

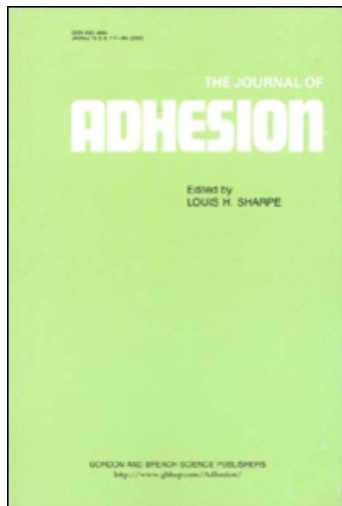
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## A Word from The Editor

We would like to add our congratulations to those expressed in the preceding Tribute by Professor Takuhei Nose to Professor Toshio Hata on the occasion of his Eighty-Fifth Birthday. Those of us who are privileged to know him, and to interact with him, appreciate that he is a very active, vigorous and warm person who has made, and continues to make, significant contributions to the science of adhesion.

Professor Nose, who was one of Professor Hata's students at Tokyo Institute of Technology, in his Tribute of Professor Hata wrote of his scientific accomplishments and of his service to the adhesion community. I wanted this Word from the Editor to be more personal. I (and my wife) have known Professor Hata for more than 27 years and have interacted with him on many occasions, both in the USA and Japan. This is an opportunity for me to say a few things about him, using some personal anecdotes to do so.

I have reminisced many times with Professor Hata and others about the circumstances of our first meeting and it is appropriate to repeat them here, because the distinctively-colored covers of both our journal (then just over a year old) and the *Journal of the Adhesion Society of Japan* (green and red, respectively) play a part in this story.

I had been invited by the Adhesion Society of Japan to give a talk at their meeting in Osaka in June, 1970. My wife and I had flown into Tokyo and were to transfer from the international to the domestic terminal for our flight to Osaka. Professor Hata, then President of the Adhesion Society of Japan, was most concerned that this transition be made smoothly so he insisted that he meet us at the airport in Tokyo and properly escort us. But how would we recognize one another? It was Professor Hata's eminently practical idea that we would each hold aloft a copy of our respective distinctively-colored journals as a means

of identification. Thus, by this means that worked so well, we met this distinguished gentleman (as well as Dr. Kazumune Nakao, then Editor of their journal) for the first time.

There is a fun-loving side to Professor Hata, as those in attendance at the banquet during the first International Meeting of The Adhesion Society in Williamsburg, Virginia, in 1987 may remember. The Colonial Dancers, ladies in Colonial costume, were part of the entertainment during the banquet. My wife and I induced one of them to select Professor Hata as her dancing partner and to invite him to go up on the stage and dance with her. He graciously agreed and his colleagues, perhaps none of whom had ever seen this side of Professor Hata, rushed to the stage to take many photographs of the event. One of those photos was published in the *Journal of the Adhesion Society of Japan* as part of a report on that Meeting!

More seriously, though, at The Adhesion Society's 1993 Meeting in Williamsburg, Virginia, I characterized Professor Hata as the "dean" of adhesion scientists in Japan. I did not lightly make that characterization. Among the meanings of "dean" in Webster's New World Dictionary are the following: "a) the senior member of a particular group; b) an experienced and preeminent member of a group". Those who know Professor Hata and his work as well as those who are aware of the great esteem in which he is held by his fellow scientists in Japan will agree that both of these fit him very well.

A final, very personal, experience bears repeating. At the award ceremonies during the International Adhesion Symposium in Yokohama, Japan, in 1994 (*IAS'94 Japan*), Professor Hiroshi Mizumachi (then President of the Adhesion Society of Japan) presented a Special Award to Professor Hata for his many years of service to the adhesion community. I will never forget the emotional and tearful reaction of Professor Hata to this totally-unexpected honor from his peers. It was the genuine response of a warm, sensitive and caring person. That is the essence of Professor Toshio Hata.

Professor Hata, my wife and I have valued your friendship over these many years and we both wish you many more celebrations of your birthday!



Editor in Chief