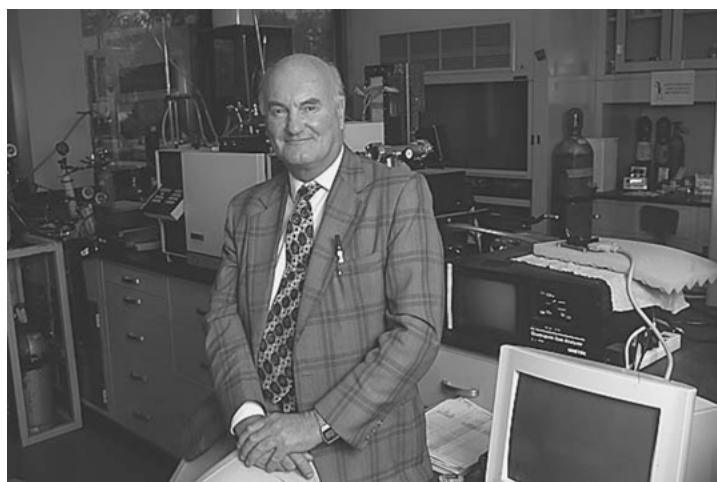




Editorial



Professor Douglas M. Ruthven

Professor Douglas M. Ruthven needs no formal introduction to the adsorption community. His name is synonymous with the theory and practice of gas and liquid phase adsorption process technology. Because of his accomplishments, the Separations Division of the AIChE held a special symposium to honor Professor Ruthven at the 2000 Annual Meeting that was held in Los Angeles, CA, November 12–17, 2000. Myself, along with Dr. Bal K. Kaul, had the pleasure of organizing this symposium. To make it a truly special occasion, we decided to limit the participants to Doug's current or former Ph.D. students, and former Postdoctoral Associates. We personally spoke with about a dozen potential speakers, and in the end eight colleagues accepted our offer. The speakers were Drs. Stefano Brandani, Celio Calvalcante, Shamsuzzaman Farooq, Ravi Kumar, Kevin F. Loughlin, Diana S.C. Phelps, Dhananjai B. Shah, and Handan Tezel. The symposium was a great success and a memorable reunion for Doug and some of his former students. So much so, that we decided to collect some of the contributions from the symposium and put together a special issue of *Adsorption*. This is the long awaited outcome of the effort by Bal, myself and of course the authors of these articles.

Of the eight oral presentations delivered at the symposium, six of the authors were willing to turn them into full-length manuscripts. Bal and I also contacted additional former students and colleagues of Doug's to see if they would like to publish a paper in this special issue. We were successful in attracting three more contributions from Drs. C.B. Ching, Mladen Eic, and Jorg Karger. We are very pleased to present these nine articles to the adsorption community. Spanning both gas and liquid phase adsorption process technology, and equilibrium and kinetic measurements, they truly reflect on the kinds of contributions Doug, his former students, and close colleagues have made and will continue to make to the adsorption community.

Finally, Bal and I would like to extend our gratitude to the authors, not only for their contributions, but also for their patience, for without both, this special issue would have never come to fruition.

James A. Ritter and Bal K. Kaul

Guest Editors