

EDITOR'S PAGE

TEN YEARS OF *OIL SHALE*

The sudden change of 1990 in world politics turned upside down the way of life in the Soviet Union as well as in the whole of previous socialist Europe. The political crisis brought about an especially big chaos in East European science.

Researches in oil shale and oil shale technologies have traditionally been one of the cornerstones of Estonian science. For that reason Estonia turned into a centre of oil shale research in the Soviet Union and as a natural continuation in 1984 the all-Union Russian-language scientific-technical journal *Goryutchie Slantsy* (Oil Shale) was founded in Tallinn at the Institute of Chemistry of the Estonian Academy of Sciences financed by the Academy of Sciences of the Soviet Union.

When Estonia became independent the journal naturally lost its subsidies. The editor-in-chief Academician Ilmar Õpik and the director of the Institute of Chemistry Prof. Jüri Kann took a bold decision to reform the existent quality journal into the only international scientific-technical journal in the English language in the world devoted only to the problems of oil shale. They employed a new editorial staff with scientific degrees.

This optimistic team faced many difficulties:

1. The financial problems were the biggest. The Estonian Academy of Sciences did not want to keep the journal in their hands and the Institute of Chemistry of the Estonian Academy of Sciences accepted the responsibility to the subscribers and the editors. For eight years the editorial office was in uncertainty of monetary resources for the following year. Nevertheless, they managed thanks to the sponsorship of Estonian oil shale industry and the Estonian science and environment foundations, also thanks to the support from different governments and finally thanks to the Estonians living abroad. Since 1999 the publication of the journal has been subsidized by state budget through the Estonian Academy Publishers. The former problems with paper etc. seem ridiculous today!!



A. Kogerman, H. Uibopuu, N. Kareva,
I. Õpik, A. Lemmik

2. Ten years ago it took courage to start issuing an English-language journal in Estonia. One sixth of the world spoke and wrote mainly in Russian then. The editors began to study the new language together with the authors. We agreed that for the time being it would be sufficient for us to use the so-called technical English correctly and intelligibly.

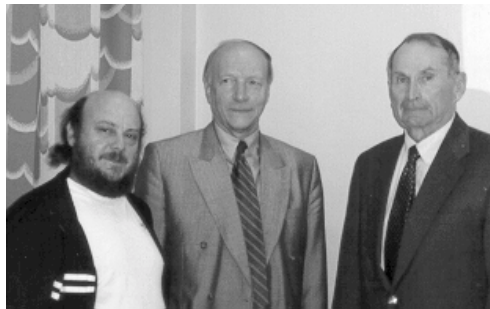


H. Uibopuu, P. M. Sööt, A. Kogerman

3. Problems arise especially in regards to establishing international ties with the journal and creating a world-wide reputation for the journal and involving international authors. We have been assisted in this by all members of Editorial Board, both former Soviet scientists and new ones from different parts of the world. Besides Estonia the authors of our journal come today from Russia, China, Jordan, Mongolia, Turkey and Hungary, thus from almost all the countries where research in oil shale is dealt with. Unfortunately, we have no contacts with Canadian and Brazilian oil shale research workers.

We wish to thank a member of the Editorial Board Prof. Jialin Qian from Beijing who has assembled authors from China and Mongolia.

We were offered voluntary help by Ph.D. Peet Mati Sööt, a fuel specialist of Estonian descent living in the USA. He worked with us intensively for a couple of years and up to now he has looked through *OIL SHALE* articles via Internet. He has been of great assistance to us. Certainly, our command of English requires further improvement. We have also been encouraged in our work by members of the Editorial Board Dr. C. F. Knutson and Dr. J. R. Dyni, USA.



T. Minster, R. Raudsep, J. R. Dyni



A. Soone, J. Kann

The respectability of the journal was enhanced by the fact that in 1994 the **ISI** included *OIL SHALE* in the list of its cited journals.

Now *OIL SHALE* is indexed in the **Science Citation Index**[®] and in following **ISI**[®] products:

SciSearch[®],

ISI Alerting[®] **Services**sm,

Current Contents[®]/**Engineering, Computing and Technology**.

4. Great changes in Estonian publishing technology have caused us considerable problems. It means that besides other difficulties we had to get adjusted quickly to completely new computer methods of publishing magazines.



J.-M. Punning, Ü. Niine

In the course of years Natalya Kareva, the Russian language editor of the journal, has become a qualified computer specialist.

The publishing of the journal offers us, former research workers, a lot of creative potential from several different aspects.

Little by little we have intervened in Estonian oil shale policy.

We have learned about difficulties arising in Australia at the attempts to put the TACIUK technology to operation. Estonian long-term experience in applying to analogous technology might prove useful in solving them. In the past, we met some difficulties with solid-heat-carrier large-scale units. A special body of experts was named to decide about the changes in the technology to adjust it to the industrial production at the SHC-3000 units erected in Narva. The SUNCOR engineers could approach their Estonian colleagues to arrange the large-scale modelling of the process in Narva.



A. Krichko

We have made our work more interesting by making up special issues as we find that the ecological processes connected with Estonian oil shale industry deserve to be introduced to the whole world.

We have rummaged in archives and, according to our capabilities, translated into English high-standard oil shale research works published only in Russian. It was possible thanks to the subsidy from the Estonian Science Foundation. For students and schoolchildren



J. R. Dyni, T. Purre, I. Rooks, T. Minster



R. Raudsep, I. Õpik, A. Raukas,
Ü. Niine, Ü. Lille

we have placed to Internet Ph.D. M. Koel's review *Estonian oil shale* because we perceived their interest in oil shale.

At the end of the last year we were glad to learn that our website <http://gaia.gi.ee/oilshale> has been selected as a featured site in Lightspan's StudyWeb® as one of the best educational resources on the Web by their researchers. StudyWeb® is one of the Internet's premier sites for educational resources for students and teachers. If you are unfamiliar with it you can check out at <http://www.studyweb.com> and read about oil shale in their Science

: Physical Science : Energy : Energy Fossil Fuels section.

Our colleagues from the USA and Israel are ready to supplement **OIL SHALE** Website with their own popular articles on world oil shale.

The Editorial Office wishes to find a partner who would sponsor our idea to draw up in the Internet a bibliography about the existent oil shale research work. Although oil shale research is at a low ebb at the moment, this is not for long. We do not want to let sink into oblivion the ample research work of Russian publications, which is still in our power to preserve and make public.

Aili KOGERMAN
Executive Editor