



PROFESSOR CHARLES REES

Preface

CHARLES W. REES

This and the following issue of *Tetrahedron* are to celebrate the 65th anniversary of Charles Rees' birth on October 15, 1927.

After an early spell in industry and study at Southampton, Charles Rees commenced his academic career at Birkbeck and then held a Lectureship and a Readership at King's College, London. His distinguished career took him on to Chairs at Leicester and Liverpool before his appointment in 1978 to one of the pre-eminent positions in Organic Chemistry, the Hofmann Professorship at Imperial College.

Charles Rees' work has covered many important topics—nitrenes, carbenes, arynes, sulfur–nitrogen chemistry—but it is in the general area of heterocyclic chemistry that he will be most remembered: his frequently used synthesis of indoles by vinyl azide pyrolysis should be called the 'Rees Reaction'. He has received many honors, including Fellowship of the Royal Society, and the Tilden and Pedler Lectureships, and the first award of the Heterocyclic Prize of the Royal Society of Chemistry, of which he is now President.

Charles is far more than a distinguished researcher—his wise advice as a colleague, his teaching abilities, and his friendship, wit and conviviality are aptly testified by his numerous pupils, colleagues and friends from all around the world who have contributed the papers in these issues.

We wish him many more years of productive research and count ourselves fortunate to have been, for so long, his friends.

Derek Barton
Texas

Alan Katritzky
Florida