

Obituary



Ivan Odler, 75, Professor Emeritus of Clausthal University in Germany, a good friend and colleague of many of us, and a most decent human being and family man, passed away on August 16, 2005 in Winchester, Massachusetts, USA.

Ivan Odler was born in Bratislava, Czechoslovakia (now Slovak Republic) in 1930. After concluding his secondary schooling and university studies at the Faculty of Chemical Engineering of the Slovak Technical University (MSc in Chemical Engineering, 1953; Doctor of Engineering, 1965), he worked first as an assistant at the Department of Forensic Chemistry of the Medical School, later as a researcher and manager at the Building Testing Institute in Bratislava. In 1968, after the Soviet invasion of Czechoslovakia, he joined many other educated refugees who left their homeland and settled in the USA. Those who knew him in Czechoslovakia before the invasion and emigration, remember his oft-repeated personal motto: "*Všade dobre - v Amerike najlepšie!*"¹

Upon emigration, he first joined Professor Stephen Brunauer and colleagues at the Institute of Surface and Colloid

Chemistry, Clarkson University, Potsdam, NY, later he worked for West Virginia Pulp and Paper (WESTVACO) and W. R. Grace corporations as Senior Researcher and Group Leader. In 1976 he accepted the position of Professor *Ordinarius* at the Clausthal University in Germany where, in 1977, he also became director of the Niedersachsen Center for Material Testing. In 1985 he worked at the Tongji University in China as a visiting professor. After retirement in 1996, he returned to his beloved United States.

Professor Ivan Odler was a Fellow of the American Ceramic Society and a recipient of the Cement Division's Brunauer Award. He is author of some 250 publications in numerous areas of chemistry, including analytical, surface and cement chemistry, and is an editor, author or co-author of several books. He was an active member of the Editorial Boards of *Cement and Concrete Research* and *Advances in Cement Research*.

¹ Its good everywhere, but America is the best!