



ELSEVIER

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Not a Foreword, but an Appreciation

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The real challenge to get this special issue in honour of Professor M. T. Bowers started was generated by the “Geburtstagskind” himself, for it took quite some effort to obtain his permission to publish an honour biography on the occasion of his 60th birthday—to be celebrated on 6 June 1999.

Mike argued that he was not yet old enough to be honoured in this way, but it appeared that no one else agreed. On the contrary, all acknowledged that entering his seventh decade of an extraordinarily successful life should be marked by a very special issue. However, people invited to write a contribution did question whether it was a real fact that Mike was about to reach this milestone. Here are a few examples: “I didn’t know Mike was that old, he looks so young,” “it is hard to believe that he is approaching 60,” or “although I was initially surprised that Mike Bowers soon will be entering his seventh decade of life, mature-deliberate pure-reflection from the mid-point of my own seventh decade support that Mike is actually that old . . .”

The response to the initiative of the publisher and editors to organise this special issue was enthusiastically received by the community in which Mike had made so many fundamental contributions. This is underlined not only by the 84 superb manuscripts dedicated to him (with sometimes interesting allusions and references to personal encounters with

Professor Bowers) but also in my extensive correspondence with the authors. Here is a very limited selection: “Mike is a most deserving colleague in the ion chemistry community,” “. . . his birthday is a landmark occasion for the whole physical chemistry community,” “. . . I hope that my contribution to this prestigious issue will help to honour properly the inestimable Mike Bowers,” “it will be difficult to appreciate adequately what he has done for the field,” or “. . . over the years I, as many others, have taken advantage of his work to advance our own.”

Professor Bowers has not only helped as an editor (for now more than 14 years) to reach and maintain the unique position of our journal by demonstrating an unparalleled editorial activity (which is perhaps only matched by his efforts as a golf player)—more importantly, as repeatedly stated by numerous fellow colleagues: Mike Bowers is a great friend to many of us and a constant source of inspiration. On behalf of the scientific community, the publisher, and my fellow editors: thank you, Mike, for all you have done, and no doubt will do in the next decades to come, for the mass spectrometry world.

Happy Birthday!

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