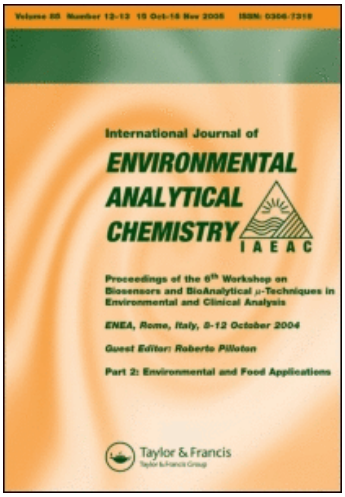

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Werner Haerdi

On the occasion of his 60th birthday

On 5 October 1987, Professor Werner Haerdi, Head of the Department of Inorganic, Analytical and Applied Chemistry, will celebrate his 60th birthday.

Professor W. Haerdi was born in Monthey (Valais, Switzerland), and did his secondary studies in Sion. After studying two years in the Forest Economy Division at Zürich Polytechnical School, he moved to study chemistry at the University of Geneva where he obtained his diploma in 1955. He did his Ph.D. thesis, in the Institute of Analytical Chemistry of the same University, under the supervision of Professor D. Monnier, and he was awarded his degree in 1958 for this thesis entitled: "L'elute de la nioxime et son application au microdosage du nickel". This work was the stepping stone to a long career dedicated to the development of all aspects of Analytical Chemistry, both through research and teaching.

His very sociable character led him quickly to play an appreciated role in the teaching duties of the Institute of Analytical Chemistry of Geneva, both for the organization of students' laboratories and for theoretical courses. He successively became Chef de Travaux in 1962, Privat-Docent in 1965, Charge de Cours in 1968, Professeur extraordinaire in 1969 and Professeur ordinaire in 1972. After the retirement of Professor D. Monnier, he was elected as the Head of the Department of Inorganic, Analytical and Applied Chemistry, a position which he has held since then. His pedagogic interests are broad: he has taught general and analytical chemistry to students in chemistry, medicine and biology, and to the specialists of the Swiss federal control of noble metals. He is also a joint author of a book entitled *Chimie Analytique* which was twice reedited and which exposes in a very clear way the basic principles of classical qualita-

tive and quantitative analysis. But his interest for modern methods quickly led him to introduce courses in analytical instrumentation and automation and in radioanalytical chemistry, at a time when these topics did not exist in the classical chemistry syllabus. He has also actively contributed to create and promote a post-graduate Certificate in Analytical Environmental Chemistry, the success of which has been undisputed for 13 years.

Besides his teaching activities, Professor Werner Haerdi has contributed a great deal to the development of Analytical Chemistry, which is reflected by about 140 scientific publications. He always had a special interest for the development of new instrumental methods of inorganic and organic trace analysis. In the fifties his interests were focused on extending the sensitivities of spectrometric and polarographic techniques. He was one of the first in Switzerland to study systematically the application of radiochemistry and in particular neutron activation and gamma spectrometry to Analytical Chemistry. Although computerized now, his method, designed in 1965, for the determination of the sensitivity limits and interferences of neutron activation analysis in complex medium, is still in use. Because of his continued interest in the applications of analysis of trace compounds in real samples (industrial or natural), he also became quickly involved in the development of methods allowing to simultaneously separate and preconcentrate the test compound before analysis. He has used a wide number of approaches to attain this objective, such as redox exchanges of trace metals on Hg, adsorption on various supports and coprecipitation, and more recently, gas chromatography and high pressure liquid chromatography. In this latter case he is particularly active in the development of new stationary phases and detectors and in the application of supercritical fluids. The personality of Professor Haerdi cannot be understood without mentioning his strong love for nature, as his first studies in forest science reveal. This explains why, during the last ten years, his efforts tended more specifically to promote applications of Analytical Chemistry to environmental problems. Regarding this, one can just note that he is a member of the editorial committee of this journal as well as of the organizing committee of the International Symposium of the Analytical Chemistry of Pollutants; these being only one of a number of Swiss and international activities in Analytical Chemistry.

I would like to close this address by citing one of Professor Haerdi's favoured statements which he likes to tell to his students: "Analytical Chemistry is not only chemical analysis, it is not just the determination of the concentration of a given compound, but it also includes the understanding of all interactions of this compound in the test medium". Thanks to this open-minded character he is able to remain very close to actual industrial and environmental problems, thus avoiding the gap which often exists between University research workers and the real world.

All students and colleagues of Professor W. Haerdi appreciate the friendly atmosphere that he can create around him thanks to his affable and sociable character. We wish him all the best for the continuation of his activities.

J. Buffle

Dear Werner,

We, your friends and colleagues on the editorial board, the colleagues in the International Association of Environmental Analytical Chemistry and all those having been associated with you in one way or another, would like to join Dr Buffle in his wishes. May we have many more occasions in the future to interact with you as a friend and dear colleague.