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On: 17 December 2011, At: 12:28

Publisher: Taylor & Francis

Informa Ltd Registered in England and Wales Registered Number: 1072954 Registered office: Mortimer House, 37-41 Mortimer Street, London W1T 3JH, UK



Separation & Purification Reviews

Publication details, including instructions for authors and subscription information:

<http://www.tandfonline.com/loi/lsp20>

Special Issue Honoring Carel J. van Oss: A Lifetime Devoted to Scientific Advancement

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Available online: 30 Mar 2011

To cite this article: Alain Berthod (2011): Special Issue Honoring Carel J. van Oss: A Lifetime Devoted to Scientific Advancement, *Separation & Purification Reviews*, 40:3, 161-162

To link to this article: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/15422119.2011.555207>

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FOREWORD

Special Issue Honoring Carel J. van Oss: A Lifetime Devoted to Scientific Advancement



Professor Carel Jan van Oss, State University of New York at Buffalo, founded the journal *Separation & Purification Methods* in 1973, a journal published then by Marcel Dekker Inc, New York. The publication was opened to research articles describing new and original separation methods for thirty years. In 2003, the Dekker publishing company was acquired by Taylor & Francis, Philadelphia; the editorial focus of the journal was reoriented and its title was changed to the present *Separation & Purification Reviews*. From this time, only review articles were considered by the new journal. Research articles are redirected to the

brother journal: *Separation Science and Technologies* founded in 1966 by J. Calvin Giddings, University of Utah, Salt Lake City, and now edited by Steven Cramer, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Troy, NY. This special issue wants to honor our founding editor, Carel van Oss, for a lifetime devoted to scientific advancement and especially to surface science and surface energy.

Carel J. van Oss is a native of the Netherlands, where he is a decorated war hero. During WWII he assisted many hundreds of Jews from Nazi invaders by forging documents (1). His status of Dutch war hero was only recognized in 1984, when the Netherlands kingdom awarded him the great Resistance Cross and made him Knight of the Orange-Nassau order and honorary Dutch Consul in Buffalo, NY, for twenty years.

After the war, he went to France where he obtained a PhD in 1955 in the prestigious Paris Sorbonne University. After postdoctoral studies in the Netherlands (van't Hoff Laboratory of Physical and Colloid Chemistry, University of Utrecht) and in France (Electrochemistry Laboratory, Sorbonne, Paris), he held the position of Director of the Laboratory of Physical Biochemistry in the National Veterinary College of Maisons-Alfort (Paris,

France) (1958–1963). In 1963 Dr. van Oss came to the United States, taking the position of Assistant Director of the Department of Microbiology at Montefiore Hospital and Medical Center, New York, NY. From 1965 to 1968 he was Director of the Serum, Plasma, and Immunochemistry Departments of the Milwaukee Blood Center and Adjunct Associate Professor of Biology at Marquette University, Milwaukee, WI.

In 1968 Dr. van Oss joined the Department of Microbiology, SUNY at Buffalo. He was Professor of Microbiology and Chemical Engineering at the State University of New York at Buffalo. He was Head of the Laboratory of Immunochemistry of the Department of Microbiology and a member of the Ernest Witebsky Center for Immunology at SUNY at Buffalo. He has held visiting positions at the Central Laboratory of the Netherlands Red Cross Blood Transfusion Service at Amsterdam and at the University of Bristol.

Dr. van Oss was the founding Editor-in-Chief of the journal *Separation and Purification Methods* but also edited *Preparative Biochemistry* and *Immunological Investigations*, and served on the editorial boards of various other journals. He is the author of more than 300 papers and numerous abstracts and coauthor or coeditor of 12 books; he also holds 10 patents (2). In this issue, he agreed to share his expert point of view on the *Role of the Polar Properties of Water in Separation Methods*, reminding us of the paramount importance of the physicochemical properties of water, explaining the solubilization power of the greenest possible solvent.

Thanks for your contribution, Professor, and for the many more to come.

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2. van Oss, C.J., Chaudhury, M.K., and Good, R.J. (1988) Interfacial Lifshitz-van der Waals and polar interactions in macroscopic systems. *Chem. Rev.* 88: 927–941.