

Preface

Congratulations Herbert Schumann

This volume of the *Journal of Organometallic Chemistry* is dedicated to Professor Herbert Schumann on the occasion of his 60th birthday. Former students and coworkers, colleagues and friends of the jubilee wish to convey sincere congratulations through their contributions.

Herbert Schumann was born in Coburg, Germany, on August 6, 1935. After completion of the Gymnasium in Coburg in 1954 he began to study chemistry at the University of Munich. It was there that he completed his Diploma (1961) and Dissertation (1962) under the supervision of Priv.-Doz. Dr. M. Schmidt. In 1962 he followed his supervisor to the University of Marburg and in 1965 to the University of Würzburg. In Würzburg he completed his Habilitation in 1967 with a contribution about the chemistry of covalent IVa–Va and IVa–VIa compounds. After the Habilitation Herbert Schumann accepted a position as Universitätsdozent in Würzburg for three years. In May of 1970 he was offered the Chair of Inorganic Chemistry at the Technische Universität Berlin and he accepted this position in the fall of 1970. Ever since he remained at the Technische Universität Berlin and in 1980 turned down an offer to move to a Chair of Inorganic Chemistry at the University of Dortmund.

Herbert Schumann's scientific work can be divided chronologically into two major areas of activity. Beginning with his dissertation he started working with organoelement compounds of the Main Group elements, especially with organometal phosphanes, -arsanes, -stibanes, and -bismuthanes. During this period he introduced tri(*tert*-butyl) phosphane, a ligand widely used today, into organometallic chemistry. Whilst in Würzburg, he started his first independent excursions into the chemistry of substituted transition metal carbonyl complexes. His research in the area of organotin chemistry led to various publications, and a close scientific cooperation and personal friendship with the late Professor J.J. Zuckerman. The interest in organotins is unchanged today and manifests itself in 22 volumes (no. 23 is in press) of Gmelin's *Handbuch der Anorganischen Chemie*, that Herbert Schumann has written together

with his wife, Professor Ingeborg Schumann, on organotin compounds. This activity has helped to establish him as one of the leading tin chemists of our times. His Gmelin volumes earned him a reputation of thoroughness which is best illustrated by a paragraph from D. Seyferth's review of volume XI published in the *Journal of Organometallic Chemistry*: "A useful feature in this book is the up-dating of the coverage of the general review literature of organotin compounds. . . . A fine net was used in chasing down this review literature, and some strange fish were caught. For instance, in this book, in the section of reviews on analysis (p. 2), the review on "Harmful Substances in Women's Underwear" (in Japanese) will be one of particular interest to all organotin chemists".

Since he moved to Berlin, Herbert Schumann's scientific interest shifted towards organometallic chemistry of the lanthanides. After immense experimental problems were overcome the syntheses and crystal structures of the first hexamethyl complexes of the lanthanides were published, followed by reports on organolanthanides with lanthanide–silicon and lanthanide–sulphur bonds. A recent highlight was the synthesis and characterization (simultaneously with A.J. Arduengo, III) of lanthanide–carbene complexes. More recently his interest centered on the preparation of extremely pure gallium organometallics for chemical vapour deposition applications. These investigations led meanwhile to commercially useful compounds.

Herbert Schumann has published the results of his research in about 440 papers. He was a visiting Professor at the Zhejiang University (Hangzhou, China) and Lady Davies Visiting Professor at the Hebrew University Jerusalem. He was a member of the board of the Gesellschaft Deutscher Chemiker and he has served the scientific community as a member of the Advisory Board of *Organometallics*. In his almost 30 years of service as a professor at different universities, 76 students have completed their dissertation under his supervision. To support his coworkers scientifically and financially was always one of his major concerns. Thus it is not surprising, that one of the first Graduiertenkollegs in Germany was established based on his suggestions and that he served many years as the chairman of the

joint Graduiertenkolleg between the Freie Universität Berlin and the Technische Universität Berlin.

A few months ago I invited former students and coworkers, colleagues and friends of Herbert Schumann to contribute to this special volume of the *Journal of Organometallic Chemistry*. The overwhelming reaction and the large number of contributions are the best proof of the high esteem and reputation Herbert Schumann enjoys among his colleagues. I want to thank all authors to this issue for their contributions. About 10 years ago Herbert Schumann became a pilot licenced to fly single engine airplanes and the author of these lines has logged

some hours as copilot of his academic teacher. I am sure all authors and readers of this volume will join me in wishing Professor Herbert Schumann, on the occasion of his 60th birthday, many more years of fruitful activity and always happy landings of the type he and his passengers will remember as “another one we walked away from”.

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