“What has always impressed me is how you could know ahead of time what theoreticians would later come up with... that you didn't need that [the isolobal] analogy at all, that you know deeply and surely, what it took me and others, in our roundabout way, years to find.”

Roald Hoffmann

Professor F. Gordon A. Stone is one of the most distinguished living inorganic chemists and is currently Welch Professor at Baylor University in Texas where he went after retiring from the University of Bristol in 1990. He has been researching organometallic chemistry and publishing in the scientific literature for well over 50 years, and has written over 700 papers and many review articles. He has also inaugurated the extremely successful series, “Advances in Organometallic Chemistry” which he edited for many years with his old friend Bob West. It is now up to Volume 52, and whilst his role...
as an Editor has recently passed to Tony Hill, he is a contributor to Volume 53. Gordon Stone, together with Geoffrey Wilkinson and Edward Abel, were responsible for producing and editing “Comprehensive Organometallic Chemistry”, a monumental encyclopaedia of organometallic chemistry. The first edition was published in 1982 and ran to some nine large volumes; an equally useful and impressive second edition covering more recent researches was produced in 1995. COMC has become the organometallic chemist’s bible.

Gordon Stone’s prolific and excellent researches have led to the award of numerous honours and distinctions in the UK, the USA, Spain, and elsewhere in the world. He was elected to the Royal Society in 1976. To celebrate his distinction, Inorganic Chimica Acta has produced this volume of articles by friends, former co-workers and other admirers, to which this is an introduction. The introduction to this issue is in two parts; the first being an interview followed by a necessarily brief overview of some of Gordon’s research highlights to provide a flavour of his science.

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