

*Editors Acknowledgement.* – The guest editors wish to thank Ms Greta Prajdić, Dr Zlatica Raza, Ms Vera Mikulčić and Mr Dean Bičak for their excellent and untiring work in the production of this special issue of *Croatica Chemica Acta* honouring Professor Vladimir Prelog.

Greetings



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To Vladimir Prelog,  
on the occasion of your 90th birthday:

Highest congratulations are in order for this landmark anniversary in the life of a landmark scientist! We chemists all owe you so much, and while the actual occasions I have been honored to share your company are regrettably few, they are characterized by an unforgettable intensity. Chemistry we discuss, of course, but the art of science, philosophy, history, painting, the mysteries of the human condition—your mind seems boundless, and I am richer for having been touched by it. Furthermore, I go on record declaring that your company provides more sheer entertainment value per minute than any companion I've ever known or hope to meet!

Dear Vlado, a top contender for my most prized possession is the gold medal that bears your portrait. It is an arresting likeness, one that reveals a profile befitting a Roman emperor or a Renaissance prince. . . or, as is the case, a King of Chemistry.

With congratulations and fond best wishes,

Barry Sharpless

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June 22, 1995

Prof. V. Prelog, FRS  
Lab. für Organische Chemie  
E. T. H. Zurich  
Universitatstrasse 16  
Zurich 8006  
SWITZERLAND

Dear Vlado,

Do you remember 1948 and your Centenary Lecture before the British Chemical Society? You told me that it was unfair that, "I was so young and you were so old." Times have not changed! But you are now a young Post-doc and I am still an old Professor!

Best wishes on your 90th Birthday. We now look forward to the 100th. You will still be a young Post-doc and I, probably, will be elsewhere with Bob Woodward reminiscing about the good old times when students really worked.

As ever,



D.H.R. Barton

DHRB:kef

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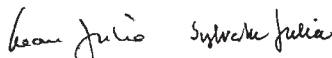
Dear Drs Dumić and Šunjić;

Thank you very much for your letter dated July 17. Please excuse the delay in answering.

We should like to take this opportunity to express our admiration and gratitude for Professor Prelog's outstanding contributions to Organic and Bioorganic Chemistry.

We send our heartiest wishes on the occasion of his 90th birthday, together with his very many Colleagues, Collaborators, Students and Friends. We are looking forward to many more years in which the chemical community will benefit from Professor Prelog's Science and Wisdom.

Yours very sincerely.



Marc and Sylvestre Julia



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12 November 1995

Professors M. Dumić and V. Šunjić  
Redakcia  
19 Marulićev trg Post pret 163  
41 001 ZAGREB  
Croatia

Dear Professors Dumić and Šunjić

As a one-time collaborator of Professor V. Prelog (1957-59), I would like to contribute, if not an anecdote, at least a recollection of a favourite expression of his - I understand that he was a destroyer captain in the Yugoslav Navy at one time.

He was accustomed to use the expression:

"More ships are lost through bad logic than through bad seamanship".

I wish you success with the Festschrift.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading 'Michael F Lynch'.

Michael F Lynch

**Head of Department:** Professor T.D. Wilson, BSc (Econ), PhD, FInstSc, FLA  
Professor of Information Science M.F. Lynch, BSc, PhD, CChem, FInstSc  
Professor P. Willett, MA, PhD, MBCS, FInstSc

**PROF. T. REICHSTEIN**

Basel, 30. Januar 1996.

Lieber Vladimir,

ich gratuliere Dir herzlichst zu Deinem 90. Geburtstag und hoffe, Du kannst einen solchen noch oft in guter Gesundheit feiern.

Leider kann ich altershalber nicht mehr reisen - werde diesen Sommer 99 Jahre alt -, es ist mir daher nicht möglich persönlich nach Zürich zu kommen, so bitte ich den Editor der Croatica Chemica Acta Dir meine besten Wünsche gedruckt zu überreichen.

Unserer gemeinsamen Zeit an der ETH und der weiteren Freundschaft mit Freude gedenkend

Dein

*Fedrik Reichstein*

### Prelog Vignette

In the early 1950's Vlado Prelog paid the first of many visits to UCLA, during which we first learned of our mutual interests in symmetry properties and large ring chemistry. Accordingly I visited him at the ETH in Zürich in the winter of 1955–1956. As I entered his office, he looked at me and exclaimed »Where did you get that coat and hat? You will not be treated cordially in Switzerland at this time if you dress like a German Army Officer.« I had innocently purchased a fine, gray, loden-cloth overcoat and cap with earflaps in cold Munich on my arrival there from Los Angeles. After this encounter with Prelog, I spent about six weeks in Zürich, warmed mainly by my American respectability, the hospitality of my hosts, my youth and the vigor of our discussions about chemical research.

Prelog is my senior by fourteen years, a large enough difference for me to look up to him over our near half-century of friendship. He has enriched my life and career, for which I thank him on this fine occasion of his 90th birthday. I had a dream recently about Prelog which placed him before St. Peter at the Pearly Gates. Prelog asked St. Peter »Have you heard the standard story about how people get into heaven?« St. Peter hastily replied »There is a long line, and my computer read-out says you are not due here for some time. Get back to your research!«

*Donald J. Cram*