

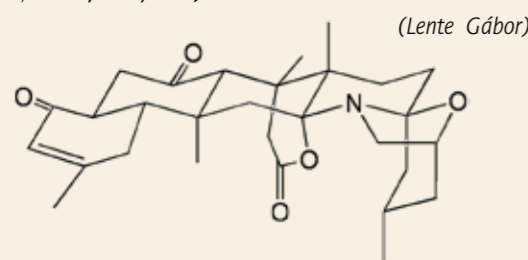
Today's programme

Students		Mentors and Scientific Observers		Guests	
06:30-07:45	Breakfast	07:00-09:00	Breakfast	08:00-09:00	Breakfast
08:00	Departure for Eger	08:30-16:30	Arbitration	09:00-18:00	Visit to Eger and Szalajka Valley
09:30-11:15	Sightseeing in Eger	12:00-13:00	Lunch	18:00-19:00	Dinner at the hotel
12:15-12:35	Travel on the small train in Szalajka Valley	18:00-19:00	Dinner		
13:45-15:30	Lunch	20:00-	4th Jury Meeting		
15:30-17:45	Free time				
18:00	Departure for Gödöllő				
20:00-22:00	Dinner				
22:00-02:00	Disco				

Molecule of the day

Norzoanthamine, an alkaloid originally isolated from the sea anemone species *Zoanthus*, is a promising drug candidate for the treatment of leukemia. However, its natural availability is very limited. This problem has been overcome by Japanese researchers who developed a synthetic route to norzoanthamine from commercially available chemicals. The synthetic route involves 41 individual steps and gives an overall yield of 3.5%. Although this might seem a rather low yield overall, the average step-by-step yield was an impressive 92%.

(*Science*, 2004, 305, 495)



Though old chemists never die, just fail to react, let us see some of their last words:

1. And now the tasting test...
2. ...first acid then water...
3. Let us see the detonating gas problem...

(collection of J. Verhagen)

Weather

It seems that at last today the weather will favor us. Let's hope it will be a nice sunny day!

Colophon

Catalyzer

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Editorial team: Darvas Mária, Jagasics Éva, Magyarfalvi Gábor,
Stirling András, Túri László, Vass Márton,
Jon Baker

Layout: Csordás Zoltán, Pál Attila

Photographer: Gilicze Bálint

Press: Prime Rate Ltd. Budapest

Useful expressions

Can I have some wine?

Red/White

Sweet/Semi-sweet/Dry/Semi-dry

My legs hurt

Let's sit down

What are you doing tonight?

That's none of your business

Would you like to see my stamp collection?

It's party time

Would you dance with me?

What happened?

I love you

Ihatok egy kis bort?

Vörös/Fehér

Édes/Félfédes/Száraz/Félszáraz

Fáj a lábam

Üljünk le

Mit csinálsz ma este?

Semmi közöd hozzá

Megnézed a bélyeggyűjteményem?

Buli van

Táncolsz velem?

Mi történt?

Szeretlek

Curiosity of the day

Winkler Lajos, the famous analytical chemist, after a long day was going home at early morning. He noticed a street sweeper as he swept back and forth, to and fro the dust, making a big dust cloud but obviously without any result in cleaning the way. Winkler warned him: Sir, you leave all the dust on the road! He answered resignedly: And what about the dust you have breathed in? Taken aback and defeated, Winkler withdrew, but later he often invoked this story as an example of a clear analytical chemistry way of thinking.

Catalyzer

Issue No. 9 – Saturday 19 July 2008

Eger, Szalajka-völgy

Today's program takes us to the North-Eastern part of Hungary where we can have a glimpse of a famous spot well-known to all Hungarians. Eger is a variegated city near the Bükk Mountains and the river Eger. During the early Middle Ages the area was inhabited by German, Avar, and Slavonic tribes. It was taken over by the Hungarians in the 10th century. St. István, the first Christian king of Hungary, founded an episcopal see in Eger. The main event which gives the town its importance in Hungarian history is the battle fought against the conquering Ottomans in 1552. (This has inspired an adventure-filled novel by Géza Gárdonyi entitled "Egri csillagok" – "The Stars of Eger"). A tiny complement of 2000 defenders achieved a victory that is still often recounted in Hungary. The medieval castle offers a wide range of programs and tournaments; delicious dishes help revitalize fatigued visitors.

Eger itself is not only famous for its battles but has a peaceful side as well. The immense Main Church and the impressive Curia of Archbishops increase the splendour of the city; in addition to the Minaret and the Lyceum, they are well worth a visit. There are a few more intriguing places to visit, such as the Turkish Baths and other spas. One is almost obliged to taste the reputed local wine, Egri Bikavér (Bull's Blood). This fragrant, aromatic and rather harsh wine is renowned the world over; consequently it has become a hungaricum.

There is a valley not so far from Eger, called Szalajka. Its name refers to a forgotten profession, glaziers who used potash (K_2CO_3 , Latin sal alcalicus) to make glass. The bed of the local stream is dammed for the sake of a school of trout that are bred here. The valley is also known for its historical excavation in 1947, when a complete prehistoric cave was uncovered. The unique findings in Cave Szeleta provided an insight into the life of Cro Magnon Man, who appeared about 35,000 years ago. The barns of Castle Pallavicini are the home of Lipicai stud horses, where visitors can

observe an exhibition presenting everything about these beautiful animals.

The traditions of the palóc ethnic group are preserved in Hollókő, a lovely village consisting of a single street. Girls and boys proudly wearing traditional costumes are the symbol of this region, which, together with its peasant houses, were named by UNESCO as a World Heritage Site in 1987.

(Oláh Máté)





Interview – World traditions



Yesterday we visited the cradle of Hungarian folklore to show you how rich it is and inspired by this certainly all of us want to get acquainted with other traditions as well.

Argentina

Q: What are the most famous traditions of your country?

A: Well, you probably know the tango very well, which is a beautiful dance originating from Argentina. We are really proud

of it?

Q: What else can you mention, any traditional food or drink that you have in Argentina for instance?

A: Yes we have the mate which is a kind of tea that was drunk originally drunk by shepherds.

Greece

Q: Can you mention any tradition that is specific of Greece, a thing that all visitors must try?

A: Nightlife... we are famous for it. And also laughter, laughter is everywhere in Greece. But to talk seriously we are famous for our hospitality.

Q: And can you tell me for instance a kind of food that you would offer for a visitor?

A: Suflaki, which is a kind of meat, it is delicious.

Malaysia

Q: Could you tell me what is the most famous tradition or holiday in your country?

A: It is probably Hari Raya Aidilfitri, a two-day-long annual religious festival. On these days we go to the mosque in the morning and then eat delicious dishes at home. Everything is calm that time of the year the streets are so abandoned on these days that one could even sleep in the middle of them.



Apology

In the issue of 15th of July I have made mistake in one of the interviews for which I would like to apologize.

First of all, the Iran group told me that they were very happy to be here at the Olympiad, no matter what their results would be.

On the other hand, in the interview with the group of Pakistan and Iran I stated that the Pakistan group had been preparing for one year, which was a misunderstood statement, but of course, they did not prepare more than two weeks in an organized manner, following the rules of the Olympiad.

Once more I apologize for making this mistake.

Did you know...

that poppy seed is a mainstay of Central European sweets despite the use of the plant as a source of narcotics? The dry seeds used in the kitchen do not contain high amounts of psychoactive alkaloids, so the cakes are safe to consume, although sensitive drug screening procedures can give positive results after eating too many poppy sweets. Most illegal drugs are made from opium, the dried sap of the unripe poppy pods. It was a Hungarian pharmacist working in rural Hungary, Kabay János, who developed and patented the extraction of morphine alkaloids from dry poppy straw in the 1920s. This process avoided the use of opium and the seeds could still be harvested. Hungary is today still a significant producer of legal morphine alkaloids.

...and that...

it was a professor of chemistry working at the faculty of veterinary science in Budapest who first assembled a galvanic cell that provides electricity from an endothermic reaction? This finding of Bugarszky István was an important step in establishing free energy as the key quantity when assessing the spontaneity of reactions. Question 26 in the preparatory problems is based on the experiments of a graduate student working on this reaction at the time. It is rather unusual today, but the student, Dávid Klein, published his results alone as a single author.

(Magyarfalvi Gábor)