is the largest Baroque architectural complex in Olomouc. It comprises the college building (Military Administrative Archiv), the Church of Our Lady of the Snows, the school building (depository facility of museum), the Boarding School (art departments of Palacký University) and the St. Franciscus Xaverius seminary (Theological Faculty). Jesuit construction development area is bordered by the city walls with the Jewish Gate and a prismatic fortification tower. As the order house of the Society of Jesus (the Jesuits) of a lower but most common type became generally known as college, the facility for Jesuit academy students where accommodation and food were provided was referred to as seminary, boarding school or contubernium.

In the Middle Ages area in the eastern part of which is situated the Baroque complex of the former Boarding School was occupied by a Jewish quarter. The written records of Jewish settlement date back to 1403, and the name was retained long after 1454 when the Jews were expelled from the city. There is documented the existence of a synagogue in this area. The history of the Jesuit boarding school as an institution begins with the arrival of the first Jesuits in 1566. Before the Jesuits came to Olomouc, the early-Gothic Minorite monastery with the three-nave church of the Virgin Mary

had occupied the site of college, the plots on which the Boarding School were built had been mostly built up with burgher houses. There used to be late-Gothic one-nave Corpus Christi church. The early-Gothic Minorite Church did not meet the Jesuit's requirements for capacity and they began to consider a radical conversion. In addition to the church, the college building was subject to frequent conversion projects after 1567. The complete conversion of the college, including the construction of the new Renaissance school building with stone arcades around the entire large court was finished in 1582.

At the beginning of the Thirty Years War in 1619, the Jesuits were expelled from Olomouc and college was turned into a mint and storage areas. The Jesuits returned to the city in 1621 but college was in poor condition. During the Thirty Years War the Jesuits already considered a further extension of the college. Designed by Peter Schüller, the oldest part of the Old Boarding School (Old Convict) was erected on the site of burgher houses between 1661 and 1667. The construction of the Baroque school building was commenced in 1701. In parallel to the Baroque reconstruction of the college, another conversion of the St. Franciscus Xaverius seminary and the construction of the Church of Our Lady of the Snows were under way. The construction of the college was consulted with the Prague architect Kilián Ignác Diezenhofer.

The last construction project, completing the entire extensive complex of Jesuit buildings, was the New Boarding School (New Convict – created from 1721 to 1724) connecting the Old Boarding School with the school building. The New Boarding School includes The Corpus Christi Chapel built by Olomouc master mason Jan Jakub Kniebandl. The concept of the chapel was inspired by the Roman church of Jesuit novices, S. Andrea al Quirinale built according to Bernini's design. In the following years, sculptor Filip Sattler executed the interior sculptural and stucco decoration.

The chapel interior painting by Jan Kryštof Handke is a typical example of Baroque allegory interpreting,

based on an old tale, topical events of the latest political development. The decoration of the chapel was exclusively executed by local Olomouc artists and craftsmen, which illustrates the artistic potential of Olomouc in the first half of the 18th century.

The end of story of the Olomouc boarding school, whose buildings had been for more than two centuries occupied by the army. The army took over the boarding school compound in 1785 (after the Jesuits were cancel and a part of it was turned to a military hospital, then to military barracks. Only after being excluded from the army property following the 1989 revolutionary changes, and owing to the extensive reconstruction and revitalization of the former Olomouc boarding school, completed in the second half of the year 2002. They serve again for the academic community of Olomouc.

Restaurant guide

A conference does not mean only lectures, speeches, workshops, posters and working meetings. It is also a chance to meet people from the same branch and speak with them and exchange experiences. One of good occasions for gathering is to go out for a meal. So for those of you who are thinking of trying Olomouc restaurants, here are a few of our favourites.

Gourmet Podkova

Koželužská 31

- international cuisine, situated in a beautiful building

Viktoria

Školní 2a

- a cosy restaurant in one of the narrow streets of the centre

Il Castello

28. října

- Italian restaurant in the centre

Hacienda Mexicana

Jeremenkova 42

- unusual restaurant offering Mexican and Central American specialities.

Organizing Committee of BIOTRANS 2003

Editor: Gabriela Pokorná

Vydavatelství Univerzity Palackého v Olomouci

BIOTRANS IN PICTURES



Prof. V. Šimánek is awarding the Hanuš Medal to Prof. David H. G. Crout.



Conference Participants



Mons. J. Graubner, archbishop of Olomouc with Prof. V. Pačes