

Foreword

Mark Salomon



Prof. *Heinz Gamsjäger*

On the occasion of Prof. *Heinz Gamsjäger's* 70th birthday, *Monatshefte für Chemie/Chemical Monthly* takes great pleasure in publishing a “special” issue in tribute to his many scientific contributions. The papers published in this special issue of *Monatshefte* represent contributions from Professor *Gamsjäger's* close friends and colleagues on the IUPAC Subcommittee on Solubility and Equilibrium Data of which he is chairman. The scope and creativity of these contributions are a tribute to Prof. *Gamsjäger's* influence and interaction with his colleagues.

Heinz Gamsjäger began his career in chemistry when he was awarded an M. Sc. degree (Dipl.-Ing. Technical Chemistry) by the Technical University Graz in 1956. *Heinz Gamsjäger* then continued his academic training at the University of Leoben where he was awarded the Ph.D. degree (Dr. mont.) in 1960 and Docent of Physical Chemistry in 1969.

Heinz Gamsjäger's professional career began in 1959 as a Research and Teaching Assistant in Physical Chemistry at the University of Leoben. In 1969 he accepted a position at the Swiss Federal Institute of Reactor Research in Würenlingen as a Research Chemist and shortly after he moved to The University of Berne as a Lecturer of Inorganic Chemistry in 1971 and Associate Professor of Inorganic Chemistry in 1974. In 1975 *Heinz Gamsjäger* moved to the University of Leoben as a full professor and subsequently became Head of the Department (Institutsvorstand) of Physical Chemistry. He officially retired in 2000 and is presently Emeritus Professor of Physical Chemistry at the University of Leoben.

During Prof. *Gamsjäger's* active time at Leoben University the overall working scope of physical chemistry research at the university was very broad and, briefly, involved traditional physical chemical research with emphases on thermodynamic and kinetic investigations of reactions which are relevant to metallurgy, ceramics, materials science, environmental engineering, plastics and engineering, and applied geosciences. Within this scope *Heinz Gamsjäger's* major research areas involved the investigation of solid–solute phase equilibria in aqueous solutions, computer-assisted calculation and optimization of phase diagrams, modeling of geochemical and metallurgical processes, thermodynamic and kinetic isotope effects in the study of oxygen exchange in aqueous solutions, and dissolution

kinetics of metal oxides. The results of his numerous fruitful research activities have been published in many journals and presented at scientific conferences worldwide. As testament to the high quality of his research and to his distinguished academic career *Heinz Gamsjäger* was awarded the prestigious *Erwin Schrödinger Prize* in 1995 by the Austrian Academy of Sciences.

Heinz Gamsjäger was never one to rest; in addition to his research and teaching responsibilities at the University of Leoben he has been extremely active in many other areas. He has served on the editorial board of *Monatshefte für Chemie/Chemical Monthly* since 1998, on the editorial board of the IUPAC-NIST Solubility Data Series since 1994, was a Visiting Professor at the Universities of Leeds and Norwich in 1976 and 1979 and the TU Bergakademie Freiberg in 1988, an advisor to the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science Fellowship for Research in Japan in 1981, and as Invited Lecturer at the Universities of Neuchatel, Lausanne, Bern, and Basel in 1985. *Heinz Gamsjäger* has also been a major driving force in the IUPAC Solubility Data Project since 1990 serving as Secretary of IUPAC Commission V.8 on Solubility Data (now the IUPAC Subcommittee on Solubility and Equilibrium Data, or SSED) from 1994 to 2000, and as Chairman of SSED from 2001 to the present. In his capacity as a member of IUPAC Commission V.8 and SSED *Heinz Gamsjäger* has provided guidance, kind criticism, and friendship to his colleagues on SSED and has been instrumental in coordinating the efforts of over 100 distinguished scientists worldwide who are active in the work of SSED.

Heinz Gamsjäger is affectionately known to his SSED colleagues as the “Poet Laureate of IUPAC”. His warm and cheerful poetic greetings at SSED meetings are legendary. In drawing to the conclusion of this preface I think it is appropriate to reproduce the poem *Heinz Gamsjäger* read to the SSED participants at the 8th International Symposium on Solubility Phenomena (ISSP) held in Niigata, Japan, and in which he expresses the desire to meet his colleagues again at the IUPAC General Assembly in Berlin, Germany in 1999.

Give me, oh muse, the rhymes for the praise,
on behalf of my friends, which I want to raise.
Guests in Japan are treated like kings,
this lends the friendship quite beautiful wings.

We have been served delicious food,
so, spirits were high and humor was good.
This is the reason I surely would guess
that our work here will meet with success.

Let's thank our friends for all what they did,
it's really a pity that soon we must quit
this marvelous place so nice and so clean,
hope we shall see you next year in Berlin.

On behalf of all his students, post-docs and colleagues, to the contributors to this special issue of *Monatshefte*, and the publishers of this journal I wish to close

with warm expressions of gratitude to *Heinz Gamsjäger* for his guidance and friendship and wish him many more years of fruitful research.

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IUPAC-NIST Solubility Data Series