

# 98 Advances in Polymer Science

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# Separation Techniques Thermodynamics Liquid Crystal Polymers

With contributions by  
M. G. Northolt, M. T. Rätzsch,  
D. J. Sikkema, L. Wild, C. Wohlfahrt

With 92 Figures and 8 Tables



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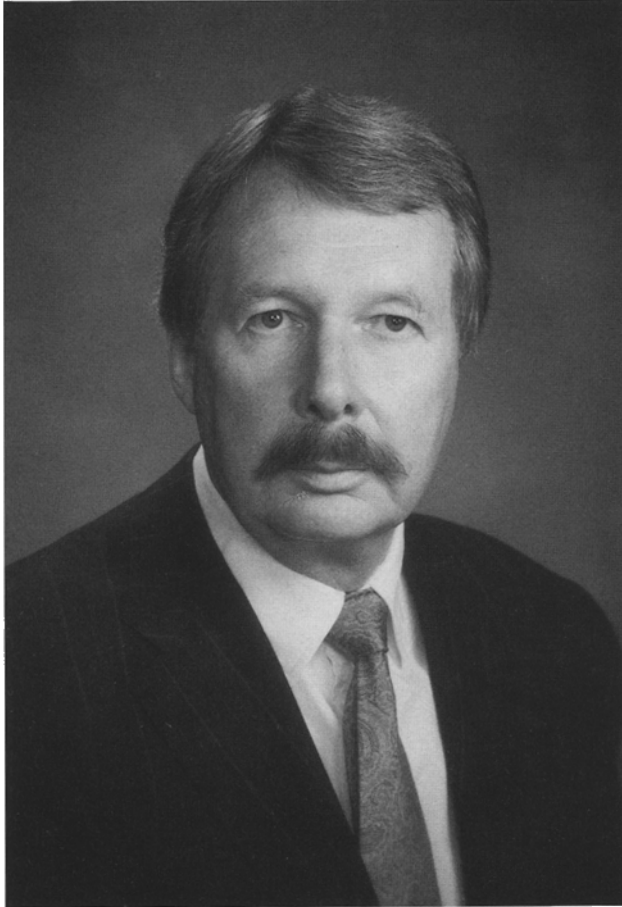
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## Editors

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*John Kenneth Stille*

## John Kenneth Stille

Professor John K. Stille, one of the outstanding polymer chemists of our time, died on July 19, 1989, in the crash of the United Airlines flight in Sioux City, Iowa. John was educated as a polymer chemist in the illustrious school of G.S. Marval. In that tradition, ability to synthesize novel materials plays a major role. John more than lived up to that tradition. Particularly memorable is his extended work on the polyquinoxalines, important materials in the aerospace industry. Beyond these, he synthesized authentic poly-p-phenylene utilizing Diels-Alder reactions of pyrones, synthesized a new type of polyacetylene by cyclopolymerization, and studied numerous other novel polymers.

One of John's foremost characteristics was his capacity for growth. He took it on himself to make major contributions to transition metal-catalyzed organic chemistry, and achieved stature in that field equal to his high standing in polymer science. Various complex natural products were synthesized by skillful application of palladium-catalyzed complex reactions. Moreover, numerous articles from his laboratory contributed to our understanding of transition metal-catalyzed reaction mechanisms. He also served both fields professionally as an Editor for *Advances in Polymer Science*, beginning in 1965 and as the first Associate Editor for organic-polymer manuscripts for *Macromolecules* from 1967 to 1981 and then as an Associate Editor for the *Journal of the American Chemical Society* from 1982 to 1987.

John was an excellent lecturer-clear, forceful and enthusiastic. The graduate students and visiting scientists who had the opportunity to work with John will always remember him fondly as a teacher who provided encouragement and insisted on excellence. He is also remembered as a "boss" who was deeply concerned with their professional development and welfare and as a co-worker who shared his wonderful sense of humor and love for life with them on a daily basis. John was viewed by his co-workers as a role model who expected much but always gave much more. During his tenure on the faculties of the Universities of Iowa and Colorado State, a total of 110 graduate students, 97 postdoctoral fellows and visiting scientists, and numerous undergraduates served as co-workers in his laboratories and had the privilege of knowing this unique person.

Personally, Stille was friendly and gregarious, and was liked by everyone with whom he came in contact. He was always ready for a challenging scientific discussion, a joke, or a drink. In the classical tradition of "a healthy mind in a healthy body", John was an all-around sportsman. He was a good tennis and American Handball player and was very fond of scuba diving off the coasts of Mexico and Florida.

To summarize our memories of this remarkable individual we may use the words of Shakespeare, "He was a goodly man, take him all in all; we shall not look upon his like again."

H. K. Hall, Jr.

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