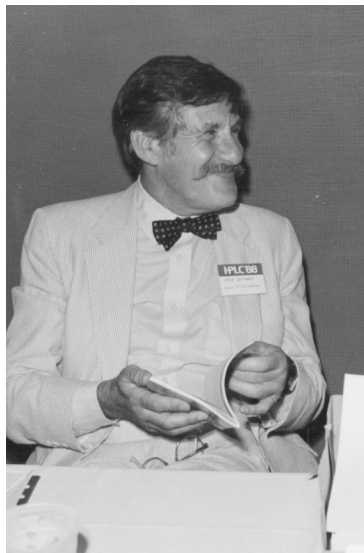

Editorial

The Editors and Elsevier Science staff who are associated with the *Journal of Chromatography* would like to take this opportunity to recognize the 80th birthday of Dr. Erich Heftmann. Dr. Heftmann has enjoyed a long and fruitful career in chromatography, and, most remarkably, this career shows little sign of slowing down as he begins his ninth decade. On the present occasion, we would like to pay our respects and note a few of his many activities, especially those connected with his work for the Journal and with his classic book *Chromatography* [1].



Erich Heftmann was born in Vienna in 1918, emigrated to the United States in 1939, and completed his PhD in Biochemistry at the University of Rochester in 1947. His subsequent career was divided (roughly equally) between full-time work for the National Institutes of Health, the U.S. Depart-

ment of Agriculture, and (since 1982) the *Journal of Chromatography*. His major research contributions (prior to 1983) centered on the application of chromatography to the study of plant steroids and related compounds, in furtherance of an understanding of their role in the biology of plants. At the same time, Dr. Heftmann has been extremely active in pioneering new applications of various chromatographic techniques, including thin-layer chromatography and high-performance liquid chromatography. Another of his major activities has been in disseminating information on chromatography in general, through the five editions of *Chromatography* and in his long tenure as author for the biennial chromatography reviews of *Analytical Chemistry*. A good review of his many accomplishments prior to 1988 can be found in the Preface to Volume 452 of the *Journal of Chromatography*, which was dedicated to Dr. Heftmann on his 70th birthday.

Let us turn now to a more detailed account of Dr. Heftmann's work with the Journal and his association with Elsevier Science.

Erich Heftmann's contacts with Elsevier date from the mid-1970s, when he was writing a sequel to his book *Modern Methods of Steroid Analysis* [2], which had been published by Academic Press in 1973. At the time, Erich had been awarded a US Senior Scientist Award by the Humboldt Foundation, which enabled him to work at the Federal Institute for Lipid Research in Münster, Germany. During his stay in Germany, he completed most of the manuscript of his new book entitled *Chromatography of Steroids* [3], which was the first comprehensive treatise of the topic since the monograph *Steroid Chromatography* by R. Neher [4]. Dr. Heftmann's book covered not only the basic theory and instrumentation but also

contained a wealth of practical information, including extensive tables of retention data for the various classes of steroids and a bibliography covering ca. 1200 references. The book was typeset in (for those days) record time and appeared in 1976 as Volume 8 of the *Journal of Chromatography Library*, which had been launched a few years earlier.

The pleasant cooperation with the publishing staff during the production of the book and its success after publication led to an agreement to publish the fourth and fifth edition of perhaps Erich's most important and influential publishing project, *Chromatography*, also with Elsevier. In this classic treatise, under Erich Heftmann's editorship an international group of experts in the field covered the complete areas of chromatography and electrophoresis, a task which, with the phenomenal growth of the field in the 1960–1980s, grew more ambitious with each new edition. The first edition of this *magnum opus* was published in 1961 by the Reinhold Publishing Corporation, and subsequent editions appeared in 1967 and 1975. The fourth and fifth editions were published as two-volume sets in the *Journal of Chromatography Library*, in 1983 and 1992, respectively [1].

With the growth of the field, the *Journal of Chromatography* also experienced a steady growth in size, not least because it started publishing the proceedings of an increasing number of important symposia on chromatography and electrophoresis. As all of these symposium papers were reviewed just as rigorously as other papers submitted to the Journal, this caused a progressive increase in the workload of both Editor and reviewers. Therefore, in the early 1980s the Editor, Michael Lederer, decided to look for a "dedicated" editor who would be responsible for the handling of the symposium manuscripts. On the recommendation of Karel Macek, then Editor of the *Biomedical Applications* section and Associate Editor of the *Journal of Chromatography*, Erich Heftmann was approached for this new function, and after a visit to Michael Lederer in Sils-Maria, Switzerland, and a short training on the job (which was combined with a tour of the Swiss Alps), Erich was appointed as Editor of the Symposium Volumes of the *Journal of Chromatography* in 1982, a position he still holds today, now together with Zdenek Deyl.

The first symposium handled by Erich Heftmann was the *2nd International Symposium on High-Performance Liquid Chromatography of Proteins, Peptides and Polynucleotides* (organized by M.T.W. Hearn, F.E. Regnier and C.T. Wehr) held in Baltimore, MD, on December 6–8, 1982. The accepted papers from this meeting were published in Volume 266 of the Journal. Through the years, Erich has remained Editor for this series of symposia and the proceedings of the 17th symposium are currently in preparation. Other important series of symposia that Erich edited for the Journal include the *International Symposia on Column Liquid Chromatography* (later called *International Symposia on High Performance Liquid Phase Separations and Related Techniques*), the *International Ion Chromatography Symposia* and the *Montreux Symposia on Liquid Chromatography–Mass Spectrometry*.

In his many trips to symposium meetings, Erich is often accompanied by his wife Brigitte ("Bibi"), who enjoys her own career as a travel agent. In the latter capacity, she has played an important role in facilitating Erich's travel, and in keeping up his spirits while away from home.

In the past years Erich has also edited several thematic volumes for the Journal, notably on Chromatography and Electrophoresis in Environmental Analysis, Inorganic Compounds and Forensic Applications. All in all, as Editor, Erich has accepted more than 4100 papers since 1982, which translates into the equivalent of more than 75 volumes of the Journal.

As if all these activities were not enough to keep him away from gardening, Erich has recently also edited a special issue of *Analytica Chimica Acta* dealing with HPLC of peptides and a companion volume on CE of peptides is currently in preparation. One of his many other interests is electronic publishing, which has resulted in a soon to be released CD-ROM containing a selection by Erich of papers from the *Journal of Chromatography* dealing with the analysis of illicit drugs.

Throughout the period of his editorship, for the Journal staff in Amsterdam, Dr. Heftmann has been the almost ideal editor (he himself handles the correspondence and administration of the manuscripts he edits), and in spite of the nine-hour time difference between California and Amsterdam, faxes

are almost invariably responded to instantaneously, in a friendly and often witty manner.

Some of us have been privileged to know and respect Erich Heftmann for more than 30 years. His many endearing qualities include a love of science and of chromatography, absolute objectivity, a distaste for self aggrandizement, and a total absence of arrogance. One of us is reminded of Erich's observation in 1965 that many (most?) people aspiring to be scientists can be divided into "prima donnas and mediocrities". Erich could be cited as the "exception that proves the rule". Finally, Erich has been a person whom we have found easy to like and to count on as a lifelong friend. We extend our hearty wishes for his continued success in the service of chromatography and chromatographers, and in a long and happy life with his lovely wife "Bibi".

References

- [1] E. Heftmann (Editor), *Chromatography*, 1st ed., Reinhold, New York, 1961; 2nd ed., Reinhold, New York, 1967; 3rd ed., Van Nostrand Reinhold, New York, 1975; 4th ed., Elsevier, Amsterdam, 1983; 5th ed., Elsevier, Amsterdam, 1992.
- [2] E. Heftmann (Editor), *Modern Methods of Steroid Analysis*, Academic Press, New York, 1973.
- [3] E. Heftmann, *Chromatography of Steroids*, Elsevier, Amsterdam, 1976.
- [4] R. Neher, *Steroid Chromatography*, Elsevier, Amsterdam, 1964.

Lloyd R. Snyder (for the Editors)
Klaas E. Bij (for the Editorial Office staff)