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Curriculum Vitae, Part B

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Otto Vogl CV, Part B



Drawing by Karlis Adamsons

Otto Vogl contributed in numerous ways to Polymer Science and Technology. His academic achievements have been recorded in this Journal, Vol. 38, 2293 (2000) and are now available on the web sites <http://people.umass.edu/vogl/> and http://works.bepress.com/otto_vogl

What is not so much public knowledge are his contributions to the polymer industry. Before returning to academia in 1970 at the University of Massachusetts, Vogl worked as a research chemist at E.I. Du Pont de Nemours & Co for over 13 years. Later he had leading positions in several polymer related Industrial companies in various capacities.

At DuPont he invented the polymerization of higher aliphatic aldehydes, especially the syntheses of their isotactic polymers. He later concentrated his work on the polymers of trichloroacetaldehyde (chloral) where he discovered a process of living polymerization that is based on manipulating the ceiling temperature of polymerization to cause controlled anionic polymerization. He called it cryotachensic polymerization. The

attempted commercialization of polychloral at DuPont advanced to the development state of polychloral production. Ultimately 8 chemists and engineers were involved before the attempted commercialization was discontinued.

As Professor at the University of Massachusetts he was instrumental in the creation of CUMIRP, the Center of University of Massachusetts/Industry cooperation on Research of Polymers within the Department of Polymer Science and Engineering. CUMIRP was the first Center of University/Industry cooperation in Polymer Science in the U.S.. Vogl organized the network of the industrial participants and became the first co-director of CUMIRP.

From 1975, Vogl served for 3 years as the Chairman of the Scientific Advisory Committee to the President Italo Trapasso of the Plastic Materials Company of Montedison SA, Milan, Italy. He was assigned to restructure the research activities and to organize the Research Division. He was responsible for the appointment of DiDrusco as the Vice President of Research and Paolo Galli as the Director of Research at the company's facilities in Ferrara. Within a year of Vogl's reorganization of the research organization the high yield catalyst for the polymerization of propylene was discovered in Ferrara.

In 1983/4 Otto Vogl was the Chairman of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Board to the President, of Enichimica, Milan. It involved the activities of Enichemica in research, development and marketing of PE and PVC.

In Austria, Otto Vogl was from 1988-1993 a Member of the Supervisory Board, Chemie Linz & Co., Linz, Austria. For PCD, Otto Vogl was responsible for the appointment of Manfred Raetzsch as Research Director. From 1991-2000 Vogl was his Scientific

Advisor at the PCD Corp, later Borealis (PP & PE), Linz, Austria and became its honorary Research Director, in 1997.

From 1991-1993, Vogl was a Member of the Advisory Committee, Austrian Research Institute for Chemistry & Physics, Vienna, Austria. Since 1989 he has been is a Member of the International Board of the Doppler Scientific Research Foundation, Vienna, Austria. More recently (2005), he was appointed a Member of the International Board of the Society for Technology Politics of the Government of Austria, Vienna, Austria. Recently Otto Vogl was awarded the Medal of Honor for his contributions to chemistry in the Republic of Austria by the Austrian Chemical Society.

In the early 1990's Otto Vogl also functioned as Scientific Advisor to the Executive Vice President, Kyoto Research Institute, Kyoto, Japan.

Over the years, Otto Vogl was a consultant for Eastman Tennessee, Eastman Kodak, Dow, DuPont, Alcon Chemicals, Shell Chemicals, Merck, Sharpe & Dome and he was on the Advisory Committee on Polymers for the Vice President of Research of Westinghouse. He also advised a number of Japanese polymer related companies.

One room in the City Museum of the City of Traiskirchen, Austria, the "Dr. Vogl Zimmer", is dedicated to Otto Vogl's achievements <http://www.traiskirchen.gv.at/html/stadtmuseum.html>