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## Personalities in Polymer Science: Cover Page, Title Page, Introduction, and List of Articles

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## **V. PERSONALITIES IN POLYMER SCIENCE (in 155 pages)**

***Otto Vogl & Gerald S. Kirshenbaum, Editor of Polymer News***

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### **Introduction**

I indicated in my introduction to “Centers of Polymer Research” that polymers, macromolecules and natural materials have been effectively used for centuries, even though the exact nature of the materials was not known. What was known was the origins and how to prepare these materials from natural sources for the intended use. As chemistry evolved in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, some scientists became interested in their chemical structures. Many were found out to be macromolecules. In fact most of the rock formations in mountain ranges are macromolecules, inorganic macromolecules.

As macromolecules were ready to be defined as giant molecules, some fields were associated with the early pioneers in their fields. Proteins with Emil Fischer and Linus Pauling, polysaccharides which are more complex, with a number of contributors, and nuclei acids with Lord Todd and Watson and Crick. These scientists defined their field and were the originators or leaders in the field. They often achieved dominance by their outstanding contributions, their charisma and of their personality.

Polymer Science is no exception. Its development was driven by numerous personalities with knowledge, foresight, determination and confidence in the importance of Macromolecules (or polymers). A number of such personalities played a leading role in the field and provided the basis of Polymer Science and Technology.

I am very fortunate that I knew personally many of the scientists that defined the field of macromolecular science beginning from the 40's; some were even active in the 30's.

As my generation took over and provided leadership for Polymer Science I then knew and now know almost all these scientific “Personalities”. We interacted and competed in our work, we attended meetings and organized meetings. Those are

the scientists whose pictures you will find in the book “Who was Who in Polymer Science”, which is part of this web site. I have also prepared another shorter book of people who are still active. I called it “Who is Who in Polymer Science”. A younger generation has taken the leadership role and will take their place as the new generation of pioneers and “personalities”. I hope that this book will be continued and extended by someone closer to the present generation of scientists.

There is no real special reason why I have divided these two portions of “Who was/is Who” except that “Who was Who” is represented by the “personalities” of my generation and older. I have also taken the liberty of an arbitrary decision. I categorized those personalities 70 years old and older should belong to “Who was Who” even though some are still actively working and contributing effectively to polymer science and technology even though they are 80 years old.

As I mentioned before, the personalities that I have included in this collection of pictures and arranged alphabetically, I have known personally. They are friends and/or good acquaintances.

All my life I had been an avid photographer, and have enjoyed taking pictures from places that I visited, at scientific meetings, and from attendees at such meetings. Consequently, I have many pictures of my scientific friends. Since the events of the modern automatic cameras, I have taken more pictures, more “action pictures”, and more close-ups.

Some of the personalities that I included in this display are not my own pictures. I did not always have my camera ready or, if I had it, the picture that I took was not of a sufficiently good quality to have it included in this booklet. There was another group of personalities that I was anxious to include. These were personalities that I had met, but I did not take their pictures myself.

I hope that my collection will inspire my friends to think of the last 50-60 years that we walked together along the path for the progress of Polymer Science. I hope that it also inspires the younger generation to learn to know the people that were in the midst of developing our modern Polymer Science.

As an old Chinese proverb said: “When you have good drinking water, remember who dug the well”.

## List of Articles

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