

Dedication: George Porter

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George Porter, Lord Porter of Luddenham, celebrated his 80th birthday on 6th December 2000. This volume is dedicated to him by a small representative number of his colleagues, co-workers, and admirers.

George Porter's contributions to research in photophysics, photochemistry and photobiology began with his work in the Department of Physical Chemistry, Cambridge, for which in 1967 he was awarded, jointly with R.G.W. Norrish, the Nobel Prize for the development of flash photolysis, without which the study of fast photo processes could not have proceeded. In the University of Sheffield, he advanced this work, and as Firth Professor of Physical Chemistry built up an extremely impressive department.

In 1967, he moved to the Royal Institution, as Director, and there, over 21 years, was the leader of and inspiration to a research group, which took the time-scale of 'fast reaction' research from microseconds through nanoseconds to picoseconds.

In 1985, he became the President of the Royal Society of London, and felt he could no longer combine this with his role as Director of the Royal Institution. He obtained a part-time post in Imperial College, firstly in Biology, then in Biochemistry, and latterly, in Chemistry where, amongst other things, he presided over the development of the application of the femtosecond lasers to problems in biology, chemistry and materials. Here he remains, a valued

colleague much admired by his many friends and colleagues at Imperial College and throughout the world.

We celebrate his research life to date by this small collection of papers encompassing aspects of biology, chemistry and materials, which he inspired, and will, we hope, enjoy.



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