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**A review of: "75 Years of Chromatography - A Historical Dialogue. L.S. Ettre A. Zlatkis (Editors) Journal of Chromatography Library - Volume 17 Elsevier Scientific Publishing Company, Amsterdam Feb. 1979, 530 pages, US \$ 49.75 / Dfl. 112.00"**

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BOOK REVIEW

"75 Years of Chromatography - A Historical Dialogue"

L.S. Ettre and A. Zlatkis (Editors)  
Journal of Chromatography Library - Volume 17  
Elsevier Scientific Publishing Company, Amsterdam  
Feb. 1979, 530 pages, US \$ 49.75 / Dfl. 112.00

This book merely consists of a series of contributions from 59 leading researchers in the field of chromatography. A short biographical note on each of them has been added by the editors. Each of the contributors reflects his views on chromatography in a short essay with emphasis on his own contribution.

The editors have tried to bring together chromatographers who have been active over a span of at least 20 years and, hence, were pioneers in the field. As a consequence, most of them describe the good old days in superlatives and bring back memories in the form of numerous anecdotes. This makes the book more readable, but at the same time decreases its scientific value. No clear picture can be formed of what these pioneers expect for the future of chromatography.

For the young chromatographer, it might be more interesting to study a historical review set up from a chronological point of view. In this book, history is scattered and incomplete. The origin of chromatography becomes very clear from the biographic stories: the basis can be found in the life sciences.

The book does give some idea of the interrelationship between researchers, institutions, companies, etc., which will help the young chromatographer to understand how conferences are organized, journals edited, books written and so on. There are a large number of references in the book, which show the way to the original work. This might compensate the lack of scientific information in the book itself.

Finally, the title of the book could just as well have been:

"25 years of chromatography",

since so little happened over the first 50 years.

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