

EDITORIAL

Chemistry at the University of Basel

It gives me great pleasure to introduce this issue of CHIMIA which is dedicated to the presentation of research in chemistry at the University of Basel. The University of Basel in general and the Department of Chemistry in particular have undergone a number of significant changes over the past few years, many of which are explicitly or implicitly presented in this volume.

The present departmental structure is represented within the organization of the volume. Although the various research groups are formally located within one of the three Institutes, the choice of an alphabetical presentation serves to emphasize the unitary structure. Many of the research groups could quite happily exist in two or more Institutes. The inclusion of the 'chemical' groups within the Institute of Pharmacy emphasizes the close scientific ties within the 'Schwerpunkt Life Sciences' in Basel.

The Department has changed and is in a process of further change. The past six or seven years have seen the departure of a number of well-established members of the Department and the arrival of younger colleagues, not to mention the departure and return of *Andreas Pfaltz*. Over the next five or six years, further colleagues will leave, offering the opportunity to explore new directions and to embark on new scientific adventures.

I wish to thank all of my colleagues who responded so generously with their time and with such good humor to my constant requests for their articles. For me, it has been a wonderful educational process to *really* learn what my colleagues do. I beg their indulgence of my editorial pencil in attempts to impose a consistency of presentation and to try to fit within our page budget. Naturally, I accept full responsibility for all errors and omissions which have, nevertheless, crept in to the final work. Finally, I should like to thank Professor *Housecroft* for 'volunteering' to help with much of the editorial work.

I particularly wish to thank *Ruth Pfaltzberger* and *Annette Roulier* for their excellent work in preparing the artwork for the cover of this issue.



Edwin C. Constable