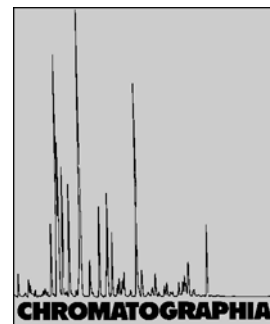


Editorial



65th Birthday of Professor Karel Cramers



Karel Cramers was 65 on September 4th, 2000. Very many readers of *Chromatographia* will associate Dr. Cramers with Eindhoven and with gas chromatography. Anyone who associates Eindhoven with GC rather than with light bulbs implicitly pays tribute to Karel and his personal achievements.

After they shared 40 years together trying to improve separations, we must conclude that Karel Cramers and the Eindhoven University of Technology are inseparable. He has seen the town of Eindhoven, the University, and his own analytical group grow around him but would accept as little credit for the latter as for the former two. He has always been grateful to and proud of his predecessor, Professor Keulemans, and the illustrious series of visiting professors (Golay, Martin, Huber) that were among his teachers. All of them were great chromatographers - and all of them based their practical findings on superior theoretical insights.

Karel has taken after his teachers. His research has always been based on sound understanding. He is among the pioneers of contemporary high-resolution and high-speed capillary GC, realizing that this was a breakthrough technology. He has performed theoretical and practical studies on many other subjects, as diverse as LC, SFC, SFE, CE, MS, and NMR, but has remained loyal to GC. In Karel's

laboratory GC has always been an amazing technique. His last Ph.D. student has recently carried out GCxGC-TOF-MS. GC is still an amazing technique.

Very many people have worked with Dr. Cramers. For very many years, Jacques Rijks was a key member of the Eindhoven group. The latter's emphasis on the technical aspects was a perfect match for Karel's focus on the theory. Piet Leclercq, who sadly died last year, brought all the possibilities of MS and GC-MS into the group.

Many of Professor Cramer's Eindhoven students have become important members of the analytical community, but his teaching did not stop at Eindhoven. He was genuinely motivated to teach students all over the world, and has presented numerous courses throughout Europe, in Asia, and in Latin America.

He has deservedly been awarded a great number of professional honours, including the Golay Award, the Martin Medal of the Chromatographic Society and the Tswett Medal.

Karel Cramers is a man for lively, long, and late discussions. However, he rarely raises his voice above its normal modest level. He is invariably friendly, polite and accommodating to others. He is the rare image of a Dutch gentleman. We wish him and his wife Mariëtte many more years of happiness and good health.

Peter Schoenmakers

Hans-Gerd Janssen