FOREWORD

There is excitement, adventure, and challenge, and there can be great art, in organic synthesis.

R. B. Woodward (in *Perspectives in Organic Chemistry*)

Synthetic organic chemistry represents an intellectually challenging part of chemistry. Although significant and impressive progress has been made in the last decades, syntheses of organic compounds in the laboratory are poor when compared to the master chemist — Nature. Nevertheless, the most promising area of the future development of organic chemistry is synthesis. Experience in various fields of organic chemistry serves as inspiration for new concepts, new methodologies or new and sometimes general synthetic approaches and gives a strong impetus to modifications of the existing methods and practical applications. The design of a complex molecule from simple synthons is a reflection of the combination of the acquired knowledge and ingenuity. Also, the development of new principles of bond-making and bond-breaking, introduction of new reagents, new protective groups, etc. are giving a new impetus to the research.

The guest editors hope that this volume, containing contributions from prominent chemists from various parts of the world, will reveal some aspects of their recent creativity in organic synthesis and stimulate new ideas and concepts in other laboratories. It is our pleasant duty to express our appreciation to all authors for their contributions, as well as to the members of the Editorial Board of *Croatica Chemica Acta* for their help in preparing this volume and to Mrs. V. Mikulčić for her administrative work.

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