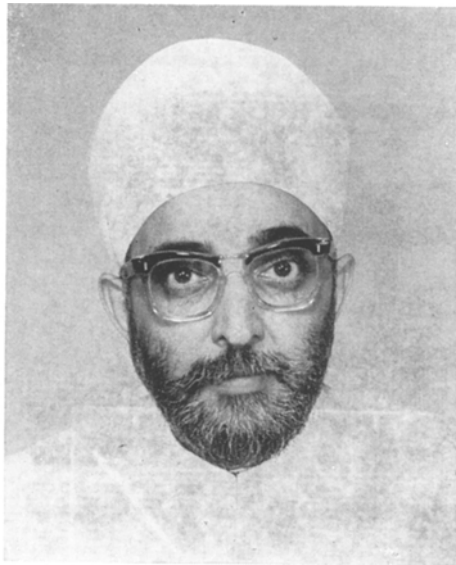


IN MEMORIAM



Professor M. D. KARKHANAVALA

Dr. Minocher Dadabhoy Karkhanavala was born on 29. 11. 1926. He grew up as a deeply religious and decent person, and applied himself to the philosophy of the faith he professed with devotion. His objectivity was apparent in whatever he pursued, science or education. He himself strived to maintain a life of kind dignity and meticulous efficiency, and expected the same from those working with him.

Dr. Karkhanavala graduated from Bombay University, and specialized in Inorganic Chemistry at the State University of New York. He received his Ph. D. from Pennsylvania State University for his work on "The thermal expansion of glasses".

He joined the Atomic Energy Establishment of India in 1953 and rose gradually to be the Director of the Chemical Group, Bhabha Atomic Research Centre. Though he was basically a solid-state chemist, his contributions in the field of research and development are manifold. Because of his qualities as a leader, he commanded respectful cooperation from his seniors and juniors alike.

He loved instruments. He would make all-out efforts to equip the laboratories with the most modern instruments. He encouraged the designing and fabrication of equipment required for specific use in the laboratory. It was Dr. Karkhanavala who seriously started thermal analysis in India in 1956 by acquiring some equipment and building the rest in the laboratory with his own participation and guidance. In spite of being extremely busy, he could find time to discuss problems, personal or scientific, with his colleagues, even the most junior.

He had more than 100 publications, a large number being in the field of thermal analysis.

Apart from involvement in the normal work, his outside commitments were enormous. He was associated with the teaching of postgraduate courses at Bombay University and with the upgrading of the educational programmes in schools. He took a very keen interest and was a driving force in the activities of various organisations, such as the Indian Chemical Society, the Maharashtra Academy of Science, the Indian Thermal Analysis Society, and several others. He was the founder-President of the Indian Thermal Analysis Society from 1977.

He was a council member of the International Confederation on Thermal Analysis, and a Regional Editor of Thermal Analysis Abstracts, as well as the Journal of Thermal Analysis.

Dr Karkhanavala was a very decent, extremely humane person and everybody enjoyed his friendship and guidance immensely. He spared no pains to help others even in personal problems. He read a lot and was very well informed about current events, science, politics, philosophy and sports. He loved to talk, and could speak on very rare subjects with authority, keeping his audience spellbound. He had an extraordinary memory and would not forget an event, a number or a face.

He died on 17. 11. 79 through a fatal road accident. He has left behind an aged mother, a wife, a son and a daughter, and a very large number of friends and admirers.

V. V. Deshpande