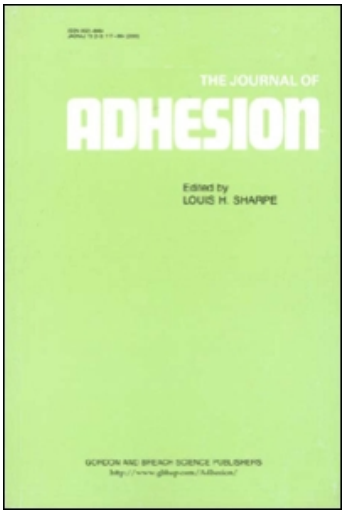

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LOUIS HAUGHTON SHARPE

Lou Sharpe was born in Jamaica, West Indies, obtained his B.S. Chemistry degree in the Honors Curriculum at Virginia Polytechnic Institute in 1950 and his Ph.D. degree in Physical Chemistry from Michigan State University in 1957. After a short stay with the Michigan State Highway Department, he started his career in adhesion science at the Bell Telephone Laboratories (now AT&T Bell Laboratories) in 1955 where he remained until 1985. Through the use of internal reflection spectroscopy, he was able to demonstrate that some polymers adsorb onto a substrate in an oriented configuration. However, this is not the only mechanism of adhesion because of the non-reciprocal wetting of certain polymer pairs, i.e., a liquid epoxy will not wet a low energy surface such as polyethylene whereas molten polyethylene will make strong bonds with a solidified epoxy surface. These studies have led to the conclusion that adsorption is not solely an interface interaction. In an adhesive bond, both substrates have a different composition and orientation in areas near the surface leading to the concept of an interphase region. This concept has become highly significant in the study of properties and durability of both adhesive joints and composite materials.

It seems remarkable that the friendship between Lou and Harold Schonhorn has spanned a period of over thirty years. Harold first came to know Lou when he joined Lou's group at Bell Laboratories in 1961. The great strength of their relationship was the synergism developed when they probed both the practical and fundamental aspects of adhesion. Lou was and is a most perceptive and challenging individual.

Materials Science at Bell Laboratories was a unique department. Some of the foremost scientists in Polymer Science were in residence in Murray Hill, New Jersey. Occasionally, one or more of them could be stimulated to think about the real world of adhesion science. It is in this environment that Lou flourished. His organizational skills and his ability to convey and teach in simple terms the complicated concepts involved in adhesion science ultimately led to his becoming the founding Editor of the internationally recognized *The Journal of Adhesion*. Through Lou's leadership, this journal required rigorous refereeing of all original submissions and eschewed popular and commercial articles.

Larry Peebles met Lou shortly after Larry became a scientific officer for the Office of Naval Research in 1972. They have interacted together through their association with the Gordon Research Conferences on the Science of Adhesion, the Adhesion Society, and many workshops sponsored by various departments of the U. S. Government interested in adhesion science. The counsel provided by Lou to Larry and many, many others on critical issues in adhesion science, the organization of meetings and symposia, the development of research programs in adhesion science, and the evaluation of research programs has been extraordinary.

Lou has been Chairman of the Gordon Research Conference on the Science of Adhesion (1967), President of the Adhesion Society (1986–88), was meeting chairman for the tenth anniversary international meeting of the Adhesion Society in Williamsburg (1987), received the ASTM adhesives award in 1968 and the ASTM Award of Merit in 1982. His latest award was to be elected the first Robert L. Patrick Fellow of the Adhesion Society in 1990. The citation on that award read "for his service to the international adhesion community as a teacher, a counselor, a scientist, and especially a leader in establishing the Science of Adhesion."

Lou Sharpe has truly championed the cause of adhesion science and has set a standard that will not be easy to follow. Lou is most deserving of the recognition provided by this issue of *The Journal of Adhesion*.

Harold Schonhorn,
Polyken Technologies

L. H. Peebles, Jr.
Naval Research Laboratory