

The Editorial Board of *Croatica Chemica Acta* decided last year that topical issues, dedicated to various fields of chemistry, should be published occasionally.

I accepted with pleasure the invitation to be the Guest-Editor of the first such issue containing papers on structural chemistry, especially X-ray crystallography. The choice of this field as an opening is neither accidental nor unexpected. X-Ray crystallography in Yugoslavia has developed successfully in the past few decades. Many scientists working in the field both at the universities and research institutes collaborate and are well organized within the Yugoslav Centre of Crystallography, which enjoys fruitful scientific links and contacts and whose international reputation is well established.

X-Ray crystallography in Yugoslavia is relatively young. While two years ago (in 1982), scientists all over the world celebrated the 70th anniversary of the von Laue's discovery of X-ray diffraction, we in Yugoslavia marked only 35 years from the first paper published in this field. Our X-ray crystallography (and with it, structural inorganic chemistry) actually started here with Professor Drago Grdenić and for many years has flourished under his continuous inspiring stimuli and guidance. Professor Grdenić will be 65 this year so that this special issue of CCA is dedicated to his anniversary. Friends and colleagues from abroad and Yugoslavia gladly accepted our invitation to contribute their papers in his honour. My sincere thanks to all of them.

My special thanks to Professor Dorothy Hodgkin for her warm introductory words about Drago Grdenić. To say so much in but a few words only Dorothy can do.

May, 1984

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