

Crystallographers

This section is intended to be a series of short paragraphs dealing with the activities of crystallographers, such as their changes of position, promotions, assumption of significant new duties, honours etc. Items for inclusion, subject to the approval of the Co-editors, should be sent to The Executive Secretary, 2 Abbey Square, Chester CH1 2HU, England.

J. Appl. Cryst. (1997). **30**, 1173

Bernard Wheeler Robinson 1904–1997

Bernard Wheeler Robinson died on July 7, 1997, aged 93. An obituary appeared in the *London Times* for August 6, dealing mainly with his extended contributions to amateur musicmaking in Britain and his creation and support of Music Camp from 1927 onwards. Dr Robinson should also be remembered for his unique contribution to X-ray crystallography while at the Royal Institution in London in W. H. Bragg's group. This work was reported in two papers: *Proc. R. Soc. London Ser. A* (1933), **142**, 422–447 and *Proc. R. Soc. London Ser. A* (1934), **147**, 467–478. The intent of the first work was to establish the absolute structure factor of the 001 reflection of anthracene with Cu $K\alpha$ and Mo $K\alpha$ radiation from measurements on small single crystals. The result would provide a reference for crystallographic studies of other organic molecules. The measurements were made on a Bragg spectrometer with monochromated radiation and reasonable angular resolution. Eighteen crystals were individually measured by comparison with a calibrated direct beam. The crystals varied in weight from 44 to 480 micrograms, all being weighed on a special balance. Their physical dimensions were measured in detail so that corrections for absorption and extinction could be estimated by determination of the beam paths through the various levels of the crystal. The corrections for extinction involved the individual reflection profiles, which were quite varied. The corrected intensities appeared to be reasonably in accord with the weight of the crystal. This work constituted effectively the first intensity measurement project on small single crystals. It can truly be regarded as unique for, despite technical advances and great improvements in measurement procedures since the middle 1930s, there has not been a comparable project that has in any wise imitated Robinson's intention of obtaining absolute structure-factor values. To read his paper in all its details in the context of his time and of the limited facilities for calculations is an incredible and slightly frightening experience, especially for us now pam-

pered by almost unlimited computational capability.

In his second piece of work, he carried out measurements on a powdered specimen of anthracene. This yielded a result (34.3) that was slightly larger than the single-crystal value for Mo (32.8), and even more so than that for Cu (30.5). Despite the imperfections in respect of the corrections for extinction, so that the single-crystal project did not achieve its original intention, it was, nevertheless, a most valiant attempt, and Wheeler Robinson should be remembered for it.

A. McL. MATHIESON

J. Appl. Cryst. (1997). **30**, 1173

The Italian Ministry for University and Scientific and Technological Research has recently awarded the title of Professor Emeritus to Professor **Mario Nardelli**, Full Professor of General and Inorganic Chemistry at the Faculty of Natural Sciences at the University of Parma. Professor Nardelli was head of the Structural Chemistry and General Chemistry Institutes of the aforementioned university and founded a school of crystallography held in wide national and international esteem. From 1979 to 1992, he also directed the Centro di Studio per la Strutturistica Diffattometrica of the Italian National Research Council (CNR). He was appointed, among many academic and institutional positions, President of the Italian Crystallographic Association and a member of the IUCr Data Commission, and was founder and director of the scientific journal *Crystal Structure Communications*. From 1981 to 1993, he was a member of the IUCr Executive Committee. In August 1987, he was elected President of the IUCr, and from 1990 to 1993 he represented the Union at the International Council of Scientific Unions. From 1981 to 1988 and from 1991 to the present time he has been a Co-editor of *Acta Crystallographica*.

Notes and News

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J. D. Hanawalt Powder Diffraction Award

The International Centre for Diffraction Data is seeking nominees for the 1998 J. D. Hanawalt Powder Diffraction Award. The award is presented every three years for an important recent contribution to the field of powder diffraction. The award consists of a

citation and a cash gift of US \$1000. The award recipient is expected to submit an abstract and present a paper on the work being recognized at an appropriate powder diffraction/crystallographic meeting. The recipient's travel expenses to the meeting will be provided. Work eligible for consideration must have been published after 1 January 1990. The selection committee welcomes suggestions, nominations, and documentation of accomplishments for possible recipients through 15 February 1998. Contact Camden R. Hubbard, Chairman Hanawalt Award Selection Committee, c/o International Centre for Diffraction Data, 12 Campus Boulevard, Newtown Square, PA 19703-3273, USA.

International Union of Crystallography

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Prices of IUCr journals

The Executive Committee of the International Union of Crystallography is pleased to announce that there will be a 5% discount on the prices of the individual sections for subscribers taking out combined subscriptions to Sections A+B+C+D and Sections A+B+C of *Acta Crystallographica*. Individuals may also take out a combined subscription to Sections A+B+D at a discount of 5%. Subscribers taking out a combined subscription to *Journal of Applied Crystallography* and *Journal of Synchrotron Radiation* will receive a discount of 30%.

The Executive Committee has determined the following subscription rates and prices of back numbers for *Acta Crystallographica*, *Journal of Applied Crystallography* and *Journal of Synchrotron Radiation* as from 1 January 1998.

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