

FROM THE EDITOR

Prof. E. Lukevics, Editor-in-Chief

In the last week of June three international symposia are being held simultaneously on subjects concerning the "Chemistry of Heterocyclic Compounds":

Conference on "Heterocycles in Bio-Organic Chemistry" in Manchester (United Kingdom);

International Conference on the Organic Chemistry of Sulfur in Sheffield (United Kingdom);

The Baltic Symposium on Organic Chemistry in Vilnius (Lithuania).

Immediately afterwards in Warsaw (Poland) there is the International Conference on Organic Synthesis.

Whereas the conferences in Manchester, Sheffield, and Warsaw have become traditional (the tenth, twelfth, and thirteenth respectively), the symposium in Vilnius (*Balticum Organicum Syntheticum*, BOS-2000) is being held for the first time.

At BOS-2000 plenary papers are being presented by distinguished organic chemists from Germany, Canada, the United Kingdom, Russia, USA, Switzerland, Japan, and also Latvia, Lithuania, and Estonia (G. Beck, I. Beletskaya, M. Beller, A. Barret, E. Butkus, L. Vaska, E. Vedejs, R. Grubbs, R. Kazlauskas, M. Lopp, E. Lukevics, R. Noyori, I. Ugi, A. Eschenmoser, R. Yang). We hope that this symposium will become traditional and will be held regularly and alternately in one of the Baltic countries (Lithuania, Estonia, and Latvia).

At the symposia in Vilnius and Warsaw more than half of the plenary lectures and posters concern the synthesis and properties of heterocycles. The Editorial Board of "Chemistry of Heterocyclic Compounds" has therefore decided to prepare a special issue of the journal devoted to these remarkable events in the life of chemists from the Baltic nations and Poland and to include in it papers from heterocyclic chemists working in all the countries surrounding the Baltic Sea.

Unfortunately, owing to the extremely short time for the presentation of the manuscripts only chemists from Poland, Lithuania, Latvia, and Saint Petersburg (Russia) have been able to submit their papers. However, this has proved sufficient to fill not only the sixth but also the seventh issue of the journal.

The sixth issue contains papers that analyze the molecular structure of bithiophene and oligothiophenes (ter-, quater-, quinque-, sexi-, and octithiophenes), pyridylazomethines, the electronic structure of nitropyridine N-oxides, the protolytic equilibria in annellated azoloazines, the tautomeric transformations of isoxazoles and pyrazolines, and intramolecular charge transfer in aminothiazolylbenzoquinones. The papers of this issue also describe the synthesis of new condensed nitrogen-containing heterocycles, the stereochemical aspects of the synthesis of new isoxazoles by [2+3]-cycloaddition, and the preparation of cephalosporins with carbonate functions at positions 3 and 7, which have significant cytotoxicity toward tumor cells and are also strong inhibitors of elastase.

In the seventh issue there will be papers on the synthesis of mono- and polynuclear NH-tetrazoles (review), the use of molecular sieves in the synthesis of pyridylazomethines, the vapor-phase catalytic transformations of 2-hydroxytetrahydrofuran, the synthesis of the carbazolyindole photoconductors, new fluorescent derivatives of acridine, benzonaphthidridinium salts with antibacterial characteristics, and methods for the synthesis of quinazoline and other fused heterocycles.

The Editorial Board thanks all the authors who submitted papers for this special number of the journal and looks forward to further fruitful cooperation.