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Dedicated to the memory of dear colleague and friend, Dr. István Lukovits.

Guest Editors:

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and Dražen Vikić-Topić**

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Sincere Appreciation to Croatian Scientists from Haruo Hosoya

Recently I was told by Ante Graovac that the MCC Organizing Committee is thinking to edit the second special issue of *Croatica Chemica Acta* with some papers again dedicated to me. What a surprise, and what a honorable affair! Then I am writing a letter of my heartiest appreciation to the mathematical chemists in Croatia who not only have organized fantastic *MATH/CHEM/COMPs* in Dubrovnik and edited the special issues of *Croatica Chemica Acta* dedicated to me but also have, together with other ex-Yugoslav chemists, repeatedly cited my first graph-theoretical paper, *Topological Index. A Newly Proposed Quantity Characterizing the Topological Nature of the Structural Isomers of Saturated Hydrocarbon*, *Bull. Chem. Soc. Jpn.* **44** (1971) 2332–2339, which was recently disclosed as the second-most cited paper in that journal.

Bulletin of the Chemical Society of Japan is the official journal published by the *Chemical Society of Japan*, to which I have belonged for nearly half a century. The statistics show that the total number of citations of the above-mentioned paper now exceeds seven hundred and is still growing with nearly forty citations annually. So I have a secret desire to get one thousand citations within several years to come.

Although I have been working widely and deeply in the area of mathematical chemistry for a long time, unfortunately there are rather few active mathematical chemists in Japan. In my biased view a majority of Japanese chemists are too pragmatic to get interested in and to appreciate the essence and importance of mathematical chemistry. Thus almost ninety per cent of the above large citation number comes from the scientists abroad. And without any doubt I can affirm that ex-Yugoslav scientists have made the greatest contribution to the total citations of my paper. Although I already sent back a letter of thankfulness individually in response to the congratu-

lation letters from Ante Graovac, Leo Klasinc, Milan Randić, and others, I should have also thanked other Croatian chemists including, of course, Nenad Trinajstić and his large group in and around Zagreb. I thank again Ante Graovac for giving me a chance to express my hearty thanks here to all ex-Yugoslav colleagues who cited my paper.

Finally I would like to explain how well I am keeping close relationships with scientists in your country. As I already mentioned elsewhere¹ I first met Nenad, Ante, and Ivan (Gutman) at the Rugjer Bošković Institute in the summer of 1973. Since then all of us were struggling up today to build up a new academic area of mathematical chemistry sometimes as collaborators and sometimes as good rivals. During this period I contributed four papers^{2–5} to *Croatica Chemica Acta*, and I would like to increase this number steadily.

Professor Haruo Hosoya, Tokyo, March 2008

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