

EDITORIAL

Werner Stumm is one of the most distinguished personalities of modern aquatic and environmental chemistry. His spirit and creativity are reflected in a great breadth of accomplishment and in remarkable depth – his papers provide example after example of great attention paid to the details and complexities of a problem, while pioneering whole new areas of investigation. The outstanding career of Werner Stumm, as professor at Harvard University and the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology, spans a period of over 35 years and a series of nearly 400 scientific papers, dealing with processes at the solid/water interface such as sorption reactions, coagulation, precipitation and dissolution. He is a coauthor of the milestone textbook *Aquatic Chemistry* and has edited several other books. Werner Stumm has received many honours, above all the prestigious Albert Einstein World Award of Science (1985) and the Tyler Prize for Environmental Achievement (1986).

Werner Stumm has participated in most of the International Symposia »Chemistry of the Mediterranean«. These conferences, organized by the Center for Marine Research of the Ruđer Bošković Institute in Zagreb, Croatia, are held in a traditional sequence of every two years. Until now, fourteen conferences have been convened in the Croatian coastal resorts of Rovinj and Primošten. Werner Stumm was a prominent figure of these symposia, and has always promoted their scientific atmosphere, through which they became internationally popular. He was instrumental in fostering the close scientific collaboration between the Swiss Federal Institute for Water Resources and Water Pollution (EAWAG) and the Center for Marine Research of the Ruđer Bošković Institute in Zagreb. This friendship in matters of science, advanced through many of Werner's colleagues and students, has developed into an extensive exchange of research experiences and scientific ideas.

One of the most significant contributions to *Croatica Chemica Acta* is the paper by W. Stumm, C. P. Huang and S. R. Jenkins, *Specific Chemical Interactions Affecting the Stability of Dispersed Systems*, *Croat. Chem. Acta* **42** (1970) 223–245. It was reported at the Summer School on the Chemistry of Solid/Liquid Interfaces, held in Cavtat, July 1970. This article is one of the most cited chemical papers in the second half of this century (cited more than a thousand times) and became the *Science Citation Classic* in 1990. Even nowadays, it is still recommended as a benchmark paper in the field (e.g. G. Sposito, in: C. P. Huang, C. R. O'Melia and J. J. Morgan (Eds.), *Aquatic Chemistry – Interfacial and Interspecies Processes*, ACS, Washington, DC, 1995, pp. 33–56).

The 14th International Symposium »Chemistry of the Mediterranean« was held in May 1996 in Primošten, Croatia, with the main topic »*Chemical Speciation in the Marine Environment*«. The symposium was organized by the Center for Marine Research of the Ruđer Bošković Institute in Zagreb, under the auspices of the Commission Internationale pour l'Exploration Scientifique de la mer Mediterranee (CIESM). More than 60 scientists from Croatia and all over the world attended the conference, with 50 communications as invited lectures and poster presentations.

The journal *Croatica Chemica Acta* and the guest editors of this special issue, with contributions presented at the 14th International Symposium »Chemistry of the Mediterranean« (May 1996, Primošten, Croatia), are honoured to dedicate this volume to Werner Stumm.

The Editors