

# ORGANOMETALLICS

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## *Editor's Page*

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In this issue we continue the bis(benzene)chromium saga. To show that our cover molecule has now been prepared and fully characterized, we have added on the cover a sample bottle filled with brown-black, crystalline bis(benzene)chromium. There is a story that goes with this. After Ernst Otto Fischer and Walter Hafner had published their synthesis of bis(benzene)chromium in 1955, there were people who believed that it was just a curiosity that would never be prepared in large quantity. To show that this was not the case, Fischer had all the new students who joined his research group carry out the "standard" bis(benzene)chromium preparation until 1 kg had been accumulated. This then was sealed up in a bottle, which Fischer took along on his lecture tours to show that bis(benzene)chromium could indeed be prepared in quantity. The bottle later was donated to the Deutsches Museum. It now is in the Deutsches Museum Bonn, and a photograph of it appears in its catalog. (We thank the Deutsches Museum Bonn for permission to reproduce the picture of this bottle full of bis(benzene)chromium on our cover.)

Part 2 of the bis(benzene)chromium essay is longer than Part 1, since after the discovery of our cover molecule, three research groups—those of Fischer, Zeiss and Hein—were very active and productive in developing the new field of  $\pi$ -arene-metal complexes. They were joined by other researchers who were less focused on the subject and later by a Fischer student, Christoph Elschenbroich, who has devoted most of his academic research career at the University of Marburg to this area.

I am deeply sorry that I must end on a sad note. Professor E. G. Rochow, the protagonist of our  $(\text{CH}_3)_2\text{SiCl}_2$  cover essay, died on March 21 at the age of 92. He was happy to see his molecule on the cover of *Organometallics* and to have its story told. He was much liked by all who knew him and held in high esteem, both as a fine and caring person and as a great chemist.

**Dietmar Seyferth**  
*Editor*

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