

## The 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Arkivoc

C. Dennis Hall

The year 2024 is the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first publication of Arkivoc (Archive for Organic Chemistry).

The journal was founded by Professors Rees (Imperial College, London) and Katritzky (University of Florida) to provide a platform for sound organic research and to give a voice to less well established institutions whose efforts went often unrecorded. This tradition continues today with the publication of general papers coupled with Reviews and Accounts, Regional Issues and Commemorative Issues the latter recognizing the efforts of selected researchers throughout the world. There follow tributes to Professors Katritzky and Rees in recognition of their outstanding contributions to chemical science.

During 60 years of research, Professor Katritzky's output was prodigious with over 2170 papers in the primary scientific literature and authorship or editorship of more than 200 books. His work was recognized throughout the world by 33 honorary professorships and awards including among the latter, the Tilden and Meldola Medals of the Royal Society of Chemistry and the Cope Award of the American Chemical Society. He became a Fellow of the Royal Society, England in 1980. His annual worldwide lecture tours were legendary and he served as a consultant to 32 companies throughout Europe and North America. His academic career included the supervision of more than 300 graduate students and he worked with innumerable visiting faculty and postdoctoral fellows. His collaboration with some 80 companies brought revenue in excess of \$30 million to the University of Florida. He had a major impact on the secondary literature of heterocyclic chemistry when the first volume of *Advances in Heterocyclic Chemistry* was published in 1963; volume 143 is due to appear soon. He and Charles Rees, as editors in chief, together with over 350 authors, produced *Comprehensive Heterocyclic Chemistry* published by Pergamon (1984) followed by three more editions, (1995, 2007, and 2022) published by Elsevier.

All this activity took an enormous amount of drive and energy, but he still found time to express his humanitarian principles by founding, in 2000, in collaboration with Professor Charles Rees, the free on line journal "Arkivoc", designed to offset journal costs and provide less well-endowed research workers, especially those in the developing world, with the opportunity to publish in the primary literature. The project was financed at the outset by a generous donation from the Katritzky family and supported by revenue generated from the highly successful FloHet conferences in heterocyclic and synthetic chemistry initiated by Professor Katritzky in the year 2000. The journal continues to be supported by the ongoing voluntary work of the Arkivoc board of editors.

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**Professor Alan Roy Katritzky 1928-2014**

**A tribute**



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Alan Roy Katritzky was born in London, England on Aug 18, 1928 and after a distinguished school and university education, was awarded a BA with First Class Honours (1952) followed by a D.Phil (1954) from Oxford University under the supervision of Professor Sir Robert Robinson, at that time one of the most distinguished organic chemists in the world. From 1954 to 1958 he served as a postdoctoral fellow and college lecturer at Oxford University (Pembroke and Magdalen colleges) then moved to Cambridge University for 5 years as a university lecturer. In 1963 he was appointed Professor of Chemistry and Dean of the School of Chemical Sciences at the newly established University of East Anglia, England. In 1980 he moved to the University of Florida and so began an extremely fruitful research career as the Kenan Professor and Director of the Center for Heterocyclic Chemistry at UF.

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Professor Katritzky's teaching, mentorship and research are a tribute to his phenomenal talent and industry and his name will rightly stand in perpetuity with the creation of the Katritzky Chair at UF endowed by Alan and the Katritzky family. He has been sorely missed by the worldwide chemical community but especially by his devoted wife, Linde, who provided lifelong encouragement and support in pursuit of Alan's goals. As one of his senior colleagues commented just after his death, "When they made Alan Katritzky, they broke the mold"

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