



A. F. WELLS

Dedication to Alexander F. Wells

Last year Professor A. F. Wells, one of the pioneers in the development of structural X-ray crystallography and a world-renowned specialist in the structures of inorganic compounds and three-dimensional networks, retired after over a decade of stimulation and leadership to students and faculty at the University of Connecticut.

Professor Wells received his Ph.D. from Cambridge University in 1937 and remained there for an additional three years as Research Scientist. He then served for three years as Research Scientist at Birmingham University, applying his skills in solving crystal structures. In 1944 "Jumbo" Wells began a long career with Imperial Chemical Industries Ltd., achieving the position of Senior Research Associate and Director of the X-ray Diffraction Laboratory in the Dyestuffs Division. He was awarded the Sc.D. degree in 1956 from Cambridge University for his many contributions to the field of structural chemistry.

In 1965–1966 Jumbo was an NSF Visiting Senior Foreign Scientist at the University of Connecticut and, on his return to England, became an Honorary Reader at the University of Manchester while still maintaining his industrial position. In 1968, after a long and distinguished career in the chemical industry, he returned to the University of Connecticut as a permanent faculty member.

The first edition of *Structural Inorganic Chemistry* (Clarendon Press, Oxford) was published in 1945 and was instantly recognized as the most authoritative text and reference in the field. Through the years, the book has undergone four revisions, the latest edition appearing in 1975, completely rewritten by Wells alone. This classic has brought Wells international recognition and has become *the* reference text in the area of chemical structures for crystallographers,

chemists, physicists, and materials scientists. Those of us who have had the pleasure of close interaction with Jumbo have felt the influence of his wide-ranging ideas, but *Structural Inorganic Chemistry* has made a profound impression on the entire Solid State Community.

In addition to *Structural Inorganic Chemistry*, Professor Wells has published *The Third Dimension in Chemistry* (1970, Clarendon Press), *Models in Structural Inorganic Chemistry* (1970, Clarendon Press), and *Three-Dimensional Nets and Polyhedra* (1977, Wiley-Interscience). Recently, a monograph entitled *Further Studies on Three-Dimensional Nets* was published by the American Crystallographic Association through its special monograph series.

Jumbo continues as a charter member of the Editorial Advisory Board of the *Journal of Solid State Chemistry* and has served on the Commission of the Teaching of Crystallography for the International Union of Crystallography.

In retirement, Jumbo Wells has systematically revised his major work *Structural Inorganic Chemistry* and continues his thoughts and publications on the teaching of chemical aspects of crystal structures. He has been playing the piano since an early age and, through the years, has maintained a high level of performance. As a side interest he has assembled an exceptional collection of British stamps and has expanded his philately interests to include American and Canadian issues.

In recognition of his contributions to the field of Solid State Inorganic Chemistry and in honor of his seventieth birthday, we dedicate this issue of the *Journal of Solid State Chemistry* to Professor Alexander F. Wells.

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B. F. CHAMBERLAND