

## **In memoriam**

### **Massimo Simonetta 1920–1986**

Professor Massimo Simonetta, a member of the Advisory Board of *Theoretica Chimica Acta*, died on January 6, 1986.

Born on February 26, 1920, he received degrees in industrial chemistry (1943), chemical engineering (1946) and physics (1949) from the University of Milan and the Polytechnical Institute of Milan. In 1955 he was appointed full professor for physical chemistry at the University of Milan.

During 1950–1951 and 1958 Professor Simonetta was a visiting scholar at the California Institute of Technology and worked with Linus Pauling. It was on these visits that he developed his deep interest in the theory of chemical bonding and in the relations between structure and chemical reactivity. Later on he was a visiting professor at Sao Paulo (1973), at Brasenose College, Oxford (1976) and at the University of California at Berkeley (1977).

Professor Simonetta was a member of many academies and scientific societies both in Italy and abroad. He was a centenary lecturer of the Royal Society of Chemistry in 1983 and he gave lectures in various countries, most recently in Canada and Brazil in 1985.

His scientific investigations covered many aspects of physical chemistry. He was particularly fascinated by the molecular and electronic structure of organic molecules, the theoretical and experimental evaluation of electron densities in organic crystals, the reactivity of molecules on metal surfaces, and the development of *ab initio* valence bond theory.

Professor Simonetta has had a profound and lasting influence on physical chemistry in Italy and has contributed substantially to the spreading of physico-chemical ideas throughout the scientific world.

G. Favini, Milan, Italy, March 1986