

Preface

Edward Allen Mason was born on September 2, 1926, in, as Ed used to say, the same state where General Lee was born. It means that, were it not for his untimely death on October 27, 1994, he would have celebrated his 70th birthday on September 2, 1996.

Ed had many friends who had a special relationship with him. My special relationship was that I succeeded him as a faculty member on January 1, 1968, at the University of Maryland after Ed had moved to Brown University in 1967. On the many occasions we met each other either at Brown University or at the University of Maryland, it was always evident that we were both proud of this relationship.

In August 1994, shortly before his death, I made a trip to Providence, Rhode Island, to see him for what I feared would be the last time. We discussed his situation facing terminal cancer and he expressed the hope that he would continue to live long enough to celebrate his 70th birthday. My response was that regardless whether he would be alive or not, we would celebrate his 70th birthday with a special issue of the *International Journal of Thermophysics* as we had done earlier for his close colleague Joseph Kestin on the occasion of his 80th birthday. The present issue constitutes the fulfillment of this promise.

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