



Introduction

The first issue of this journal appeared in 1963. In retrospect it can be seen to have been started at exactly the right moment, just when the need for such a specialist publication was becoming apparent but in time to become established before the rapid and progressive growth of activity in the field. Even so, it was only after thirteen years, in October 1975, that volume 100 was reached, and the occasion marked by the publication of a special 'Centenary Volume'. For that volume authors were selected by 'votes' from members of the Editorial Board, who were asked to name up to twenty active organometallic chemists who they thought had contributed most to the subject, and to provide 'tie breakers', to specify the ten they thought most deserving. The twenty persons receiving the most support were invited to submit reviews, under their own names only, of their work generally or a specific area of it, and given wide freedom to decide upon their mode of approach. In the event nineteen authors submitted their accounts in time for inclusion, and in a variety of styles from the very informal to the conventional, mainly reflecting the range of personalities of the writers. The volume was very well received; several of the articles became classics and are still frequently referred to. It is of interest that eleven of the contributors to the volume are still very active in the field.

After the thirteen years taken to reach Volume 100, the next 100 volumes appeared in only five more years, and by then the pattern of approximately 20 volumes per annum had been established and has continued up to the present. Such was the rate of growth of activity in the field that the introduction of *Organometallics* in 1982 by the American Chemical Society, prompted by the success of this journal, had only a very temporary effect on the number of manuscripts submitted, the loss of papers to the new journal being offset by the sharp increase in relevant research, especially in Continental Europe. Thus Volumes 200, 300 and 400 appeared at approximately five year intervals in November 1980, February 1986, and December 1990, respectively. The same method of selection of authors was used for these except that the 'votes' came not only from members of the Editorial Board but also from those who had contributed to an earlier Centenary volume. This approach

ensured that a very impressive list of contributors was assembled in each case, and the earlier volumes taken together with the present one provide a good indication of the way in which organometallic chemistry has developed in the past forty or so years.

For Volume 500 it was decided at a meeting of the Editorial Board that all the members of that Board should be invited to contribute reviews of the type that had appeared in the earlier volumes, the only difference being that coauthors were permitted. A good proportion of those invited accepted, and 30 of them actually submitted their accounts in time for inclusion. Once again the style varies strikingly from the personal and informal to the impersonal and conventional. In my view some of the reviews are of exceptional interest, and will be much cited for many years.

It is noteworthy that the first article in the volume is by Professor Herbert C. Brown, who also occupied the first place in Volume 100; I have asked my successor to ensure that Professor Brown's contribution to Volume 1000 is again placed first! Five others who contributed to Volume 100 also have reviews in this one.

This is the last Centenary Volume that I shall edit, because at the end of 1995, after 32 years, I cease to be a Regional Editor. (I am the only one of the original Regional Editors still in post, but one of the others, Dietmar Seyferth, after his formative experience with this journal during which he helped greatly to ensure its future, continues to be the highly regarded editor of its younger upstart competitor!) I take this opportunity to acknowledge the cooperation of the many authors with whom I have had dealings over the years and also to thank those who have contributed so importantly to the success of the journal by acting as referees. I also thank my colleague Professor G.J. Leigh, who in recent years has acted as my deputy in dealing with papers from 'Southern Europe', and offer my best wishes to Professors D.M.P. Mingos and F. Mathey who between them will shortly take over our duties. I plan to use the time thus made available to me in writing papers for submission to this and other journals.

Colin Eaborn
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