
From the Editors

We all feel great sorrow over the passing of Shigeru Oae. Not only was he a great chemist, but he was also an even greater friend. His numerous acts of kindness and helpfulness to chemists throughout the world will long be remembered.

Professor Oae was the Far East Editor of *Heteroatom Chemistry* from 1990 through 1999 (issues 1–10). His contributions to the journal were prodigious, ranging from submission of many personal research articles to the promotion of the journal to main group chemists throughout the world. On the occasion of his 75th birthday in 1995, we honored him by inviting chemists to send us articles dedicated to him. We received so many of these articles that it required four issues of the journal to accommodate all of them. An extensive review of his accomplishments was published in pages vii–xi of Volume 6, issue number 1 of the journal.

Although he formally retired from the position of Professor of Chemistry at the University of Tsukuba in 1983 at the age of 63, he was able to devote another 17 years of distinguished service to the profession of chemistry before his death on May 3, 2000. His productivity during the years of his “retirement” was probably greater than that of most professors of chemistry during their entire careers. He was the founding editor of *Reviews on Heteroatom Chemistry*, the first issue being dated 1988. Issue No. 21, dated 1999, was published recently. Professors Atsuyoshi Ohno, Naomichi Furukawa, and Tadashi Okuyama served as associate editors of the journal for various periods of time, and they are presently the coeditors of issue No. 22, a Memorial Issue for Professor Oae that will be published in the near future. Professor Oae was also the initial organizer of the ICHAC conferences. ICHAC-1 was held in Kobe, Japan, in July of 1987, and about 650 main group chemists were in attendance. The success of this meeting convinced the participants that ICHAC meetings should continue into the future and become the central meeting in which all areas of main group chemistry would be

covered. Because of this, ICHAC-6 will be held in Lodz, Poland, in the summer of 2001, with Professor Marian Mikolajczyk as the Chairman. A Memorial Symposium honoring Professor Oae will be held at ICHAC-6, supported in part by the International Council on Main Group Chemistry (ICMGC, Inc.). He was one of the founding members of ICMGC and its first President.

Following his “retirement” in 1983, Professor Oae continued his research on the subject of “Ligand Coupling Reactions within Hypervalent Species,” in collaboration with new and former students. This work was carried out in part at the Okayama University of Science. He also established the Institute of Heteroatom Chemistry in Osaka, which has been a meeting place for main group chemists during the past 17 years. Up until the last few months of his life, he functioned as an ambassador to chemists worldwide. May he rest in peace. He will be sorely missed.

During the last few months of Professor Oae’s life, illness made it necessary for him to seek the help of Professor Atsuyoshi Ohno to carry on the work of the Far East Editor of *Heteroatom Chemistry*. Professor Ohno accepted this responsibility with his usual helpfulness and expertise. We are very grateful to him for his help in this regard.

When it finally became apparent that Professor Oae would no longer be able to function as the Far East Editor, a group of Japanese main group chemists suggested that Professor Juzo Nakayama be offered the position. We accepted this suggestion with enthusiasm, and, beginning with issue No. 2 of Volume 11 of *Heteroatom Chemistry*, Professor Nakayama has been listed on the inside front cover of the journal as the Far East Editor. He is exceptionally well qualified for this position. He has international recognition as an expert in organosulfur chemistry, and he was the winner of the ICMGC Award for Excellence in Main Group Chemistry Research in 1996. He earned the Bachelor of Science degree at Saitama University in 1965 and the Doctor of Science degree

from The University of Tokyo in 1973, his mentor being Professor Osamu Simamura. He was employed by the Taisho Pharmaceutical Concern from 1965–1968. He was a Postdoctoral Fellow at The Institute of Physical and Chemical Research (Riken) 1973–1975, and a Postdoctoral Fellow in Professor Paul D. Bartlett's group at Texas Christian University in 1977–1978. He returned to Saitama University as an Assistant Professor (1975–1986), and advanced to the position of Associate Professor (1986–1992) and then to Professor (1992–present). He has published more than 200 articles in leading journals on many phases of sulfur and selenium chemistry. It comes as no surprise that his performance as Far East Editor of *Heteroatom Chemistry* for the past few months has been outstanding. Among other activities, he is the chief organizer of a special issue of the journal to be

dedicated to Emeritus Professor Naoki Imamoto of The University of Tokyo on the occasion of his 72nd birthday. Tentatively, this dedicated issue will be No. 4 of Volume 12. A formal announcement of this event will appear soon in *Heteroatom Chemistry*. It is of interest that Professor Imamoto and Professor Oae are considered by many Japanese chemists to be the “fathers of heteroatom chemistry” in Japan.

We are indeed fortunate to have Juzo Nakayama as the new Far East Editor of *Heteroatom Chemistry*. We look forward with pleasure to many years of association with him in the production of the journal.

William E. McEwen
Editor-in-Chief
Alfred Schmidpeter
European Editor