

Editor's Note

Thirty years have passed since we first published *Heterocycles*. It seems like only yesterday. This special issue is to commemorate the journal's great achievements.

It was thirty years ago that Professor Tetsuji Kametani, the founder of *Heterocycles*, told me his plan to publish an international science journal. At that time, how could I imagine that I would be writing this special note thirty years later?

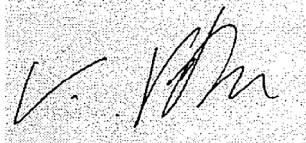
We have distinguished our journal from others with these three features 1) taking advantage of a camera-ready printing technology which enables us to speed up the process of publishing 2) publishing the list of natural products, and 3) having published special issues on various occasions. As a result, *Heterocycles* has been well received by scientists all over the world. We are very proud that many of our subscribers are the most prestigious universities and research laboratories throughout the world.

When we first published the journal, it consisted of two sections: "Communication" and "Review". Later with suggestions by Dr. R. N. Castle¹ the "Paper" section was added, followed by the "Note" section. Currently, the journal is consisted of these four sections as well as the Natural Products.

Looking back over the last five years, we have much to celebrate. In 1999, the Kametani Award² was established in commemoration of the journal's 25th anniversary. Its first award was given to Professor Alan R. Katritzky.³ Also in 1999, we published the 50th issue. At the end of this year, we are expecting to reach a total of more than 10,000 papers published in our regular issues over our thirty year history. As well as the papers in our Review section and special issues, there would be even more.

The website for the journal was established in 2001. We have been distributing the latest papers to our readers ever since. We are also in the final process of digitizing all the papers we published in the last thirty years by the end of 2003, and digital data of the Natural Products will be fully restored in 2004. We hope our digitized information will help the world's scientists.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our readers, authors, referees and advisory board members. Without their cooperation, we could not have achieved this great milestone, our 30th anniversary issue.



Keiichiro Fukumoto
Editor in Chief

1. Dr. R. N. Castle : Former Professor of Brigham Young University, he is founder of *the Journal of Heterocyclic Chemistry*.
2. Kametani Award was founded in 1999 by the Nomination Committee for Outstanding Research in Heterocyclic Chemistry and Contributions to the Heterocycles. It is intended to honor the Memory of the Founder of Heterocycles.
3. Professor Alan R. Katritzky : Center for Heterocyclic Compounds, Department of Chemistry, University of Florida.