ICSU to Merge with ISSC

At an extraordinary General Assembly of the International Council for Science (ICSU) and General Assembly of the International Social Science Council (ISSC), held in Oslo on 24 October 2016, members voted overwhelmingly that the two organizations should merge. This in-principle decision followed a recommendation by the two organizations' executives, setting the two councils on a trajectory to become one by October 2018.

For the plans to go ahead, the majority of both councils' voting members needed to vote in favour. 76% of ICSU members and 87% of ISSC members voted in favour of a merger of the two organizations, thereby setting the merger process in motion.

Gordon McBean, President of ICSU, said: "ICSU has long been a champion for excellence in both disciplinary and transdisciplinary science, and seeks to bring that excellence together to address global challenges. Today's vote confirms support for this approach and I want to thank our Unions and National Members for their support. As a unified body, we will be in a stronger position to confront the challenges of the twenty-first century. With a broadened membership base the new organization will be the inclusive global voice of science that we want it to be."

The vote is an *in-principle* agreement to merge the two councils, and to establish a Transition Task Force to develop detailed transition plans, including legal requirements, new statutes, and governance structures for the merged organization. The Task Force proposal will be put to a vote during a joint meeting of ICSU and ISSC Members in October 2017 at the 32nd ICSU General Assembly in Taipei. If the two organizations' members endorse these plans in 2017, the transition will be implemented and overseen by the ISSC and ICSU executives, with a founding General Assembly of the new organization tentatively planned for October 2018.

www.icsu.org

Remembering Peter Greaves Taylor Fogg (1929-2016)

As a young man, Peter Fogg won an open scholarship to Trinity College, Oxford, where he read chemistry. After gaining a first class degree, he went on to do a doctorate under the supervision of J.D. Lambert. His thesis was on Ultrasonic Dispersion in Gases.

Peter and Heather at a 1996 IUPAC conference in Hungary

From 1954-1955 Peter worked as a Scientific Officer at The Atomic Energy Research Establishment in Harwell, Oxfordshire, where he worked on the chemistry of plutonium. He was an assistant lecturer at Queen's University, Belfast from 1956 to 1958 and worked as a research chemist for Monsanto Chemicals, Ltd. between 1958 and 1962. In 1962 he became a lecturer at Flintshire Technical College in North Wales.

Peter taught at the University (formerly Polytechnic) of North London from 1965 until 1986. His undergraduate teaching was primarily concerned with Physical Chemistry and was much appreciated by his students, who found him especially helpful in both practical sessions and tutorials. At the University, Peter supervised the PhD/postgraduate work of several students and gained their gratitude and respect. When joining the University, Peter was active in the research of fast reaction kinetics and then, in collaboration with colleague John Charalambous, on the development of metal complexes for scintillation counting applications, leading to publication in Polyhedron.

He was a very active member of the IUPAC Solubility Data Commission V.8 of the Analytical Chemistry Division from its early years, and contributed to the shaping of its successor, the Subcommittee on Solubility and Equilibrium Data. The Solubility Data Project benefited greatly from his expertise in, and passion for, the field of gas solubilities in liquids and solutions. Between 1983 and 2013, Peter was compiler, evaluator, and editor for seven volumes (numbers: 21, 32, 42, 50, 70, 76 and 97) of the IUPAC Solubility Data Series.

Peter was also Chair of Subcommittee V.8.1 (Gases in Liquids) from 1992 to 2000 and was a Titular Member of Commission V.8 in 1987–1989 and again in 1995–1997.

He also actively participated in the International Symposia on Solubility Phenomena (ISSP). He was Co-Chair of the 3rd ISSP (1988, Guildford, University of Surrey) and was Guest Editor for the plenary and invited lectures of the 7th (Leoben, Austria, 1996), 8th (Niigata, Japan, 1998) and 9th (Hammamet, Tunisia, 2000) ISSPs, published in *Pure and Applied Chemistry*.

Peter Fogg and William (Bill) Gerrard collaborated

on the publication of Solubility of Gases in Liquids: A Critical Evaluation of Gas/Liquid Systems in Theory and Practice (John Wiley and Sons, 1991), which was a significant contribution to that field, providing extensive information on, and data for, selected systems. Peter was also Editor-in-Chief of the Wiley Series in Solution Chemistry, which comprised authoritative, comprehensive, and up-to-date accounts of many aspects of solution chemistry. Seven volumes were published in this series between 1996 and 2003, including the seminal works: Octanol–Water Partition Coefficients: Fundamentals and Physical Chemistry (J. Sangster, 1997), The Experimental Determination of Solubilities (G. T. Hefter and R. P. T. Tomkins, eds., 2003) and Chemicals in the Atmosphere: Solubility, Sources and Reactivity (P. G. T. Fogg and J. Sangster, 2003).

Peter thoroughly enjoyed his involvement with IUPAC and the opportunities that it gave him and his wife Heather to travel and make friends all over the world. Peter's involvement was characterized by friendship and conviviality, together with passionate professional activity and challenging scientific discussions. Peter was both a gentle man and a gentleman, and both he and Heather enriched the life of all of us.

See also www.iupac.org/publications/ci/indexes/stamps.html

Stamps International

Woodward's Birth Centennial

Much has been written about Robert Burns Woodward (1917-1979), one of the world's leading organic chemists of the twentieth century, from his precocious interest in chemistry to his fearless talent and uncanny intuition as a researcher. His adroit synthesis of complex natural products is legendary: quinine, cholesterol, lysergic acid, strychnine, cortisone, several antibiotics, chlorophyll, vitamin B_{12}, and many other intricate molecules. He received numerous honorary degrees, learned society memberships, and awards, including the 1965 Nobel Prize in Chemistry "for his outstanding achievements in the art of organic synthesis". In addition to synthetic organic chemistry, he proposed, in 1952 (with Geoffrey Wilkinson), the "sandwich" structure of ferrocene, a milestone in modern organometallic chemistry, and developed a set of rules to predict and explain the outcome and stereochemistry of pericyclic organic reactions (*i.e.,* the "Woodward-Hoffmann rules"). He authored some 200 publications and trained more than 200 Ph.D. students and postdoctoral research associates, many of who went on to have distinguished careers.

Despite the magnitude of his scientific legacy, Woodward was not philatelically recognized until the year 2015, when postage stamps paying tribute to the eminent chemist were issued in two African nations. The stamp from the Republic of Guinea illustrated in this note is particularly puzzling, since it portrays Woodward next to a gorilla. It is part of a set of four stamp highlighting early pioneers of the fight against malaria, so it is fair to include Woodward for his well-known total synthesis of quinine (1944). A possible solution to the gorillian conundrum may be surmised from a 2010 study reported in *Nature*, in which an international team of researchers describe how gorillas may have been the original source of *Plasmodium falciparum*, the parasite responsible for the most prevalent and harmful form of malaria infecting humans. Hence, I must conclude that Woodward's companion on the Guinean stamp is a rather obscure but reasonable choice.

In turn, the stamp from the Republic of Chad, with a more conventional design, features the structure of reserpine, an alkaloid with antipsychotic and antihypertensive properties, whose total synthesis was completed by Woodward in 1956. Interestingly, the stamp includes, underneath the structural diagram of reserpine, the actual reference to the full paper published in *Tetrahedron* two years later describing in detail (57 pages!) this synthetic breakthrough.

The only two countries that have honored RBW with postage stamps may seem a bit unusual but I must praise the corresponding postal authorities for doing so in an ingenious and meaningful way!

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