

Introduction

To mark the publication of Volume 100 of this journal, a special issue was produced in 1975 comprised of papers by the world's leading organometallic chemists as selected by the Editorial Board. This volume was so well received that the Editors decided to recognise the appearance of Volume 200 five years later with a similar issue. Thus the members of the Editorial Board, supplemented this time by those contributors to Volume 100 who are not members of the Board, were asked to nominate 20 organometallic chemists (excluding contributors to Volume 100) to be invited to submit articles, and also to specify the top 10 in their lists, in order of merit if they wished. They were asked to make research distinction the greatly dominant criterion for their selection, but this time were also invited to bear in mind, very much as a secondary feature, the desirability of providing a spread of nationalities and of coverage of the various groups of the Periodic Table.

The response was excellent, and 38 lists of nominations were received. The authors to be invited were chosen primarily on the basis of the total votes for each of them on the "top 20" list, with ties being decided by use of the "top 10" list, but in the event it proved impossible to limit the number of invitees to exactly 20 without unfairness, and so a slightly larger number were approached. Again the response to the invitations was excellent, with the result that the Volume contains 22 papers.

In order to emphasize the special nature of the invitation, authors were required to submit papers under their own names only, and no doubt this enhanced the personal nature of the articles; however, in some cases the papers were written with the collaboration of colleagues whose names are acknowledged.

Those invited were encouraged to write on an aspect of their work in any form they wished. As in Volume 100, some chose to review an area of their current work, others to concentrate on the personal aspect of some of their earlier important contributions, and yet others to outline the course of the development of their researches over the years. The resulting variety of content and style, and the unusual nature of some of the papers, should make the issue of special interest to a wide range of chemists, not least to students. Along with Volume 100, it should also be of historical interest, as an indication of which chemists were regarded by a group of their peers as having made the most important contributions to organometallic chemistry in a period of its very rapid development.

Sadly one of the papers must also serve as a memorial to its author, for Prof. Paolo Chini, a member of the Editorial Board of the Journal, died on 1st February 1980 at the age of 51. Italy thus lost one of its outstanding chemists, who was making highly original and increasingly important contributions to organometallic chemistry, and from whom much was expected in the future. Fortunately he had sent a draft of his article to Dr. Brian T. Heaton of the

University of Kent, and he, with the help of some of Professor Chini's colleagues, Drs. G. Longoni, S. Martinengo, and L. Strona, very kindly completed the paper so that Professor Chini's personal account of his own work would appear in the special issue.

The Regional Editors and Publishers acknowledge the help of those whose nominations decided the choice of authors, and are most grateful to those authors for accepting the invitations and for sending in their articles in time for inclusion.

The Regional Editors and Publishers take this opportunity also to thank organometallic chemists for their continuing support of the Journal of Organometallic Chemistry as contributors and readers, for it is that support which determines its success.

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