Foreword: Special Issue in Memoriam Heinz Gamsjäger

Glenn Hefter¹

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Professor Heinz Gamsjäger in an animated discussion with Professors Clara Magalhães (Chair of the IUPAC Subcommittee on Solubility and Equilibrium Data) and Glenn Hefter (Chair of the Stability Constant Subcommittee) at the 15th International Symposium on Solubility Phenomena (ISSP-15) in Xining, China, in July 2012.

A personal tribute by Glenn Hefter on behalf of the members of the IUPAC Sub-Committee on Solubility and Equilibrium Data

In an experience shared by many scientists, I first encountered Heinz Gamsjäger through his publications. I was preparing a review on fluoride complexes for IUPAC at the time (the early 1970s) and Heinz's paper had grabbed my attention. Even though this subject was not one of Heinz's areas of specialization, I was struck by the care with which the measurements had been made and the write-up, which was both clear and straightforward. As I was subsequently to learn these were the hallmarks of Heinz's scientific work.

My first actual encounter with Heinz 'in the flesh' was many years later at a meeting of what was then the IUPAC Solubility Data Commission (SDC) held, as usual, in conjunction with the International Symposium on Solubility Phenomena (ISSP). Like many other colleagues, I was immediately impressed by Heinz's scientific acumen and his polite and friendly manner. Following his initial attendance, Heinz became a major figure within the SDC (later to become the Sub-Committee on Solubility and Equilibrium Data, SSED, during one of IUPAC's periodic implosions) eventually taking on the demanding (and largely thankless) task of Commission Secretary. Heinz filled this important role with distinction for 5 years and subsequently became SSED Chairman for another 6 years. In addition, Heinz also staged two ISSP conferences at his home institution, the Montanuniversität, Leoben in Austria, where he was a full Professor for 25 years and Emeritus for many years after that. These well-attended conferences, ISSP-7 (in 1996) and ISSP-14 (in 2010), were a mark of Heinz's commitment to his scientific interests and of his superb organizational skills. Heinz remains to this day the only person dedicated enough to have taken on the responsibility for this conference twice.

As well as keeping his colleagues on the scientific 'straight and narrow' at conferences and meetings, Heinz also regaled us with his wonderful sense of humour. Heinz's humour expressed itself in many ways, but most famously in a series of poems he presented at our conference dinners. One of these poems is reproduced on a following page. It is hard to write reasonable poetry in your native tongue but Heinz managed to do it so well in English (the *lingua franca* of our gatherings). These poems became a regular feature of our conferences, and while they may have been occasionally imitated, they were never surpassed. I got my chance to respond in kind at ISSP-15,

✉ Glenn Hefter
G.Hefter@murdoch.edu.au

¹ Chemistry, Murdoch University, Murdoch, WA 6150, Australia

which was held in Xining, China, in 2012. Much to the joy of the other conference participants, then 80-year-young Heinz was able to make the arduous journey to Xining, which is in north-west China close to the edge of the Tibetan Plateau. Heinz was appropriately lauded at the conference with numerous speeches, a magnificent Chinese jacket, and so on. I chose instead to honour Heinz with my personal contribution to the international 'Book of Bad Verse', which is also reproduced here.

Like many others, my wife and I were on the receiving end of the personal warmth and generosity of Heinz and his wife, Heidrun, at their home near Leoben. We visited Leoben on a number of occasions and were always welcomed, indeed even overwhelmed, by their easy hospitality.

During his scientific career, Heinz received many honours including the very prestigious Schrödinger Prize of the Austrian Academy of Sciences in 1995. He also held a number of Visiting Professorships at universities throughout Europe and in Japan. The papers that are included in this Special Issue of *Monatshefte für Chemie*, of which Heinz was an Editor for almost 20 years, are a true mark of respect for Heinz's scientific achievements. They are also a reflection of the great affection of the contributors for a wonderful friend and colleague. The tributes that flooded in following Heinz's death in October, 2016 were further indications of the respect and warmth with which Heinz was held by his colleagues from all over the world.

Glenn Hefter
Chemistry, Murdoch University
Murdoch, WA 6150
Australia

Poems presented at the conference dinner of the 15th International Symposium on Solubility Phenomena (ISSP-15) in Xining, China, in July 2012.

15th ISSP rhymes by Heinz Gamsjäger

Give me o muse the rhymes for the praise
Which, for our hosts, I am wanting to raise.
All Chinese colleagues did their best,
They smiled and cared for any guest.
I personally can't refrain
To hope for such a birthday once again.
In many countries we have met,
But 15th ISSP I bet
Will be a highlight glorified
In Europe and also worldwide.

Ode to Heinz Gamsjäger by Glenn Hefter

For many a year, the IUPAC solubility folk
Have had a poet—a real good yolk
Our Heinz
From the mines
Of Austria, where they have no kangaroo
But lots of mountains and rivers blue
But Heinz' poetic feat
I will never repeat
Because you see
With all my ingenuity
The English language has let me down
I quit the stage with heavy frown
Because you see..... I cannot find
A word to rhyme with Gamsjäger!!!