

ANDRÁS SCHUBERT WINS THE 1993 DEREK JOHN DE SOLLA PRICE AWARD

The Editorial and Advisory Board and the Publishers of *Scientometrics* are glad to announce that the 1993 Derek John de Solla Price medal has been awarded to *András Schubert* for his distinguished contributions to the field of scientometrics.



Dr. *András Schubert* the winner of the
1993 Derek John de Solla Price Medal

COMMENTS ON ANDRÁS SCHUBERT, RECIPIENT OF THE 1993 DEREK DE SOLLA PRICE AWARD

M. BONITZ

"Ad Polum Septentrionalum inveniendum eximus."
"Profecto," dixit iterum Pu. "Quid est Polus Septentrionalis?" rogavit.
"Est res ad inveniendum apta," dixit obiter
Chrisophorus Robinus, ipse incertus.

"We're going to discover the North Pole."
"Oh!" said Pooh again. "What is the North Pole?" he asked.
"It's just a thing you discover," said Christopher Robin carelessly,
not being quite sure himself.*

In the world of scientometrics Budapest is a good address. András Schubert – the 1993 Derek John de Solla Price Award winner – lives there. In a peer election procedure** he received 1.5 times more points than the second ranked of 32 nominees. András Schubert plays, obviously, an outstanding role in the community of scientometricians.

András's modesty, however, would never allow him to admit this. He thinks of his scientific activities as fun, a creative game played according to definite rules.

The results are astonishing, as many of his fellow colleagues will attest. And if researchers are judged by the co-authors they keep, András is in excellent company – Tibor Braun, Wolfgang Glänzel and others.

From the very start of the journal *Scientometrics* András Schubert has been an active participant, serving as editor of the Bibliographic Section and creating the valuable indexes for the volumes 1-25 (1978-1992). Due to the clever information

*Milne, A. A.: Winnie-the-Pooh, Penguin-Books, New York, London, Ringwood, Toronto, Auckland, 1992, pp 112-113; Latin translation by Alexander Lenard: Winnie ille Pu, Penguin-Books, New York, London, Ringwood, Markham, Auckland, 1991, p. 82.

**This procedure was only once explained to the readers of *Scientometrics* by Michael J. Moravcsik, when he presented the first Derek John de Solla Price Award to Eugene Garfield in 1984 (*Scientometrics*, 7 (1985) 143-144). The members of the Editorial Advisory Board are asked to nominate candidates for the award. Their names are presented for vote. Each board member has six choices, the top choice is given 6 points, the second choice 5, etc. The nominee who receives the maximum number of total points is declared the winner.

policy of the Library of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences and its Information Science and Scientometrics Research Unit (ISSRU), where András belongs to, it was possible not only to use the databases of the Institute for Scientific Information, Philadelphia (ISI) for information purposes, but also to use these databases in a rearranged and comfortable form as a powerful tool in scientometric research.

Many useful science indicators have been created by the ISSRU-group. Best-known, perhaps, are the Mean Observed Citation Rate (MOCR), Mean Expected Citation Rate (MECR), and Relative Citation Rate (RCR), which have been widely used to assess research institutions as well as compare the scientific activities of nations.

Initially, 32 countries comparable in size to Hungary were investigated in exhaustive detail. The resulting book was risked to be printed only in the far Singapore! What a difference to the immediate success of the paper "Scientometric datafiles. A comprehensive set of indicators on 2649 journals and 96 countries in all major fields and subfields, 1981-1985" (*Scientometrics*, 16 (1989) 3-478). This paper stimulated further research by many scientometricians, and is popularly referred to by insiders as the "Bible".

Furthermore, András is the author of the book *Homogeneous Reaction Kinetics* (Budapest, 1976), editor of the journal *Acta Chimica Hungarica* – MODELS IN CHEMISTRY, launched by him, and a Honorary Member of the Chinese Academy of Management Science.

No doubt, those who voted for András Schubert had in mind these facts, activities and achievements (and many others, e.g. the "world flashes ..."). In addition, those who are happy to know him personally are surely impressed by his cultural personality; his convincing, friendly and respectful style of scientific discussion; his love for his family, his computers, classical music, swimming, Chinese cuisine and Hungarian fish soup, and his charming enthusiasm for collecting everything related to Winnie-the-Pooh, in any edition and language, even in Latin ...

Once upon a time, you know, Winnie-the-Pooh had the idea to start an *own* 'expedition'. Why not discover the *East Pole*? thought Pooh. But soon forgot about it. If he only knew that an East Pole (of scientometrics) indeed exists, and that there his great admirer András Schubert has just been awarded the well-deserved 1993 Derek John de Solla Price medal!