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On the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the birth of Aladár von Buzágh (July 6, 1895–January 20, 1962), we would like to draw attention to his merit as the founder of the colloid chemistry school in Hungary.

Aladár von Buzágh was born in Derencsény, Hungary. He studied chemistry at “Technische Universität” in Budapest and finished his thesis under Prof. István Bugarszky at the “Königlich-Ungarische Pázmány Péter Universität Budapest” (later Lorand Eötvös Universität). Prof. Bugarszky, who initiated a curriculum in colloid chemistry in Budapest, attracted the interest of Aladár von Buzágh to this new field of scientific activity. As his assistant, Buzágh contacted several well-known German scientists, in particular Richard Zsigmondy (1865–1929), Herbert Freundlich (1880–1941) and Wolfgang Ostwald (1883–1943), the latter being the founder of the *Kolloid-Zeitschrift* in 1906 and the *Kolloid-Gesellschaft* in 1922.

During his stay in Germany, von Buzágh was assistant to Ostwald at the University of Leipzig (1926) and to Herbert Freundlich (1928) at the “Kaiser-Wilhelm-Institut für Physikalische Chemie und Elektrochemie” in Berlin-Dahlem (now Fritz-Haber-Institut) of the Max-Planck-Gesellschaft). After returning to Hungary, von Buzágh performed

his “Habilitation” (1932) and then held the position of “Privatdozent”. von Buzágh was appointed member of the Hungarian Academy of Science in 1936.

von Buzágh began teaching colloid science at the University of Budapest in 1939. He was the head of the “Chemisch-technische und kolloid-chemische Abteilung” and in 1941 became “außerordentlicher Professor”, and in 1943, “ordentlicher Professor”. His continuing efforts to establish colloid science in Hungary resulted in the foundation of the Institute of colloid Chemistry at the University of Budapest in 1943. von Buzágh was chairman of the institute until his death in 1962. During his career he received several meritorious awards.

Due to his efforts, schooling in colloid chemistry was obligatory for all students of chemistry and biology in Hungary. Buzághs book (*A Kolloidok Természettudományi Jelentősége*, Budapest 1931) was an important text for teaching and understanding colloid chemistry. A German translation was published 1936 by Th. Steinkopff-Verlag.

In the early 1950s, two assistants of von Buzágh, F. Szántó and B. Várkonyi, were sent to Szeged to nucleate a further institute of colloid science. Under the directorship of Ferenc Szántó († 1989) and Imre Dékány (since 1989), this institute also gained

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a significant international reputation. A additional institute was founded by I. Madi in Debrecen.

von Buzágh maintained a close, personal friendship with Ostwald and Freundlich, and was a member of the Kolloid-Gesellschaft since 1926. In 1931, he became "ständiger Mitarbeiter" of the Kolloid-Zeitschrift and joined the editorial board ("Beirat") in 1944. He was also one of the founders of the Rheological Society.

We find 55 contributions (almost all in german) authored by him in the "Kolloid-Zeitschrift" (from 1906–1913 "Zeitschrift für Chemie und Industrie

der Kolloide", 1914–1961 "Kolloid-Zeitschrift", 1962–1973 "Kolloid-Zeitschrift und Zeitschrift für Polymere", and since 1974, "Colloid Polymer Science").

Buzágh's scientific work covers contributions on the preparation of colloidal dispersions and their properties, studies of Liesegang rings, the kinetics of peptisation, influence of freezing on colloidal dispersions, studies of bentonites and the rheology of bentonite dispersions, and the investigation of humic materials and phenol-formaldehyd resins. Several contributions were related to the

"Bodenkörperregel" (the amount of a colloidally sized material which is peptisized at given conditions increases to a maximum, then decreases as a function of the amount of material present.)

In 1929, von Buzágh began his studies on adhesion which are particularly connected with his name.

Aladár von Buzágh was befriended and respected by many German scientists. It is a pleasure to report that friendly relationships between German and Hungarian colleagues have survived all political troubles and have only intensified over the years.