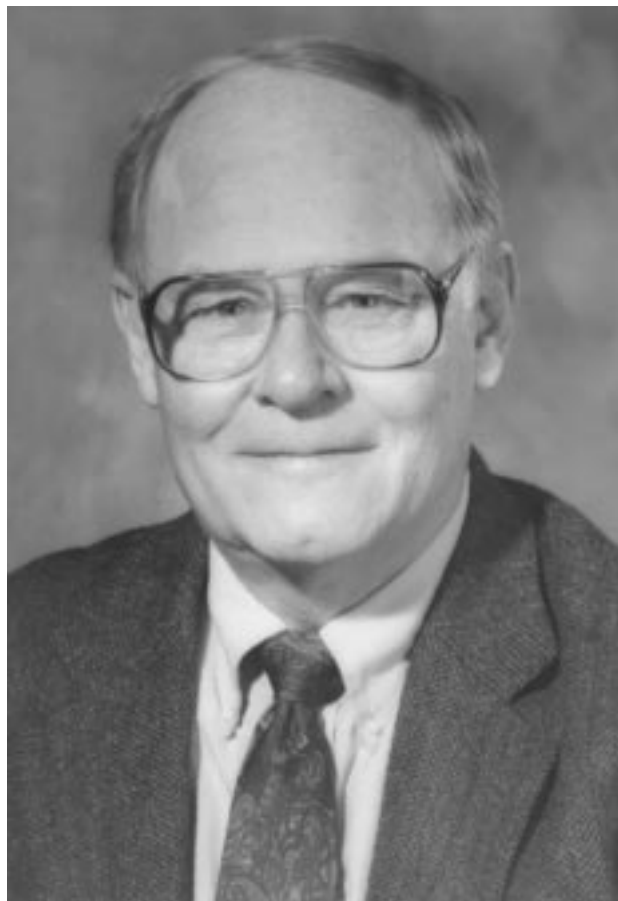


Editorial



This special issue is dedicated to the memory of our late colleague, Professor Roger S. Porter, who passed away in August of 1998. A memorial symposium was held at the Pacific Grove Asilomar facility (February 4–6, 2000) to honor his lifelong achievements in polymer research and education. Students and post-doctoral fellows who worked with Roger, as well as professional colleagues who worked in Roger's research areas, have contributed to this special issue, which is based on the Asilomar symposium. Roger significantly impacted polymer research and education both in the US and abroad for over 30 years. We who work in polymers at the University of Massachusetts, as well as a great many in the broader community, are appreciative of his service to the department, university, and polymer community.

Roger S. Porter was born on June 2, 1928, in Windom, Minnesota. He received his bachelor's (1950) and doctoral

(1956) degrees in Chemistry from the University of California, Los Angeles, and the University of Washington, respectively. Roger joined and then spent 12 years at Chevron Research Company (California). In 1966, Roger left California and became the founder and first Head of what was then called the Polymer Program at the University of Massachusetts in Amherst. Under his leadership, the program steadily grew in size and reputation and in 1974 evolved into the Department of Polymer Science and Engineering that continues to this day. In 1973, he co-founded and served as Co-Director of the University's Materials Research Laboratory (currently referred to as Materials Research Science and Technology Center). A small number of these Materials Research Laboratories were established by the National Science Foundation at that time and the University of Massachusetts was among the first to receive this distinction.

Roger published more than 480 scientific papers, 27 review articles and 15 book chapters. He wrote or co-edited 10 books. As a result of his pioneering work at Chevron and the University of Massachusetts, he developed an international reputation in the fields of both polymer science and liquid crystals. He served on the Editorial Board of 15 scientific journals and was heavily involved with publications of the Society of Plastics Engineers. In the latter role, he guided for nearly 30 years the *Journal of Polymer Engineering and Science* as Editor. Then, in 1979, he was instrumental in establishing the journal *Polymer Composites*, which he subsequently edited as well. From 1966 to 1969, Roger was Assistant Editor of *Transactions of the Society of Rheology*.

Roger was also very active in Gordon Research Conferences. He was a member of the Board of Trustees from 1979 to 1983, Vice-Chairman in 1981 and Chairman in 1982. He served as a member of the Council from 1978 to 1981 and on the Site and Selection Committee from 1987 to 1993. He was Conference Chairman for Liquid Crystals in 1972, for Polymers–West in 1974, for Elastomers in 1976, for Polymer Liquid Crystals in 1986 and for Composites in 1991.

Roger was recipient of numerous awards and medals for his scientific contributions and outstanding service in polymer science and technology. From the Society of Plastics Engineers, he received the award for Polyolefin Research, the International Education Award, and the International Research Prize. From the American Chemical Society, he received the Organic Coatings and Plastics Award and the Paul J. Flory Polymer Education Award. From the Plastics Institute of America, he received the Meritorious Service Award in Polymer Education. From the North American Thermal Analysis Society, he received the Mettler Prize. From the Society of Rheology, he received the Bingham Prize. Roger was also elected to the Plastics Hall of Fame. At the time of his retirement from the University of Massachusetts in 1997, he was awarded an Honorary Degree of Doctor of Science and the Chancellor's Medal.

Roger served on committees of the National Research Council of the National Academy of Sciences, including the Committee on the Survey of Materials Science from 1972 to 1974, Human Resources in 1980, and Dielectrics

from 1977 to 1980, where he was Panel Chairman in 1979–1980. His service to National Science Foundation Advisory Panels included Chemistry and Mathematics from 1971 to 1973, Materials Division from 1972 to 1977, Applied Science and Research Applications in 1978, Division of Intergovernmental Science and Public Policy from 1979 to 1980, Educational Modules for Materials Science and Engineering from 1979 to 1986 and the Young Presidential Investigators in 1983. He was a member of the Petroleum Research Fund Advisory Board from 1979 to 1985 and Chairman of its Policy and Polymer Committees from 1981 to 1985.

Roger was active in international collaborations. He was US Co-Chairman of the Joint Polymer Program with the USSR in 1979. He served as Senior Fellow at the Scientific Research Council of Great Britain in 1972–1973. He served on the Soros Funding Panel for Polymers for the International Science Foundation, Washington, DC.

In addition to his other academic and teaching commitments, Roger held visiting professorships and lectureships at numerous universities both in the US and abroad; he had a special interest in the development of the polymer programs at the University of Southern Mississippi. He was active in the American Chemical Society, Society of Rheology, American Physical Society and North American Thermal Analysis Society. Roger devoted much of his professional activities to the Society of Plastics Engineers, where he was elected Distinguished Member in 1993. Roger Porter was also a member of Alpha Chi Sigma, Sigma Xi and Phi Gamma Delta.

Roger S. Porter is survived by his wife, Catharine, three daughters and one son.

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