

PREFACE

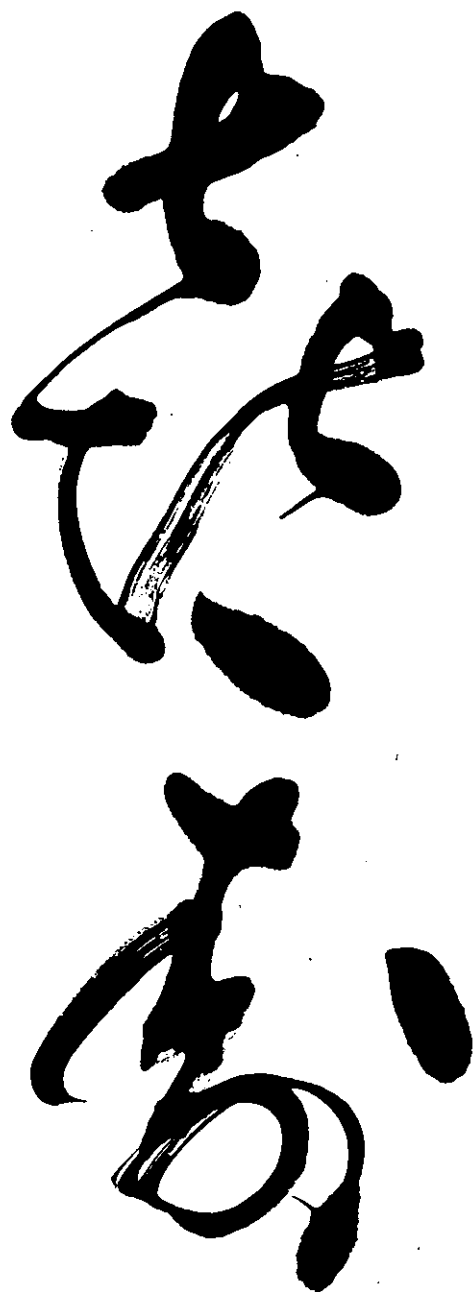
It is a great pleasure as well as an honor for me to be able to publish a special issue of HETEROCYCLES dedicated to Professor Emeritus Tetsuo Nozoe on the occasion of his 77th birthday.

Since the 77th birthday has no special meaning for non-Japanese, I should like to take this opportunity to briefly explain the significance. In Japan it has been a traditional custom to celebrate birthdays of the ages 60 ("Kanreki"), 70 ("Koki"), 77 ("Kiju"), 80 ("Sanju"), 88 ("Beiju"), and 99 ("Hakuju") for various reasons.

The joyous connotation of the age 77, or "Ki (happiness)-ju (felicitation)", is as follows. As shown on the following page in Japanese calligraphy, there are approximately 16 styles for writing the letter "Ki" or 喜 which range from "Sekibun" to "Kaisho" (printed style) to "Sosho" (cursive style). This last style is used in the two characters designating "Ki-ju" shown on the first page. This was written by the famous calligraphist Mr. Yoichi Watanabe. The character "Ki" written in Sosho style consists of three parts, the top, the bottom-right and bottom-left, which if written as separate words, looks like the number 77 written in Sosho style.

I would like to express my sincere congratulations to Professor Nozoe and hope that he continues to be as active as he is for many more years to come.


Tetsuji Kametani



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