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## IN MEMORIAM: GUNTHER HEUBLEIN

The *Journal of Macromolecular Science—Chemistry* sadly announces the passing of one of its Editorial Board Members.

After a long and serious illness, Professor Dr.rer.nat.habil. Gunther Heublein passed away at the age of 55 on the 17th of July 1989. His colleagues and coworkers will now be painfully aware of the void that his departure created.

Professor Heublein always held the opinion that a scientist should direct his interest toward current research problems. So he turned his interest, coming from the Drefahl school, from the stereochemistry and mechanistic studies of organic chemistry to cationic polymerization and finally to heterogeneous polymer modification. He never hesitated to enter a new field and learn, and to guide his coworkers toward unusual directions. His success within a few years in each case attained acknowledgement. His results earned him as well as his field acceptance in the world of international science. This is especially true in the field of cationic polymerization. He became the head of the East German delegation in the Group of Experts on Ionic Polymerizations within the framework of the Convention of Academies of Socialist Countries. He was a member of the international organizing committee for the "International Symposia on Cationic Polymerizations" (ISCP). The 7th ISCP took place in Jena under his leadership with great success. He was appointed to be a coeditor of the journals *Advances in Polymer Science* and the *Journal of Macromolecular Science—Chemistry*. Lectures, conferences, and educational trips took him to all the important centers of polymer chemistry. He formed and cultivated numerous professional connections which he also successfully shared with his coworkers. He authored and coauthored 305 publications, 73 patents, and 4 books. From his work in polymer chemistry only a few are mentioned here: his research related to the synthesis of polyvinyl alcohols, the selective polymerization of C<sub>4</sub> hydrocarbon mixtures, and the synthesis of reactive hydrocarbon resins. The study of electron donor–acceptor control and the quantification of ionic polymerizations as well as its application to cationic polymerizations are among his substantial contributions to the development of scientific areas. For his outstanding scientific achievements in the field of polymer chemistry, Professor Heublein was honored with the National Award.

We will never forget the creative and systematic scientist, the successful educator, and especially the friendly person he was.

The *Journal of Macromolecular Science—Chemistry* extends its condolences to Professor Heublein's family.