

PREFACE

A Celebration of Inorganic Lives

In this issue, we print an interview of Fred Basolo by Du Shriver. This is the first of what is hoped to be a series of interviews of senior inorganic statesmen and women. The older generation of chemists contains a rich resource of the development of chemistry over the past 50 years. Much of this history may be anecdotal and not otherwise well documented. This new series should play a role, albeit small, in saving the story of 20th century inorganic chemistry for posterity. It also provides an opportunity for us to know our senior colleagues more intimately, to find out what makes them tick, and gain insight into the pressures and stimuli which made them choose the career path that they did. We may also hope to tap some of the storehouse of wisdom which our colleagues represent. I also suspect that the current generation of young chemists has little idea of the conditions under which scientific research was undertaken in the 30s and early 40s when our elder colleagues were beginning their laboratory studies. Such insights might serve to ensure we understand how well off we are today in comparison! We are grateful to both the interviewee and the interviewer for their time and effort in bringing these articles to print. Assuming our readers find such articles stimulating, it is intended to publish these interviews irregularly through the coming years.

The Editor