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From the Editors

Some of the most successful issues of *Heteroatom Chemistry* have been those dedicated to main group chemists to celebrate noteworthy occasions. You will recall the names of our esteemed colleagues who have been honored in this manner: Jan Michalski, vol. 2, February 1991; Rolf Appel, vol. 2, April 1991; Marianne Baudler, vol. 2, June 1991; Alexander V. Kirsanov, vol. 2, August 1991; Leopold Horner, vol. 2, October 1991; Ernest L. Eliel, vol. 3, February 1992; Herbert C. Brown, vol. 3, June 1992; Yao-Zeng Huang, vol. 3, December 1992; James Cullan Martin, vol. 4, June 1993; Antonino Fava, vol. 4, October 1993; Adrian Gibbs Brook, vol. 5, June 1994; Shigeru Oae, vol. 6, issues 1–4, 1995; Louis D. Quin, vol. 7, issues 5 and 6, 1996; and William E. McEwen, vol. 8, issues 5 and 6, 1997, and vol. 9, issues 1 and 2, 1998.

Two additional well-known main group chemists will be honored by dedicated issues of *Heteroatom Chemistry* during 1998. They are discussed in the following.

Heinrich Nöth

You may not believe it, but it's true: Heinz Nöth, always on the go, will become 70 in 1998. He started his scientific career with a Ph.D. thesis about the hydrides of third main group elements in the group of Egon Wiberg at the Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität. He continued with both these topics for all of his career and contributed many seminal articles on hydrides and on almost every aspect of boron and aluminum chemistry (see his 240 "Contributions to the Chemistry of Boron"). However, these topics alone would not satisfy his ambitions for chemistry research, and thus we find practically every main group element in the titles of his up to now 605 scientific articles. Many of them document national as well as international research cooperations, and chemists from all over the world have been guests in Nöth's group.

In 1956, as a Research Officer with ICI at Billingham, Nöth successfully searched for profitable uses of CaH_2. After returning to the University of Munich, he became Associate Professor in 1965 and he was appointed Full Professor at the Philipps-Universität, Marburg, in 1966. Three years later he was called upon to take the former Chair of Egon Wiberg. Of his many awards and honors, the degrees Doctor honoris causa of the University of Marburg and Leeds may be mentioned.

Besides research and teaching, an incredible number of activities, all for the benefit of science, fill Nöth's life:

- Member of the International Advisory Board of *Journal of Organometallic Chemistry* and *Synthesis and Reactivity in Inorganic and Metal-organic Chemistry*
- Member of the Scientific Advisory Board of *Cheminform*
- Editor of *Chemische Berichte*
- Editor and Co-editor of *Zeitschrift für Naturforschung,* Section B
- Member of the Editorial Board of the *Journal of Chemical Society, Dalton Transaction*
- Head of Advisory Board and Regional Advisory Editor of *Nachrichten aus Chemie and Technik*
- Chairman of the Advisory Board of the Federation of European Chemical Societies
- Member of the NATO Science Advisory Panel
- Chairman of the GDCh and Federal Committee on Chemical Education
- Member of the Science Committee Gesellschaft der Naturforscher und Ärzte
- Member of the Kuratorium GMELIN Institute

Finally, he was President of the Gesellschaft Deutscher Chemiker twice. During the second pe-

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riod, he greatly helped the German chemists from East and West to integrate into one community.

No matter from which field of activity you may remember Nöth, we are sure that your memories are pleasant ones. Why not write a fine article dedicated to him on the occasion of his seventieth birthday? If it is from the field of main group chemistry and you submit it before March 15, 1998, and provided the referees find it acceptable, we will include it in a special issue.

Robert R. Holmes

After completing his work for the Ph.D. degree in Herbert C. Brown's group at Purdue University, Robert R. Holmes began his academic career at Carnegie Mellon Institute of Technology (now Carnegie Mellon University) where one aspect of his work led to the formation of cage compounds $P_4(NMe)_6$ and $S_4P_4(NMe)_6$, analogous to the adamantyl forms of P_4O_6 and P_4O_{10}, respectively.

From 1962–1966, he worked at Bell Telephone Laboratories in Murray Hill, NJ, where he continued to develop the structural and spectroscopic chemistry of phosphorus chlorofluorides.

Professor Holmes moved to the University of Massachusetts in Amherst in 1966, where he has explored the structural and molecular dynamics of nonrigid pentacoordinate molecules of main group elements. This led to the determination of structures extending from trigonal bipyramidal to square pyramidal for five-coordinated cyclic derivatives of phosphorus, arsenic, antimony, silicon, germanium, and tin. Additional studies have included a quantitative assessment of displacement coordinates showing a structural preference for the Berry exchange process as a mechanism for pseudorotation, the role of pentacoordinate phosphorus in nucleophilic substitution reactions, formulation of new organooxotin clusters, studies of pentaoxyphosphoranes, and isoelectronic anionic silicates with ring sizes varying from five to eight membered. Computational chemistry at various levels has been utilized to supplement the various above-mentioned studies.

Of course, most main group chemists are aware of the fact that Professor Holmes is the Editor-in-Chief of *Phosphorus, Sulfur and Silicon* and the Consultant Editor of *Main Group Chemistry News*.

We urge you to submit manuscripts dedicated to Professor Holmes on the occasion of his seventieth birthday. Such articles should be sent to one of the editors of *Heteroatom Chemistry* by June 15, 1998.

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