Ernst Bayer's 70th Birthday

The international community of chromatographers congratulates Professor Ernst Bayer on the occasion of his 70th birthday on March 24. His birthday will be celebrated by numerous colleagues, friends and associates in a three day marathon event including a comprehensive scientific programme. The highlight of this event, the delivery of his farewell lecture (Abschiedsvorlesung) does not imply that Professor Bayer will be withdrawing from his many activities. On the contrary, free from teaching and administrative duties he will be even more active in pursuing the research work of his group in Tübingen. Currently this research is concerned with antisense nucleotides.

Professor Bayer can look back on an exceptional scientific career. Educated at the University of Heidelberg (Diploma) and the Max-Planck-Institute of Medical Research (a Doctorate under Professor Kuhn), he joined the Government Research Institute Geilweilerhof, situated in the region called Deutsche Weinstrasse (German Vine Valley). There, many of his future research interests were conceived. Thus he operated the first gas chromatograph in Germany and became attracted to peptide chemistry, natural compounds, flavours and fragrances and transition metal chemistry. In 1958 he accepted an offer from Professor Criegee to become a lecturer (Dozent) at the Technical University

of Karlsruhe before being appointed a professor at Tübingen University in the Institute of Organic Chemistry.

His contributions to the field of chromatography are legion. The unique position he occupies in chromatography is due to instrumental innovations, development of novel coupling methods and stereoselective recognition approaches. Yet, his achievements in separation science represent only one aspect of his numerous activities in chemistry. As a true universalist his research interests encompass, *inter alia*, structure elucidation of hemovanadine, ferredoxin, phosphinotricin, synthesis of peptides and nucleotides, development of liquid phase peptide synthesis, stereochemistry of sugars, synthesis of polymeric chelating compounds for selective removal and enrichment of transition metals, polymeric homogeneous catalysts, inorganic nitrogen fixation, a process of converting sludge into oil, humic acids, grafted polymer carriers for fast peptide, nucleotide and combinatorial synthetic approaches, NMR studies of chemically modified silica, NMR imaging of polymers and the toxicological aspects of environmental compounds.

The synergism created by this diversity of research interests has attracted more than 400 co-workers and resulted in over 500 publications and numerous patents. Professor Bayer possesses an imaginative vision for novel trends in chemistry and remarkable ability to spot

a potential winner, and, equally importantly, a potential flop. Many of his associates have, over the years, established their own flourishing institutes while others have become leaders in their own specialised fields.

Professor Bayer holds a number of academic administrative positions and is a member of various scientific bodies; he serves on the editorial boards of several international journals. He has received many honours and awards as the Fonds der Chemischen Industrie in 1961; the Tswett Medal for "outstanding contributions to the development of chromatography", Academy of Sciences of the USSR in 1978; the first ever Martin Medal of the UK Chromatographic Society in 1978; the B.P. Energy Research Prize in 1980; the Max-Bergmann-Medaille for Peptide Research in 1985; the Philip Morris Research Prize "Men and Environment" in 1985; the Tswett Chromatography Award, USA, in 1986; the Richard-Kuhn Medal of the German Chemical Society in

1990; the Pregl Medal, Austria in 1993; the Fresenius Prize in 1994. Few international meetings are complete without his presence and in turn he has organised international symposia in Tübingen and in the near-by Baden-Baden.

The readers of *Chromatographia* wish Professor Bayer continuing good health to cope with his enormous workload so that he may continue with his scientific projects in general and chromatography in particular.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'V. Schurig', with a stylized, flowing script.

V. Schurig