

Preface

This issue of the *Journal of Organometallic Chemistry* is dedicated to Professor Malcolm L.H. Green on the occasion of his sixtieth birthday. Malcolm was born in Eastleigh, Hampshire, on the 16th April, 1936. He received his B.Sc. (Hons) in 1956 from the University of London (Acton Technical College) and his Ph.D. in 1959 from Imperial College of Science and Technology, where he studied under Professor Sir Geoffrey Wilkinson. Following Imperial College, Malcolm moved to Cambridge University, and finally to Oxford University in 1963 where he was appointed Septcentenary Fellow of Inorganic Chemistry at Balliol College. He was married to Jennifer Green (née Bilham) on the 2nd January, 1965. In 1985 Malcolm was elected to Fellow of the Royal Society and is presently Professor and Head of the Inorganic Chemistry Laboratory, Oxford, and fellow of St. Catherine's College, Oxford.

Malcolm has made numerous outstanding contributions to the field of organometallic chemistry, beginning with his first publication in 1958 on “*Bis*-cyclopentadienylrhenium hydride”, resulting from his Ph.D. thesis, entitled “A study of some transition metal hydrides and olefin complexes.” To date, he has published more than 400 papers describing synthetic, structural, and mechanistic aspects of the chemistry of virtually every transition element. In view of the great breadth and success of Malcolm's research, it is difficult to single out a specific accomplishment that deserves highlighting over others. Nevertheless, some of the topics that immediately come to mind when prompted by the name Malcolm Green include: (i) the now infamous molybdenocene and tungstenocene systems; (ii) his fundamental studies on alpha- and beta-hydrogen migratory insertion, carbon–hydrogen bond activation, and agostic interactions; and (iii) his development of multigram-scale metal vapour synthesis techniques. Malcolm never stands still and is constantly moving into new and exciting areas: e.g. organometallic intercalation compounds, organometallic chemistry of fullerenes, and most recently, the chemistry of metal complexes in carbon nanotubes. At a different level, his new approach to the formal classification of covalent compounds of the elements (the ‘MLX scheme’) alleviates the problems and pitfalls often associated with oxidation state formalisms, thereby enabling the student (and also re-

searcher!) to understand better the nature of a specific compound.

Without a doubt, Malcolm's enthusiasm and passion has contributed greatly to the excitement that the field of organometallic chemistry has enjoyed over the years and his research has been widely recognized by numerous awards, some of which include: The Royal Society of Chemistry Corday–Morgan Medal and Prize in Inorganic Chemistry (1974); the Chemistry Society Medal in Transition Metal Chemistry (1978); the Royal Society of Chemistry Tilden Lectureship and Prize (1982); The J.C. Bailar Lecture and Medal, University of Illinois (1983); the American Chemical Society Award in Inorganic Chemistry (1984); the Royal Society of Chemistry Medal in Organometallic Chemistry (1986); the Royal Society of Chemistry Sir Edward Frankland Prize (1989); The Karl–Ziegler Prize of the Gesellschaft Deutscher Chemiker (1992); and the Davy medal of the Royal Society (1995). Other recognitions of his work include: University of Western Ontario, Visiting Professor (1971); Ecole de Chimie and Institute des Substances Naturelles, Paris, Visiting Professor (1972); Harvard University, A.P. Sloan Visiting Professor (1973); Pacific West Coast Lecturer in Inorganic Chemistry (1977); Sherman Fairchild Visiting Scholar at the California Institute of Technology (1981); Karl Ziegler Gastprofessor, Max Plank Institute, Mulheim (1983); Hutchinson Lectureship, University of Rochester (1983); The University Lecturer in Chemistry, University of Western Ontario (1984); Debye Lecturer, Cornell University (1985); Wuhan University, People's Republic of China, Visiting Professor (1985); Julius Stieglitz Lecturer, University of Chicago (1986); Frontiers of Science Lecturer, Texas A&M University (1987); The DuPont Lecturer, Indiana University (1989–90); The Ida Beam Lecturer, University of Iowa (1990); The Glenn T. Seaborg Lecturer in Inorganic Chemistry at the University of California, Berkeley (1991); The South-East Lecturer in Inorganic Chemistry, USA (1991); The Walter Heiber Gastprofessor, University of Munich (1991); The Pacific Coast Lecturer (1994); the Rayson Huang Visiting Lecturer, Hong Kong (1995); the A.D. Little Lecturer, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (1995); the Stauffer Lecturer, University of Southern California (1996); the Dow Lecturer at the

University of Ottawa (1996); the James Walker Memorial Lecture, University of Edinburgh (1996).

Most fittingly, Malcolm will be the recipient of the 1997 American Chemical Society Award in Organometallic Chemistry.

From all the students (undergraduate, graduate, and postdoctoral) and visiting scientists that have had the privilege to work in your laboratory, and from all your

colleagues in the organometallic community: Happy Birthday, Malcolm!

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