

Preface

This special issue, dedicated to Dr. Alan Buckley, is to memorialize his contributions to polymer science. Alan, a former Associate Editor for the *Journal of Applied Polymer Science* and a Research Director of Hoechst Celanese Research Division (HCRD), passed away on Feb. 27, 1993.

Alan was born at Huddersfield, England, and obtained his Ph.D. in chemistry from Hull University in 1964. He joined ICI as a Research Chemist in 1965, and then in 1973 transferred to Fiber Industries, an ICI and Celanese joint venture located in Charlotte, NC. He later moved to HCRD at Summit, NJ, becoming a Research Director in 1986.

Alan was a respected polymer scientist in the international polymer community and at Hoechst Celanese. He successfully led research groups in polyester Comfort[™] fiber, PBI[™] fiber, and gave guidance and support for both HCRD and academia in liquid crystal polymers, polymer alloys, molecular modeling, and nonlinear optical materials.

In the 1970s, he took part in the commercialization of PBI[™] fiber, the modification of Celgard[™], and the invention of LCPs. More recently in the 1980s and 1990s his interest moved to high perfor-

mance polymers, optical materials, and molecular modeling. Alan's strength was not only in managing many complex projects simultaneously, but also in having a good personal rapport with his colleagues and in knowing how to maximize their talents to the fullest. To those who knew him well, his finely developed sense of humor was a constant source of enjoyment. He is sorely missed by all his friends and colleagues.

In the light of all his contributions, which have been deeply appreciated by his fellow researchers, permission was obtained from Professor Eric Baer, the editor, and John Wiley and Sons, Inc., the publishers of the *Journal of Applied Polymer Science*, to have an issue dedicated to his memory. From the papers presented here, one can easily trace his fingerprint on each project.

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