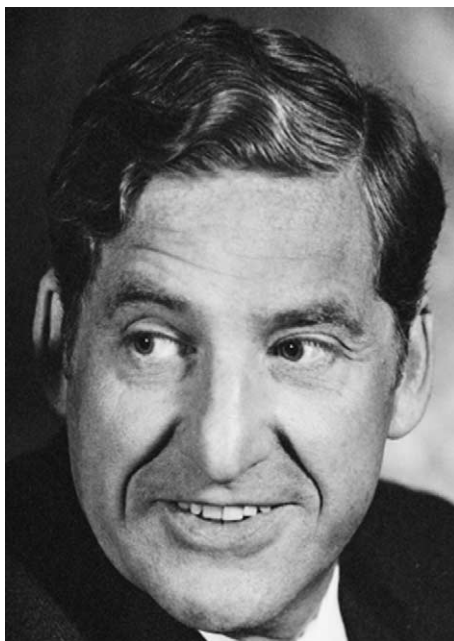


Preface

40th anniversary issue



Professor Colin Eaborn

Some time ago, the members of the Editorial Board of this Journal decided that it would be appropriate to mark the 40th anniversary of its first issue (1963/1964) with a special edition, and invited Professor Colin Eaborn to provide an introduction. Sadly, he died on February 22nd. It was unanimously agreed that this volume should celebrate not only the journal but also Professor Eaborn to whom much credit for the success of JOMC over the years is due.

Professor Eaborn was one of the five original JOMC Regional Editors (with K.A. Andrianov, E.O. Fischer, H. Normant and D. Seyferth) and the one with the longest tenure (1965–1995). Andrianov was followed by O.A. Reutov (1968–1994), Fischer by W.A. Herrmann (1994–), H. Normant by successively J.F. Normant, F. Mathey and G. Bertrand (1999–), Seyferth by R.B. King and then R.D. Adams (1998–); the first Japanese Regional

Editor, M. Kumada (1981–1989) was followed by A. Nakamura, K. Tamao and K. Tatsumi (2002–). Professor Eaborn was succeeded by D.M.P. Mingos (1995–). The foundation Elsevier Editor, Dr. W. Gaade, was followed by Drs. M. Atkins, B. Dempster, G. Zosimo-Landolfo, F. Fenter and currently Alexandra Migchielsen.

As I wrote in an introduction to an article for Vol. 600 of JOMC, “I have a close affection for the Journal for a number of reasons. First, because I regard myself almost to have been its begetter. This claim is based on the following facts. In the autumn of 1960, Jeffrey Leigh (currently JOMC book review editor) and I organised a course of postgraduate lectures on *Inorganic Polymers* in our then department of chemistry of the Manchester College of Science and Technology. An outcome was an edited book on the subject, probably the

first of its kind in that field, which appeared in 1962, published by Elsevier with the encouragement of Dr. W. Gaade. He suggested to me that a journal on this topic might be viable. I advised against it, but proposed that if he wished to fill a lacuna in the chemical journals' publishing market, then organometallic chemistry was a fast-growing discipline." JOMC was the first journal of organometallic chemistry; its later competitor, *Organometallics*, still brilliantly edited by Dietmar Seyferth, had its first issue in 1982.

The concept of publishing anniversary issues of JOMC to mark the arrival of "centenaries" is due to Colin Eaborn. He wrote introductions to the first five: Volumes 100 (1975), 200 (1980), 300 (1986), 400 (1990) and 500 (1995); Volume 600 appeared in 2000. Volume 100 had articles solicited by the Editorial Board, with the selection of authors made on the basis of "votes" by the board members. For succeeding anniversary issues, Eaborn stated "The same method of selection of authors was used 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. For Volume 500, each of the members of the Editorial Board was invited to submit a review of the type that had appeared in the earlier volumes." Six chemists (H.C. Brown, C. Eaborn, R.B. King, M. Kumada, M.F. Lappert, and F.G.A. Stone) had articles in each of Vols. 1, 100, and 500 of JOMC. Colin Eaborn in his final introduction noted that the first article in each of these volumes was by H.C. Brown and he added "I have asked my successor to ensure that Professor Brown's contribution to Volume 1000 is again placed first." Volume 600 was jointly edited by R.D. Adams ("Frontiers in Organometallic Chemistry") and D.M.P. Mingos ("A Look to the Future") and changed the pattern by dispensing with editorial introductions.

Professor Eaborn was a great editor. He demanded high standards of his authors, not only of scholarship but also of presentation. He did much to encourage articles in English from contributors from beyond the English speaking world; and he assisted in the often onerous task of desk-editing those manuscripts which failed to live up to his bench marks in the use of English.

Colin Eaborn was a man of many talents. He was one of the four foundation science professors in the then new University of Sussex in 1961 and played a pivotal role in establishing there a world-class chemistry department. He became internationally famous with the appearance in 1960 of his seminal textbook "*Organosilicon Compounds*", and published extensively (more than 500 papers) largely in this field. He was particularly distinguished in his early and middle career in mechanistic studies, while in the final 20 years he also contributed extensively on a large variety of metal complexes having the trademark Eaborn ligand $^{-}\text{C}(\text{SiMe}_3)_3$ (Tsi $^{-}$) or a close equivalent. He received many honours, including the American Chemical Society's Frederick Stanley Kipping Award for Organosilicon Chemistry in 1964 (he was the third ever and first non-US awardee) and the Royal Society of Chemistry's Organometallic (1974), Ingold (1976) and Main Group Metal (1990) Medals. He was elected F.R.S. in 1970.

This issue marks not only a landmark in the publication of the Journal of Organometallic Chemistry, but also provides a testament to the vital role played therein by Colin Eaborn, a giant of organosilicon chemistry.

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