



Editor's Foreword

Trying to capture the essence of Helmut Schwarz in a brief foreword is like trying to capture a whirlwind in a paper bag or getting the genie back in the bottle. Rodgers and Hammerstein confronted a similar problem in the Sound of Music in trying to describe Maria (von Trapp). The whole song “Maria” was a series of questions ending with ‘How do you hold a moonbeam in your hand?’ Lacking the musical talent of Rodgers and Hammerstein and reluctant to describe Helmut as a moonbeam, I chose a different method. Following these brief remarks are a series of snapshots that try to shed some small light on the phenomenon of Helmut Schwarz. First there is a personal foreword from long time friend and collaborator Chava Lifshitz. In it Chava details the many connections Helmut has established and maintained with Israeli scientists and scientific institutions. Next there is a remarkable short paper definitively documenting Helmut’s interstellar (intergalactic?) presence and the apparent attempt of extraterrestrials to communicate with him. We are very fortunate an extraterrestrial rock was figuratively thrown through the window of the noted analytical sleuth Renato Zenobi. Following this astounding paper there is an insightful commentary by long time Elsevier editor Swan Go, who not only gives a brief account of Elsevier’s interaction with Helmut but has collected an extensive assortment of hand written notes from many of his colleagues and friends. Leo Radom compliments this “note collage” with a “photo collage” gleaned from his personal collection.

The final items are the more traditional curriculum vitae and list of students, postdocs and senior visitors Helmut has mentored and worked with throughout his career; an impressive list indeed. We chose not to

include a list of his publications (approaching 800) because we would have had to eliminate the research papers that follow to keep the size of the volume in hand! Besides, the over 60 research groups that contributed manuscripts from literally around the globe might not have approved. And of course these are the true testament to Helmut; science of top quality spanning all aspects of chemistry and delving into biochemistry trying somehow to mirror his very broad and energetic approach to science.

Before ending, I should add a few personal notes. I have known Helmut for many years on several levels. First, we shared common research interests for nearly two decades, primarily in the areas of carbon clusters/fullerenes and in the reaction mechanisms of transition metal ions with small molecular systems. We have only “buted heads” a few times and only once did the “issue in question” actually make it into print. It was correctly pointed out by the Berlin group that some metastable intensities we reported on large carbon clusters could be contaminated by metastable reactions of even larger carbon clusters. [Actually the claim was made by Detlef Schroeder who was a student of Helmut’s at the time, but I blame you anyway Helmut!] In truth I was honored by the exchange of comments made in *J. Chem. Phys.* over a decade ago since it indicated Helmut actually read my papers! (Not to mention my getting another publication out of the work.) That I never retaliated by criticizing a future paper of Helmut’s could have several explanations, but I will leave the reader to figure out the most logical. Several years later Helmut actually invited me to Berlin for a Carbon Cluster workshop, correctly guessing I would not be showing any metastable spectra! He was, of course, a perfect host

having arranged tickets for the workshop attendees to see Sir Georg Solti conduct the combined Berlin Philharmonic and Master Chorale doing a Beethoven Mass. When I surprised him by showing up with my wife Nancy, leaving him one ticket short, he quickly managed to find two tickets in the first row, apologizing for the "inferior acoustical" seats. Of course the seats were perfect, we were about 10 ft from Solti and had unobstructed views of both the Chorale and orchestra.

Helmut being Helmut he has invited me back to Berlin many times "whenever I am in the area" which to him means anything east of Bermuda. I have never taken him up on it, but always suspected he wanted me to visit so he could pick my brain on how I managed to publish so few papers a year (it is a well kept secret). I also recall inviting him to Santa Barbara (at least I think I did Helmut) but he never accepted. You can imagine my astonishment when I saw a UCSB Seminar Notice a number of years ago that indicated that none other than Helmut Schwarz was giving a Departmental Seminar the next week. Apparently the Organic Chemists invited him. I say apparently because I was out of town the day he gave the seminar attending a scientific meeting and never did find out who invited him. I have always hoped it was not me that invited you that week Helmut!

Helmut was asked to serve as Editor of the then International Journal of Mass Spectrometry and Ion Physics at the Vienna International Mass Spectrometry Conference in 1982, beginning his editorial work commencing with volume 52 in the Spring of 1983. He replaced J. Franzen of Bremen at the same time John Beynon replaced Alan Quayle. An almost immediate change was made in the name of the journal, replacing "Ion Physics" with "Ion Processes" in recognition of the fact that ion-molecule reactions and metastable ion chemistry were playing a very significant role in Mass Spectrometry at that time. Three years later Andrew Dempster, Elsevier publishing Editor at that time, asked me to become an Editor at the Swansea International Mass Spectrometry Conference to replace the last founding editor, Harry Svec of Iowa State. A large

part of my agreeing to the job had to do with Helmut being one of the other Editors and knowing we had the potential to do great things with the Journal. I officially started at volume 70 in the winter of 1986. Milestones since then have been volume 100 (Helmut edited), volume 200 (I edited) and over 40 special issues on a wide variety of topics and honoring many of the great mass spectroscopists of our time. We also managed to change the name of the Journal dropping the Ion Processes part to better reflect the Journal's changing focus. This time it was to reflect the growing move toward biological mass spectrometry. As part of the change we added Scott McLuckey as an Editor. Both changes took place at the IJMS conference at Tampere, Finland in 1997, over a dinner of reindeer rollops at a restaurant of Swan Go's choosing. Swan was the penultimate Elsevier editor Helmut and I have worked with. The others are Andrew Dempster, Peter Shepherd, Egbert von Weezenbeck, Kostas Marinakus and the current editor Michiel Thijssen. Obviously everyone at Elsevier wants a chance to work with you Helmut!!

When I was close to turning 60 it was suggested at a board meeting that a special issue should be published honoring my career. I objected rather strongly because I felt it was both too soon (the jury was still out!) and inappropriate because I was an Editor. However, the Board voted for it and Helmut edited it. Helmut spent the next 3 years actively lobbying against the same fate befalling him at age 60 but at a Board meeting he failed to attend we unanimously decided to go forward and, knowing the history of my Special Issue, he could not refuse. I told him that after all was said and done I was very grateful for the gesture made by all my friends and colleagues contributing to my special issue and it had turned out to be one of the true highlights of my career. I assured Helmut of this at the time and, this foreword aside, I can assure him again of it now.

This Special Issue will be presented to Helmut at a Special Symposium held in Berlin in his honor in late August 2003. It is being coorganized by Detlef Schroeder and myself (Detlef is doing all the work) and will be attended by a goodly number of Helmut's

German colleagues and other collaborators. Helmut has demanded (to Detlef) that no speeches be made on his behalf (no chance Helmut) and suggested he might develop a conflict for the days selected (again no chance Helmut). The response both to this issue and to the Special Symposium has been overwhelming and enthusiastic, a great testament to the respect and affection Helmut has engendered among his professional colleagues. I am honored to be part of this celebration and to have been drafted along in

his scientific and editorial slip stream these many years.

With admiration and affection

Mike Bowers

Department of Chemistry

University of California

Santa Barbara, CA 93106, USA

Tel.: +1-805-893-3049; fax: +1-805-893-8703

E-mail: bowers@chem.ucsb.edu