# PROFESSOR ALAN R. KATRITZKY (FOR HIS 65TH BIRTHDAY)

August 18, 1993, will be the 65th birthday of Professor Alan R. Katritzky. For many years this name has been legendary; a standard of scientific success, creative energy, and organizational activity for heterocyclic chemists. Many junior (and not only junior) researchers dream of working in his laboratory in order to gain a fundamental, not easily obtained, scientific training that can then be used as a firm foundation for further scientific and academic careers. Almost 300 chemists have utilized this opportunity. They represent nearly every country of the world, among them more than ten scientists from the former USSR.

A protege of the well-known Professor A. Todd, A. R. Katritzky obtained his degrees first from Oxford University and then from Cambridge University. After a short period of work at Cambridge, Professor Katritzky moved to Norwich, where he established and became Dean of the School of Chemical Sciences at the new University of East Anglia. It was here that he quickly emerged as a productive scientist and organizer of research. During this period his wide range of interests were formed, the cornerstone being the chemistry of heterocyclic compounds. He and his group of junior and senior scientists completed thorough investigations on saturated heterocycles, heterocyclic conformations, tautomerism, heterocyclic *N*-oxides, and electrophilic substitution reactions. Original quantitative indices of heterocyclic aromaticity were proposed. A method was developed to determine the $\sigma_R^0$ constants of substituents that was based on calculations of the integral intensity of the C=C valence bond vibrations in substituted ethylenes and benzenes. The publications of Professor Katritzky have always been distinguished as highly methodical and experimentally sound. Problems are thoroughly posed. The literature on the topic is extensively cited, especially that published in so-called "difficult" languages, which include Russian. Such a phenomenon is quite rare among Western scientists.

Together with directing studies in physical organic chemistry, A. R. Katritzky has recently performed interesting and extensive synthetic investigations at the University of Florida. The all-encompassing series of studies on the use of pyrylium salts and *N*-substituted benzotriazole derivatives to prepare various aliphatic compounds is well known.

Professor Katritzky is a stimulating lecturer, an innovator in the documentation and teaching of the chemistry of heterocycles. A typical example is the original textbook coauthored with J. Lagowski that has been translated into Russian. A most important initiative of Professor Katritzky, for which all organic chemists are grateful, is the fundamental 8-volume series *Comprehensive Heterocyclic Chemistry* (Pergamon Press, 1984). This series was used as a basis for the later publication of the excellent reference text entitled *Handbook of Heterocyclic Chemistry*. For the past 30 years, Professor A. R. Katritzky has been the editor of the world renowned *Advances in Heterocyclic Chemistry*, which provides heterocyclic chemists with timely and complete information about progress in this area. Professor Katritzky has authored numerous reviews, monographs, and more than 1000 articles. According to the Institute of Scientific Information, he occupies the 12th position in the ranking of the world's most frequently published scientists of the past 10 years. The unusual productivity of Alan R. Katritzky is the result not only of his drive and organizational abilities but also of his excellent health, which he maintains through regular exercise.

Contacts with industry are constantly cultivated by Professor Katritzky. Employees of chemical companies and plants are welcome guests in his laboratory. Professor Katritzky has a keen sense for new developments. As soon as a new instrument or publication appears, it is incorporated into his arsenal of physical and synthetic methods.

It should be mentioned that the pressure Professor A. R. Katritzky exerts to encourage dedication is combined with extreme kindness and attention to the needs and health of his coworkers. He is always ready to help them. He has always held in the highest regard what we now call the "heterocyclic school of the former USSR." Professor A. R. Katritzky has been a guest in Moscow several times and also visited Estonia. He initiated a long series of reviews written by Russian chemists that has been published recently in *Advances in Heterocyclic Chemistry*. He is a faithful subscriber to our journal and since 1992 has been a member of the Editorial Board.

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The Editorial Board of *Khimiya Geterotsiklicheskikh Soedinenii (Chemistry of Heterocyclic Compounds)* cordially congratulates Professor Alan R. Katritzky on his birthday and wishes him good health, good fortune, and further fruitful scientific endeavors.

A. F. Pozharskii

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