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Gerhard Ludwig Closs: May 1, 1928 – May 24, 1992

Editorial Note

It has been a pleasure to handle the editorial duties for this Gerhard Closs memorial issue of *The Journal of Physical Chemistry*. The quality of the manuscripts published in this issue is truly outstanding; the authors are to be congratulated. The reviewers took great care to ensure the very highest standards of excellence and originality, and they responded in a timely manner, often under severe time pressure. On behalf of *The Journal of Physical Chemistry* I thank the authors, reviewers, Professor Heinz D. Roth, and Guest Editor Malcolm D. E. Forbes for their excellent work in making this exceptional issue possible; it is a fine tribute to Gerhard Closs.

— Arthur J. Nozik, Senior Editor

Preface

To quote Gerhard Closs's longtime colleague and good friend Phil Eaton, "Gerhard is best described as a caterpillar who became a butterfly, yet did not forget what he learned as a caterpillar." Phil used these words to introduce Gerhard before he gave a seminar in Chicago in the late 1980s, and they were especially fitting because that seminar was, I believe, one of the high points in Gerhard's 30-year transition from synthetic organic chemist to physical chemist. He himself preferred to be called a "chemist", and one can easily see why he preferred this simple label by remembering the scope of his research accomplishments, which are placed in historical perspective on the next few pages by another good friend, Heinz Roth.

During the summer of 1992, two conferences were held in which Gerhard would have been a participant. The first was the International Symposium on Magnetic Field and Spin Effects in Chemistry and Related Phenomena held in Konstanz, Germany (he was a member of the organizing committee). The second was the Electron Donor-Acceptor Interactions Gordon Conference held in Plymouth, New Hampshire (he was to be a discussion leader). The overlap between these two meetings was small

(only two researchers out of more than 200 attended both), yet both were dedicated to Gerhard's memory. That two such diverse and different groups on opposite sides of the globe would choose to honor his memory in this fashion is a testament to the impact that Gerhard's scientific achievements had on the chemistry community.

This issue will also stand as a monument to Gerhard's influence. Putting it together over the past year was extremely easy because of the enthusiasm and cooperation of the participants. Of the many comments I received from contributors, many expressed the desire to submit a manuscript that Gerhard would have enjoyed reading. So, while it has taken longer to come to press than expected, the quality of the science presented here is exceedingly high, and I am grateful to all who set forth to uphold the standard of excellence that Gerhard set for himself and those around him. It is particularly pleasing to see so many of Gerhard's former students and postdocs, collaborators, colleagues, and personal friends from the past 35 years involved with this effort.

— Malcolm D. E. Forbes, Guest Editor

Students and Collaborators of Gerhard L. Closs

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Schober, D. L.

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Sitzmann, E. V.

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