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71. Otto Vogl

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Polymer Science Pioneers

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This column is dedicated to Otto Vogl in honor of his 65th birthday.

Otto Vogl was born in Traiskirchen, Austria on November 6, 1927. In 1950 he received his Ph.D. from the University of Vienna where he worked on steroids and alkaloids with Friedrich Galinsky. From 1948 to 1953, Vogl served as an instructor in the quantitative and qualitative analytical laboratories.

From 1953 to 1955, Vogl worked with C. Rondstvedt at the University of Michigan. He played soccer with the Michigan Soccer Club and served as a senator at the International Center at the University. In 1955 Vogl was married to Katherine Jane Cunningham of Sag Harbor, New York. He then spent a year at Princeton University as a Research Associate working with E. C. Taylor. In this period from 1953 to 1956, Vogl's research interests evolved from steroids and alkaloids to heterocyclic molecules with a specialization in purines.

Vogl began his industrial career in 1956 with E. I. duPont de Nemours and Company in Wilmington, Delaware where he joined the Plastics Division (originally Polychemicals). He later moved to the Central Research Division and began his extensive work on the polymerization of aldehydes.

In 1970 Vogl was appointed Professor at the University of Massachusetts in the Polymer Science and Engineering Program. The program became a department in 1974. During this tenure at the University of Massachusetts, Vogl served as Graduate Program Director, was involved in bringing the Materials Research Laboratory to the department and played a major role in the creation of a cooperative program between industry and the University, the Center of the University of Massachusetts-Industry Research on Polymers (CUMIRP).



Otto Vogl

At the University of Massachusetts Vogl was responsible for the training of more than 40 Ph.D. students and postdoctoral associates. His research continued to advance the polymerization of aldehydes, especially the stereospecific polymerization of higher aldehydes. In addition, his work included the development of new polymerization techniques, e.g. cryochromic polymerization, research on polymeric U.V. stabilizers, optically active polymers, poly(alkylene oxide) ionomers, regular copolyamides and their use as reverse osmosis membranes, and polymeric drugs.

In 1983 Vogl was appointed Herman F. Mark Professor of Polymer Science at the Polytechnic University in New York. This newly created chair was named for the late Herman Mark, who founded the Polymer Research Institute at the Polytechnic University and who is generally acknowledged as the "Father of Polymer Science" in the United States. At the Polytechnic University Vogl continues in his research interests and in the training of Ph.D. students and postdoctoral fellows.

Professor Vogl has been very active in promoting international relations and worldwide cooperation between scientific communities in the field of polymers. He has been a Visiting Professor at Kyoto (1968, 1980) and Osaka (1968) Universities, the University Louis Pasteur in Strasbourg (1976-77), the Royal Institute of Technology in Stockholm (1971, 1990), the University of Freiburg (1973), the Free University of Berlin (1977), and the Technical University of Dresden (1982). Vogl has also been invited to speak at academies of science throughout the

world and has chaired many international symposia.

Professor Vogl has edited 12 books and is author or coauthor of about 400 papers and 40 patents. He has served on the editorial or advisory boards of *Macromolecules*, *Journal of Polymer Science*, *Die Makromolekulare Chemie*, *Polymer*, *Macromolecular Syntheses*, *Polymer News*, *Monatshfte fuer Chemie*, *Journal of Materials Science*, *Del Chem Bulletin*, *the ValChemist*, *Oesterreichische Chemiker Zeitung*, *Polymer Contents*, *European Polymer Journal*, *Acta Polymerica*, and *Polymer Journal*.

Vogl has contributed to the activities of many professional societies including the American Chemical Society, the American Association for the Advancement of Science, Sigma Xi, the Austrian Academy of Sciences, and the Berlin Academy of Sciences. He is a Fellow of the American Institute of Chemists, and has served as chairman of the ACS Division of Polymer Chemistry (1974) and chairman of the Connecticut Valley Section of the ACS (1974). He was the first President of the Pacific Polymer Federation (1987-90), chairman of the National Academy of Sciences Committee on Macromolecular Science (1978-79) and chairman of the Gordon Research Conference on Polymers (1981).

Professor Vogl has been the recipient of many awards and medals throughout his career. The long list of awards includes the Medal of the City of Jassy (1976), the Humboldt Prize (1977), the Senior Fellowship of the Japanese Society for the Promotion of Science (1980), the Distinguished Service Award from the ACS Division of Polymer Chemistry (1985), the Doebereiner Medal from the University of Jena (1985), the Gold Medal from the City of Vienna (1986), the Medal of the University of Helsinki (1987), the Exner Medal from the Austrian Trade Association (1987), the Medal of Texas A&M University (1988), the Mark Medal from the Austrian Research Institute for Chemistry and Physics (1989), the Gold Ring in Honor of the City of Traiskirchen (1989), the ACS Award in Applied Polymer Science (1990) and the Distinguished Award of the Japanese Society of Polymer Science (1992).

In addition to his extensive international and research activities, Vogl's interests lie in history, stamp collection, travel, ecclesiastical architecture, and music (particularly opera).

Columns

Otto and Jane Vogl have two children and four grandchildren.

We at *Polymer News* would like to join in congratulating Otto on his 65th birthday. Otto Vogl has been a major supporter and contributor to *Polymer News*. He has written guest editorials (Comments) and feature articles. He has prepared since the late '70s over 30 contributions for our Centers of Polymer Research series. This included the outstanding series of articles on Polymer Research in Japan (11), China (5) and Eastern Europe (12). In addition another 25 articles appeared in our Conference Reports sections. Otto has also been an excellent advisor to *Polymer News* and has recruited many contributors to our journal such as Professors Hatada, Schurz and Philipp. Otto —happy birthday and many more. —GSK