

FOREWORD

This issue of *Croatica Chemica Acta* is dedicated to Chemical Kinetics and Reaction Mechanisms on the occasion of the 80th birthday of Smiljko Ašperger. He not only started this field in Croatia but is also still very active both in research and education. His Ph.D. thesis entitled *Kinetics of photochemical oxidations by bichromate*, which he defended in 1946, was the first at the University of Zagreb that contained the word »kinetics« in its title. It was also the first milestone in his more than 60 years of dedication to chemistry, research and education. As the next milestone, we consider his postdoctoral stays with Sir Christopher K. Ingold at University College London (1954/55) and with William H. Saunders Jr. at University of Rochester (1955–1957). Then, there was his founding of the Laboratory for chemical kinetics at the Ruđer Bošković Institute (1958), his years as Professor, Chairman and Dean at the Faculty of Pharmacy and Biochemistry (until 1986) and his election to the Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts (1983). His recent accomplishment was the writing and publishing in 1999 of his highly appreciated book on *Chemical kinetics and inorganic reaction mechanisms* (in Croatian). He is now preparing a second, revised edition in English, which will be published in 2002. Over all these years he has had a great and steady impact on the development of chemistry, research and education in Croatia. He has introduced new ideas, methods and approaches and has taught and promoted new generations of researchers and educators. Thus, when the Editorial Board decided to publish this special issue with us as Guest Editors to honor our teacher Smiljko Ašperger, we were surprised both with the fact that he is already 80 and that most of his colleagues and many younger coworkers and students are no longer active in research. With this special issue of *Croatica Chemica Acta*, its publisher the Croatian Chemical Society expresses gratitude to its former president (1966–68), vice-president (1968–70) and Editorial Board member (1959–70) and, on behalf of all Croatian chemists, a big THANK YOU for all the great things he has done for chemistry and chemists in Croatia. These 17 papers are herewith presented to our honoree Smiljko Ašperger, but also to the large family of scientists working in the research field of chemical kinetics and reaction mechanisms, by his friends, colleagues and admirers to read, study and enjoy.

Happy birthday, dear Professor Smiljko Ašperger, and many, many more years and all the best for each of them!

*Leo Klasinc
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