

**FIFTY YEARS OF PUBLICATIONS
ON CHEMISTRY IN THE
*PROCEEDINGS OF THE ESTONIAN ACADEMY
OF SCIENCES***

The last century showed us the power of science but also the power of ignorance. No doubt, the new millennium will do the same. Therefore, the importance of dissemination of knowledge, regardless of its scope, can be hardly overestimated. During the past 50 years the *Proceedings of the Estonian Academy of Sciences* has made its tiny contribution to this world-wide effort. As a token, we are holding in our hands the last issue of Volume 50 of the *Chemistry* series of the *Proceedings*. Let us specify that in 1952 the first issue of the journal was published and in 1956 it was divided into three series, including the series of *Engineering and Physical and Mathematical Sciences*. In 1967 the series of *Chemistry and Geology* was established and since 1978 a separate *Chemistry* series has appeared. For decades the papers were mostly in the Russian language. However, since 1956 all papers published in the journal included besides a summary in Estonian (or Russian) also a summary in a foreign language (English, German, or French). This is a noteworthy fact because the central journals of the closed superpower did not do this. Here I would like to acknowledge the tremendous work done by the members of the Estonian Academy of Sciences Gustav Naan, Aksel Humal, and Oskar Kirret in the development of the journal.

The journal is covered by the *Chemical Abstracts* database and *Cambridge Scientific Abstracts*. Since 1996 the journal is in the English language with lists of contents available also electronically. Since 2001 the full texts of the contributions are available through the international information system EBSCO Publishing, which secures a wide access to them.

The journal publishes original research results and review articles in a wide range of chemical science, which is reflected also by the present quite typical issue. Looking back, we can say that the journal has played an important role in the development of degree programmes in our educational space. There is still much to be done as not all important findings in chemistry in Estonia have

reached the pages of this journal. In addition, the intensifying globalization process is not yet sufficiently reflected in the journal.

Among the huge number of chemistry journals published all over the world the *Chemistry* series of the *Proceedings of the Estonian Academy of Sciences* has its own specific niche as a factor stimulating local development of education and scientific thought. I thank all our authors and all persons involved in the work of the journal inside and outside the borders of Estonia and wish more power to their elbow.

Ülo LILLE
Chairman
Editorial Board of the *Chemistry* series