

TIBOR BRAUN WINS THE
1986 DEREK JOHN DE SOLLA PRICE AWARD

The Editorial and Advisory Board and The Publishers of *Scientometrics* have awarded Professor Tibor *Braun* (L. Eötvös University, Budapest, Hungary) the 1986 Derek John de Solla Price Award for his distinguished contributions to the field of scientometrics.



Professor Michael J. *Moravcsik* (left) presents the 1986 Price Award to Professor Tibor *Braun* at an awarding ceremony held at the headquarters of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences (Budapest) on December 22, 1986.

COMMENTS ON TIBOR BRAUN, RECIPIENT OF THE THIRD DEREK DE SOLLA PRICE AWARD

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Scientometrics is an "interdisciplinary" undertaking, in terms of the traditional categories of scholarship. The consequence of this is not only that the practitioners in scientometrics come from a variety of traditional disciplines, but also that some of the most valuable ways of contributing to scientometrics combine a number of dimensions of it.

A particularly useful such combination appears to be the "science-related theory-action triangle". In this the three roots of the field that are interconnected are:

a. A through background and personal research activity in one of the natural sciences; b. A conceptual mastery of and contribution to scientometrics; c. A practical application of results and techniques emerging from scientometrics to operational problems in science policy and management.

Tibor *Braun* is an illustrious example of such a combination. He is a distinguished chemist of international reputation, a professor of chemistry at the L. Eötvös University in Budapest, the recipient of the international George Hevesy award in 1975 and the chemistry award of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences in 1980. He continues to be active in his field of radioanalytical chemistry, in which he has published dozens of research articles and several books. He is founder and chief editor of both the articles and the letters parts of the *Journal of Radioanalytical and Nuclear Chemistry*, and is a member of various international commissions pertaining to the practice of chemistry. In other words, even if Tibor Braun's activities were constrained only to what he was doing in chemistry, he would be regarded as an outstanding and productive person.

But Tibor has a second side also, which, again in itself, would be enough to count as a most distinguished and full career. It is, particularly, this second side of his that we have honored by awarding him the 1986 Derek de Solla Price medal. He is the founder and head of the Informator Science and Scientometrics Research Unit of the Library of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences and the

Deputy Director General of that library. Indeed, he has gathered as collaborators a most active and creative group of researchers who have produced a long series of influential papers in scientometrics. This group includes well-known names like *Bujdosó, Glänzel, Schubert*, and others. There are very few research groups around the world in scientometrics which are as large, active, and productive as this one, located in a country very small in size in comparison to others participating in scientometrics research.

The focus of much of this work has been on publication- and citation indicators. Using its own FOX system., Braun's group has at its disposal a very powerful tool to work with the ISI database, and consequently many quantitatively very solid results have emerged from their work. Some of this work was specifically focused on the comparison of Hungarian contributions to various fields of science with the contribution of other countries, thus providing direct background material for science managers and decision makers in Hungary. These results have appeared in a large number of articles and in several books.

As a yet another key element in Tibor's impact on scientometrics, there is, of course, the journal *Scientometrics*. Tibor was the founder of this journal and has been the *de facto* head editor of it since the journal's inception. We all know that a new field is not really a field until it has its own journal, and the quality of this journal is a reflection of the vitality of the new undertaking. It is, therefore, a pleasure as well as an occasion for pride to contemplate how well our journal has indeed evolved. Although a number of us have made minor contributions to this success, it would nevertheless not have been possible without the enormous amount of energy, effort, skill, time, and expertise devoted to *Scientometrics* by Tibor.

Tibor and Derek were good friends and were in continuous and close professional contact. Although their backgrounds, interests, and styles were in many respects different, they did have in common the internal motivation and curiosity with respect to learning about science as a human activity. It is, therefore, most appropriate that the medal commemorating Derek goes this year to Tibor.