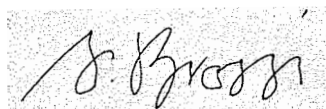


PREFACE of the Special Issue “30 Years Heterocycles”

During the late 1960s Professor Tetsuji Kametani, then at Tohoku University in Sendai, Japan, visited the United States and came to see me at Hoffmann La-Roche in Nutley, New Jersey, where I was Director of Chemistry. He wanted my opinion on the conception and publication of a new journal with the title 'Heterocycles' that would cover original accounts of research on organic and physical chemistry of synthetic compounds and natural products having a heterocyclic system. I felt highly honored to be included amongst Professor Kametani's circle of friends, and both liked the man very much and admired his eloquent work on isoquinoline alkaloids, an area of chemistry that I found particularly interesting. I knew that the debut of the journal would be difficult, and the first issue that appeared in print during the autumn of 1973 was indeed modest. I believed, however, that in due time and with the help of eminent scientists, such as Professors Keiichiro Fukumoto, its present Editor, and Masatomo Hamana who edits the section on total synthesis, that the world scientific community would both accept Heterocycles as a valuable source of scientific information and use it to publish novel accounts of work in its field of focus. Now, 30 years later, a highly polished Heterocycles with a distinguished International Advisory Board that covers 14 countries has achieved this priceless goal.

From the point of view of the history of science, transmission is as essential as discovery (George Sarton)



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Bethesda, July 2003

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