

P R E F A C E

The present volume contains the invited plenary lectures delivered at the Fourth International Symposium on the Chemistry of Novel Aromatic Compounds (ISNA 4), held in Jerusalem, Israel in August 30 - September 4, 1981. The Symposium was sponsored by The International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry and was conducted under the auspices of The Israel Academy of Sciences and Humanities, The Israel Chemical Society, and The Hebrew University of Jerusalem. ISNA 4 was devoted to the state of the art and perspectives of Novel Aromatic Chemistry and "Aromaticity". It brought together scientists from a dozen countries, from the four corners of the earth, "hedgehogs and foxes" (1), to report their most recent findings and to discuss potential new directions and applications.

The First International Symposium on the Chemistry of Nonbenzenoid Aromatic Compounds was held in Sendai, Japan, in August 1970. The idea came from Ronald Breslow who suggested that it be held in Japan as a tribute to Professor Tetsuo Nozoe. The second symposium of this series, ISNA 2, was held at Lindau, Bodensee, F.R.G. in September 1974. It was then decided to substitute "Novel" for "Nonbenzenoid" to signify the broader aspects of Aromatic Chemistry and Aromaticity covered in ISNA. ISNA 3 was held in San Francisco, California, U.S.A. in August 1977. *Novel* obviously means original or striking in concept or style. Thomas Hood has noted in 1835 that "there are three things which the public will always clamour for, sooner or later, namely, novelty, novelty, novelty" (2).

Three previous highlights in the saga of Novel Aromatic Chemistry associated with Israel should be recalled: The publication in 1959 of "Nonbenzenoid Aromatic Compounds" edited by David Ginsburg, the synthesis of [18]annulene by the late Franz Sondheimer and his coworkers in 1959, and the Third Jerusalem Symposium on "Aromaticity, Pseudoaromaticity and Antiaromaticity" organized by the late Ernst David Bergmann and Bernard Pullman.

ISNA 4 paid tribute to the renowned leading scientists the late Professor Ernst David Bergmann (1903-1975) and the late Professor Franz Sondheimer, an invited plenary lecturer of ISNA 4 (1926-1981); special plenary sessions were dedicated to their memory.

In addition to the ordinary plenary lectures, ISNA 4 held a plenary session on new theoretical aspects of "Aromaticity" followed by a vivid discussion of the penalists and the audience. The lectures delivered at this session are also included in this volume.

It is a great pleasure and privilege for me to acknowledge the active participation of all the authors and in particular Professor Tetsuo Nozoe, a founding father of ISNA and the doyen of novel aromatic chemists, whose inspiration and leadership cast substance and meaning to the notion of ISNA and brought us hither.

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Perhaps it is appropriate to conclude this introduction with the following accord made by the eminent Talmudic scholar Rabbi Tarfon:

"It is not for thee to complete the work,
but neither art thou free to desist from it" (3)

ג'לא עלין המלאכה לגמור ולא אתה בן-חורין להבטל ממנה" [פרקי אבות ב', כ"א]

Jerusalem
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Israel Agranat

- (1) Isaiah Berlin, "The Hedgehog and the Fox. An Essay on Tolstoy's View of History", Weidenfeld and Nicolson, London, 1953.
- (2) Thomas Hood, "Announcement of Comic Annual for 1936" in "The Wroks of Thomas Hood, Edited with Notes by his son, Thomas Hood, Jr. and daughter, Frances Freeling Broderipe (1882-1884), Ward Lock & Co., Vol. VI, p. 325.
- (3) Mishnah, Avot, II, 21 (*ca.* 100).