

Preface

This year, one of the pioneers and world leaders in organometallic chemistry, Fausto Calderazzo, turns 70. The event is all the more relevant since Fausto shows no sign of slowing down his research endeavors and continues to produce knowledge with the creativity, insight and enthusiasm that have characterized his entire scientific career. Such an event could not pass unnoticed. A group of his former students and current collaborators and colleagues have decided to celebrate the occasion with a Symposium entitled 'Trends in Transition Metal Chemistry: Toward the Third Millennium. A Symposium in Honour of Fausto Calderazzo', to be held in Pisa on February 25–27, 2000. The symposium will feature, in addition to a general poster session, 20 invited plenary lectures from outstanding scientists who, like Fausto Calderazzo, have shaped the transition metal chemistry landscape in recent times, and it is poised to be remembered as one of the most significant meetings of the year in this field. This forum has appeared, however, to be insufficient to allow Fausto's numerous friends and collaborators to give him proper tribute for his teaching, support, leadership, collaboration, or whatever else they have benefitted from. Therefore, Elsevier Science, which is co-sponsoring the symposium, decided also to dedicate a special volume of the Journal of Organometallic Chemistry to this event and asked me to serve as its guest editor, which I immediately accepted with great pleasure. The initiative has met with great success, drawing a large number of scientists to accept enthusiastically the invitation to contribute a research article to this volume.

This can be seen as yet another tangible sign of the high regard in which Fausto Calderazzo is held by the scientific community.

It is unnecessary to repeat here a detailed biography of Fausto Calderazzo. One can be found in Volume 488 of this journal, which was dedicated to his 65th birthday. In addition, the readers might be interested in the interview of Fausto Calderazzo that I was commissioned to write by Coordination Chemistry Reviews as part of the series 'Celebration of Inorganic Lives' and which has recently been published in that journal (Vol. 188, 1999, pp. 1–22). Fausto Calderazzo's contributions to science cover essentially all aspects of transition metal chemistry but most (or at least the most celebrated ones) are related to compounds containing metal–carbon bonds, leading to the natural choice of this journal. However, a few contributions falling within reasonable limits outside the edges of organometallic chemistry have also been included in this special volume. I cannot conclude without expressing my most sincere gratitude to all the reviewers who agreed to evaluate the submitted manuscripts and to the Office of the Regional Editor (Guy Bertrand and his secretary Maryse Beziat) for kind assistance.

I am sure all the authors and readers of this volume join me in wishing Fausto Calderazzo many more years of productive scientific activity.

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Rinaldo Poli
*Université de Bourgogne,
France*