

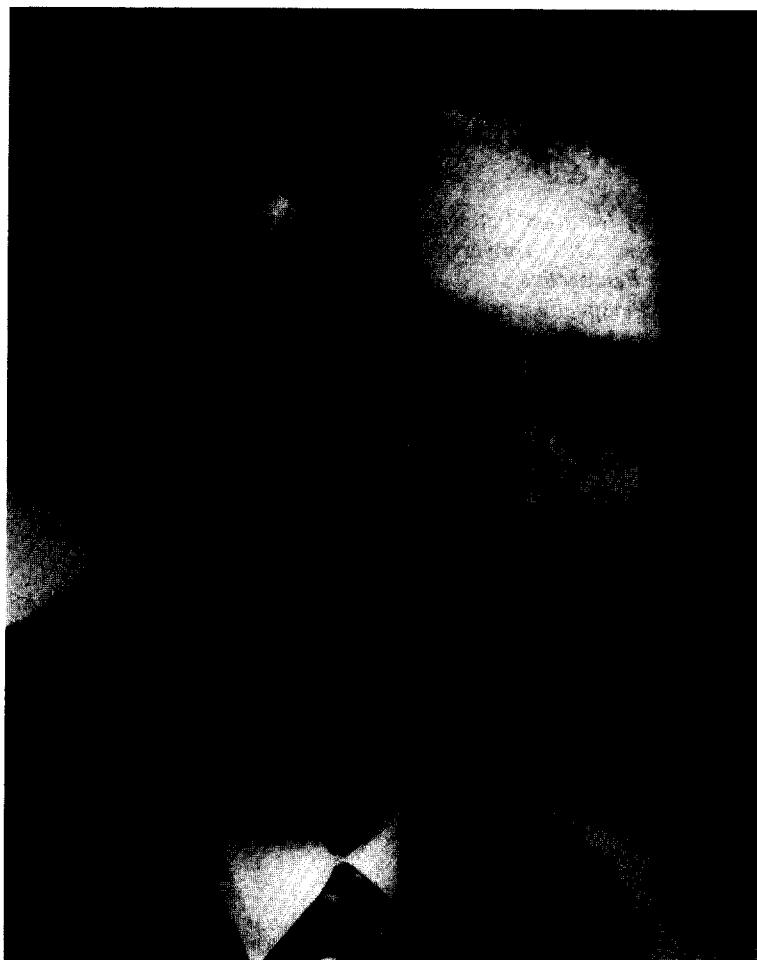
Tetrahedron Perspectives

COORDINATING EDITOR: HARRY H. WASSERMAN

The Discovery of Nature's Pathway to Vitamin B₁₂. A 25 Year Odyssey, by A. Ian Scott of the Texas A&M University, is the third article to be published in the series of *Tetrahedron Perspectives*.

The object of *Perspectives* is to stimulate an increased awareness of the unity of organic chemistry by highlighting those aspects of the field which will have appeal to all of its practitioners. These include an appreciation of the role of individuals and circumstances in the history of the subject, the dynamic of the current activity, and the prospects for the future. Toward this goal, we shall, when necessary, recognize the role of intellectual and sometimes even personal discord in the development of the field. Whether solicited or volunteered, these manuscripts will be published from time to time, after being subjected to the usual peer review.

HARRY H. WASSERMAN
DEREK H. R. BARTON



A. Ian Scott was born in Glasgow, Scotland in 1928 and received B.Sc., Ph.D. and D.Sc. degrees from Glasgow University. Following postdoctoral studies with M. S. Newman (Ohio State University) and Sir Derek Barton (Birkbeck College and Glasgow) and a lectureship at Glasgow University (1957–1962), he occupied chairs of organic chemistry at U.B.C., Vancouver (1962–1965), Sussex (1965–1968) and Yale (1968–1977) before moving to Texas A&M University in 1977 where he is now Davidson Professor of Science and Director of the Center for Biological NMR. His research interests are concentrated at the interfaces of organic chemistry, NMR spectroscopy and genetic engineering of natural product biosynthesis.

The combination of these techniques have led his investigations into the use of stable isotopes, enzymology and gene expression to study the mechanisms and synthetic power of the enzymes which mediate the biosynthesis of alkaloids, antibiotics, vitamins and steroids. His work has been recognised by numerous awards, the most recent being the A. C. Cope Scholar Award of the American Chemical Society and the Bakerian Lectureship and Prize of the Royal Society. Dr Scott is a Fellow of the Royal Societies of London and Edinburgh and the European Academy of Arts and Science, a Member of the Scientific Academy of Siena and a Founding Member of the Yale Sherlock Holmes Society.