

PREFACE

It is a pleasure to contribute a preface to this volume which is dedicated to Professor T. Nozoe on the occasion of his 77th birthday. I have followed his work since my days as a graduate student, and have had the privilege to know him personally. He is one of those rare individuals who can serve as a model for later generations to follow.

Professor Nozoe has been extremely successful in several areas. In research his brilliant work on troponoids has built a bridge between the mature field of natural products chemistry and synthesis and the newer field of non-benzenoid aromatic chemistry. This has stimulated many other research groups to explore this field. At the same time, he has trained a large number of coworkers who now help to form the backbone of Japanese organic chemistry. This legacy of chemistry and of chemists would by itself be a unique gift from one man to the following generations. However, he has made other contributions.

Professor Nozoe has built the School of Organic Chemistry at Tohoku University into one of the premier departments of the world. He has assembled a remarkable faculty, inspired by the same high standards which he sets for himself. Further, Professor Nozoe has been the major architect of the bridge which now strongly unites Japanese organic chemistry to that in the rest of the world. In his role as host for foreign chemists visiting Japan and in his own world travels he has shown that his high chemical standards and deep interest in research are accompanied by great personal warmth and concern for the welfare of others. This attractive combination has inspired the mutual respect and friendship which joins the organic chemists of Japan to their

fellow chemists throughout the world.

Let me close by wishing Professor Nozoe a Happy Birthday from one of his admirers.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Ronald Breslow".

Ronald Breslow
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