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59. Otto Kratky, 1902-1995

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Professor Otto Kratky on his 90th birthday

On March 9, 1992, Professor Otto Kratky celebrated his 90th birthday in an intimate setting with about 50 colleagues and friends at the Institute of Physical Chemistry in Graz, Austria.

Professor Kratky wished to have his birthday celebrated in a small group and Professor Josef Schurz, his successor and now the head of the Institute, arranged this celebration accordingly. Still, some officials came and presented the congratulations of their various organizations. Professor Franz Zeilinger, the President of the University of Graz and Professor Franz Kapper, the Dean of Science of the University of Graz, each gave a short talk; as did Professor Otto Hittmair, the Vice President of the Austrian Academy of Sciences. Professor Otto Vogl spoke on behalf of the international polymer community.

Professor Kratky has made immense contributions to Science and to Polymer Science in particular. He is the father of small angle x-ray spectroscopy and developed not only the instrumentation but also, with Porod, the theoretical basis for this very important field of polymer science. Manyfold were his recognitions for his countless contributions. He has been a member of the Austrian Academy of Science for over 40 years, the president of the University of Graz, and the recipient of a number of honorary degrees from various Universities.

For this occasion of his 90th birthday, an unusual gift was presented to him: a book of reminiscences written in letter form by



Prof. O Kratky, Prof. F. Zeilinger and Prof. J. Schurz

his students, colleagues and friends. It consisted of interesting and amusing stories that should not be forgotten. This collection of memories demonstrated the high esteem and fondness in which Professor Kratky was and is being held by his colleagues and friends.

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