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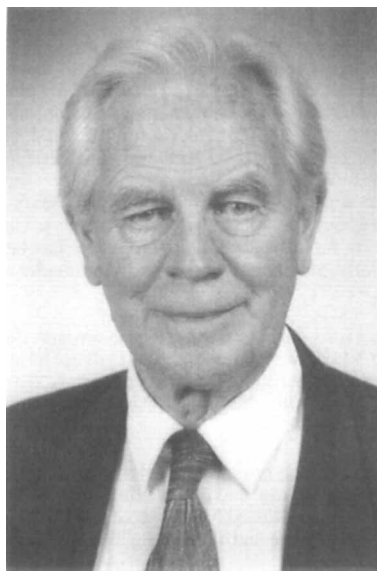
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TRIBUTE

Dedicated to Professor Bengt Rånby in commemoration of his 75th birthday.



BENGT RÅNBY

Professor Rånby, born April 5, 1920, received his Doctor's degree in physical chemistry at Uppsala University in Sweden as a student of professor Theodor Svedberg in 1952 and was a du Pont postdoctoral research fellow at Brooklyn Polytechnic Institute in New York with professor Herman Mark in 1952-53.

During 1953-55 he was an assistant professor of Physical chemistry at Uppsala University. In 1956 he accepted a position as research specialist at American Viscose Corporation in Marcus Hook, PA, USA and was appointed in 1959 as research professor at State University of New

York in Syracuse and director of the Empire State Paper Research Institute. In 1961 he was called back to Sweden, appointed as professor of Polymer technology at the Royal Institute of Technology in Stockholm, the first professorship in this field in the Nordic countries.

During his 25 years as professor and chairman, the department has grown to one of the most active in the Royal Institute with a faculty of four professors, four university lecturers ("docents") and about 40 graduate students. As professor emeritus, Rånby continues his work with a small group of research fellows.

Professor Rånby has published more than 400 research papers, authored or edited five books: "Photodegradation, Photo-oxidation and Photostabilization of Polymers" (1975), "ESR Spectroscopy in Polymer Research" (1977), "Singlet Oxygen - Reactions with Organic Compounds and Polymers" (1978), "Physical Chemistry of Colloids and Macromolecules", The Svedberg Symposium 1984 and "Conjugated Polymers and Related Materials", Nobel Symposium Nr. 81 (1993).

Rånby started his research as a cellulose chemist with a dissertation on the morphology, structure and reactions of native cellulose. He has continued research on new methods for cellulose fiber modification but has devoted his main efforts to synthetic polymers, e.g. ESR studies of free radical polymerization and polymer degradation, photochemical reactions of polymers including new methods of photocrosslinking and surface modification by photografting which are now being developed as industrial processes.

Professor Rånby has been and is on the editorial board of several international journals, including *Journal of Polymer Science*, *Macromolecules*, *Cellulose Chemistry and Technology*, *Polymer Contents*, *Polymers for Advanced Technology*. He has been chairman and invited lecturer of many international polymer symposia and the founder and first president of the Swedish Polymer Society.

Professor Rånby has received many honors, e.g. honorary doctor's degree from the Polytechnic University in Wroclaw, Poland, and the University of Helsinki, Finland, he is member of the Royal Academy of Arts and Sciences in Uppsala, the Royal Swedish Academy of Engineering Science in Stockholm, the Finnish Academy of Science in Helsinki and the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences in Stockholm.

Professor Rånby has been visiting professor of Polymer Science, North Carolina State University in Raleigh (1968), Kyoto and Hokkaido Universities (1973), University of Massachusetts in Amherst (1976), Midland Macromolecular Institute in Michigan (1978) and since 1987 at the University of Science and Technology of China in Hefei, Anhui.

Professor Rånby has received the Anselme Payen Award from American Chemical Society 1989, the Great Prize of the Royal Institute of Technology 1991 and the Herman Mark Medal in Vienna, Austria 1992.

Professor Rånby has been active as an industrial consultant, a board member of State Research councils, chairman of the Scandinavian Paint Research Institute and is since 1992 president of the Carl Trygger Foundation of Scientific Research.

Happy 75th Birthday!