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Preface

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PREFACE

This volume of the Journal of Coordination Chemistry is a tribute to Arthur E. Martell, Distinguished Professor of Chemistry at Texas A&M University. This is a particularly appropriate forum for such a tribute, since Professor Martell was the founding editor of the Journal in 1971 and served in that capacity until 1981. This volume, which consists of papers authored by past students and postdoctoral associates, as well as distinguished friends and colleagues, is presented on the occasion of his 75th birthday in October 1991.

Professor Martell received his B.S. from Worcester Polytechnic Institute in 1938 and his Ph.D. from New York University in 1941. He joined the faculty of Clark University as an Assistant Professor in 1942, reached the rank of Professor in 1951, and began a distinguished career in departmental administration when he served as Chairman of that department from 1959 through 1961. He was Professor and Chairman at the Illinois Institute of Technology from 1961 to 1966, when he moved to Texas A&M University. He served as the Head of Chemistry at Texas A&M from 1966 to 1980, a period of spectacular growth and development in that department. He was honoured as Distinguished Professor by Texas A&M University in 1973. His many other awards include a Guggenheim Fellowship in 1954, an honorary doctorate from the Worcester Polytechnic Institute in 1962, the Southwest Regional Award from the American Chemical Society in 1976, and the American Chemical Society Award for Distinguished Service to Inorganic Chemistry in 1980.

Professor Martell has published over 450 journal articles in the general areas of complexation equilibria and catalysis by metal chelates, and he continues a very dynamic, productive research program. He has also written or edited 10 books. His first book, "Chemistry of the Metal Chelate Compounds", co-authored with Professor Melvin Calvin in 1952, is a classic work in the field that is still frequently cited almost 40 years after its publication. In the early seventies he began what immediately became the definitive compilation of critically evaluated stability constants. The series "Critical Stability Constants" now runs to six volumes. The value of this resource for researchers in all areas of chemistry is demonstrated by approximately 300 citations of this series each year.

This volume is primarily a tribute from the international chemical community to the professional accomplishments of Professor Martell. However, for many of us, it also serves as a symbol of personal gratitude. He has directed the research of 44 postdoctoral researchers, 54 Ph.D. students, and 27 M.S. students. My own relationship with him began when I joined his group as an undergraduate researcher and continued on for a Ph.D. I have the honor of speaking for these past students and associates in saying that it has been a pleasure and a privilege to work with him, and that his continuing counsel and friendship are deeply appreciated.

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March 8, 1991



ARTHUR E. MARTELL