

Introduction

When, earlier this year, Professors Josef Paldus and Jiří Čížek called me and inquired how, as an editor of *Theoretica Chimica Acta*, I would feel about organizing an issue dedicated to honoring Professor Jaroslav Koutecký on the occasion of his 65th birthday, I thought this to be a splendid suggestion. Since the editor-in-chief, Professor Klaus Ruedenberg, concurred provided that standard reviewing procedures were followed, Professors Paldus, Čížek, Vlasta Bonačić-Koutecký and I attempted to put together a list of the many scientists whom Jaroslav Koutecký had drawn to him from all over the world through his wide-ranging scientific interests. The response to our inquiries among potential contributors greatly exceeded even our most optimistic expectations and, as a result, this tribute will have to be distributed over several journal issues.

I wish to express my great appreciation to everyone of the many authors who, by their special efforts, have made this project possible. I also thank Professor Ruedenberg for taking over the greater part of the editorial work when, by a stroke of providential juxtaposition, I was invited by the Czechoslovak Academy of Science to lecture for the summer among other places at the very institute where Jaroslav Koutecký had once taught Joe, Jiří, me and many other students.

It gives me great pleasure indeed to present this birthday gift to our distinguished colleague, Professor Jaroslav Koutecký, with the warmest congratulations of all his friends.

Many happy returns!

Josef Michl