

## **A Tribute to Professor Alfred Klemm, Publisher of the *Zeitschrift für Naturforschung*, on the Occasion of his 100th Birthday (February 15, 2013)**

In 1945, after the end of World War II, Germany was in ruins and demoralized, and few were confident that the country, and its science, would recover soon, if ever, from utter collapse. The 32-year old physicist, Alfred Klemm, a co-worker of the Kaiser Wilhelm Institute of Chemistry (later to become the Max Planck Institute of Chemistry) which had been evacuated from bombed Berlin to southwest Germany in 1944, and his colleague Hans Friedrich-Freksa shared this confidence, however. Since the established scientific journals could no longer appear at this time, the two scientists decided to found a new journal to provide an outlet to their colleagues' scientific results. It can hardly be imagined today which difficulties had to be overcome in this endeavour, such as obtaining a print permit and finding a source of printing paper. Yet, the January issue of Volume 1 of the *Zeitschrift für Naturforschung* could actually appear in

April 1946 under print permit 20 of the military government.

Manuscripts started to flow in in abundance, so already in 1947 the journal was divided into sections: A (physical sciences, with A. Klemm as responsible editor) and B (chemistry, physiological chemistry, biology, biophysics, with H. Friedrich-Freksa as responsible editor). In 1949, A. Klemm established a new publishing house, the Verlag der *Zeitschrift für Naturforschung*, for the publication of the two journals. Only much later, in 1973, Section C was established and became devoted to the biosciences, while Section B concentrated on chemistry. All three journals (ZNA, ZNB, and ZNC) are still being published by the family-run Verlag der *Zeitschrift für Naturforschung* which has maintained its full independence in the midst of the few giant publishing houses that have gobbled up more and more of the smaller publishers [1].

Dear Professor Klemm, on behalf of the Editorial Board of the *Zeitschrift für Naturforschung C – A Journal of Biosciences*, I offer you our heart-felt congratulations on the occasion of your 100th birthday, in sincere respect for your pioneering spirit and achievements as a science publisher.

Nikolaus Amrhein  
Editor-in-Chief, ZNC

[1] A detailed and impressive account (in German) of the circumstances of the foundation and the development of the *Zeitschrift für Naturforschung* has been given in above Dedicated Editorial Communi-

cation by Professor Siegfried Großmann, Editor-in-Chief of *Zeitschrift für Naturforschung A*, Großmann, S., Alfred Klemm 100, *Z. Naturforsch.* **68a**, 3–12 (2013).

