

PROFESSOR J. K. N. JONES, F.R.S.

This issue of *Carbohydrate Research* is dedicated to Professor J. K. N. Jones in celebration of his 65th birthday.

John Kenyon Netherton Jones was born in Birmingham, England, on January 28th, 1912. All of his university education was obtained from Birmingham University. Thus, he completed his studies towards the B.Sc. degree, with First Class Honours, in 1933 and received the Frankland Medal. In 1936 he received the Ph.D. degree, having worked under the supervision of the illustrious team of Sir Norman Haworth and Sir Edmund Hirst, and in 1948 he was awarded the D.Sc. degree. Professor Jones has held a number of academic positions. He was Assistant Lecturer and then Lecturer at Bristol University from 1936-44, Senior Lecturer at Manchester University from 1945-48, and Reader in Chemistry at Bristol University from 1948-53; in 1953 he assumed his present position, namely, Chown Research Professor of Chemistry at Queen's University in Kingston, Ontario. During the Second World War, he was engaged in munitions research and training. At the end of the war, he resigned with the rank of Captain and moved to Manchester University.

One of the most impressive aspects of Professor Jones' massive contributions to carbohydrate chemistry is the universality of his interests. His earliest publications (with W. N. Haworth and E. L. Hirst) were concerned with ascorbic acid (vitamin C) and its analogs. In 1937 the rights to a patent (with W. N. Haworth, E. L. Hirst, and F. Smith) on the oxidation of L-sorbose with nitric acid to L-ascorbic acid were sold for a return of £100 sterling to each co-author; in the same year he married Marjorie Ingles Noon. When E. L. Hirst was appointed to the Chair of Organic Chemistry at Bristol University in 1936, he brought J. K. N. Jones with him from Birmingham to form part of the nucleus of his carbohydrate research-group. The close association of Professor Jones with Professor Hirst, which continued until 1948 at Manchester University, was a tremendously fruitful one; over fifty joint publications resulted from research on complex polysaccharides such as plant gums, mucilages, and starch. In addition to these pioneering studies on polysaccharide structure, Professor Jones has made major contributions to synthetic carbohydrate chemistry, stereochemistry, biosynthetic mechanisms, and metabolism of carbohydrates, and the application of separational techniques such as paper and gas-liquid chromatography in the carbohydrate field. His extensive studies on the reaction of sulfonyl chloride with carbohydrates, for example, have made available a particularly effective procedure for the preparation of chlorodeoxy sugars, derivatives which have been found to be extremely valuable intermediates in the synthesis of a wide variety of rare sugars. The results of his researches have been documented in over 300 scientific publications.

Professor Jones' outstanding achievements in carbohydrate chemistry have been recognized by his receipt of numerous awards and honours. In 1957 he was

elected a Fellow of the Royal Society of London, and in 1959 Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada and also Fellow of the Chemical Institute of Canada. The Division of Carbohydrate Chemistry of the American Chemical Society presented him with the Claude S. Hudson Award in 1969, and in 1975 he received the Anselme Payen Award from the Cellulose, Paper, and Textile Division. In March, 1975, he was awarded the third Sir Norman Haworth Memorial Medal of The Chemical Society (London). He has served as a member of the Editorial Advisory Board of *Carbohydrate Research*, and is a member of the Board of Advisors of *Advances in Carbohydrate Chemistry and Biochemistry*. In 1967 he was Chairman and chief organizer of the Fourth International Conference on Carbohydrate Chemistry, which was held in Kingston, Ontario.

As in the case of his association with E. L. Hirst, Professor Jones has throughout his career attracted the close collaboration of a number of university colleagues. Thus, at Bristol University, Dr. (later Professor) L. Hough collaborated with him; in Canada at Queen's University, his principal collaborators were initially Dr. M. B. Perry and then this writer.

Professor Jones has been, at all times, an educator of the highest rank and an inspiration to a large number of graduate students, from whom he evoked, as a result of his enthusiasm, sincerity, and gentle character, tremendous respect and affection. All of these students, former research associates, University colleagues, and friends, now offer their congratulations and best wishes to this truly fine and outstanding gentleman.

WALTER A. SZAREK

Note added in proof:

This issue of *Carbohydrate Research* was scheduled for presentation to Professor Jones at a special symposium to be held in his honour at Queen's University in May, 1977. We are sad indeed to record the untimely death of Professor Jones on April 13th, 1977.