

## In memory of Professor Ugo Croatto

### *A testimony*



Professor Ugo Croatto, the founder of this Journal, died on January 11 this year. He was born in Trieste – then a part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire – on November 2, 1914. After spending his youth in his hometown, he moved to Padua where he fulfilled his university requirements, graduated in Chemistry in 1936, and continued his academic career at that university.

His earliest research involved the physico-chemical inorganic field, namely the structure/conductivity relationships in rare-earth metal non-stoichiometric mixed oxides. He worked at first with the most qualified research institutes in Germany and, after World War II, in England.

In the framework of the Italian National Research Council he took up responsible positions on National Committees and was Director of Research Institutes, devoting himself to the synthesis of radioisotope-labelled (carrier-free) molecules, to isotopic exchange kinetics in coordination compounds, to the synthesis and reactivity of coordination compounds of f-block elements, and to the study of novel inorganic materials based on the most up-to-date physico-chemical methods.

He was a member of several International Conference Boards in Chemistry, such as the International Conference of Coordination Compounds and the International Conference of Organometallic Compounds. In his research activity he greatly fostered scientific collaboration with prominent international laboratories. He was endowed with broad intellectual interests, sharp insight and outstanding promotional ability compounded with a bright and outspoken character. His acute intelligence gave him a remarkable capacity to set problems within the framework of a broad-minded perspective, which allowed him to reach rapid synthesis and decision. He had, in the highest degree, the gift of establishing good relationships with other people.

At this sorrowful juncture, my recollection goes back to the earliest years of our strict collaboration in the editorial activity of this Journal which was founded in 1966. That period of great activity led – among other things – to important International Conferences of Inorganic and Organometallic Chemistry.

After a few years the Journal had reached such a high renown and diffusion that it was no longer possible to manage it in an autonomous way. It was then happily decided to merge it with Elsevier Sequoia S.A., and its active staff in Lausanne. When I succeeded Professor Croatto in 1989 in the editorial management of the Journal, I was aware of the important and heavy chore of continuing an endeavour that had been started by a leader of great intellect. Based on your steady teaching, dear Ugo, and trying to continue your commitment to the Journal, I now assume upon myself the burden of thrusting *Inorganica Chimica Acta* to ever higher levels in the international scientific community.

Deeply moved in my heart and in recollecting the most significant steps we shared in founding and leading the Journal, I am sure of interpreting the feelings of the Editorial Board, and of the Lausanne and Padua staff if I now hail you: farewell, dear Ugo!

Professor Umberto Belluco  
*Editor-in-Chief*