

INTRODUCTION

K. U. Ingold, National Research Council of Canada

The following collection of remembrances, anecdotes and comments was presented as a lecture at the 1993 American Chemical Society Fall Meeting in Chicago in a Symposium entitled "Christopher K. Ingold: Master



C. K. Ingold

and Mandarin of Physical Organic Chemistry" and organized by Professor Derek A. Davenport. Many of the scientific achievements of C. K. Ingold are recorded herein by his friends, colleagues, (occasional) adversaries, and modern historians. I am deeply grateful to all of them. However, I have deliberately refrained from contributing anything to this volume except for this introduction. It is true that I gave the opening lecture at this Ingold Centennial Symposium (1893-1993), and my title was a well-remembered quotation of my father's, "Homolysis, even between consenting adults, is grounds for instant dismissal from this Department." Nevertheless, my own memories of my father have relatively little to do with his chemical research. (On one occasion, he helped me enormously with mine by providing a single, insightful comment—not on radicals, of course—on a little problem I had in infrared spectroscopy.) Thus, a eulogy on C. K. Ingold's scientific attainments by his son would be completely inappropriate, particularly since the main contributors to this volume "have done him proud."

I think there is probably only one comment I made during the symposium that may be historically relevant

and may not have been "captured." The name Robert Robinson was never mentioned in my hearing at home nor during my undergraduate years at University College London. Indeed, the first time I ever heard this name was when I was in Oxford doing my D. Phil. with Cyril Hinshelwood. If my father bore a grudge against Robinson, he certainly was careful not to pass it on to me by word or deed.

My own memories of C. K. Ingold are, I suppose, the "normal" son/father memories: playing in the garden and on the beach, bird watching together, rock climbing in North Wales, the Lake District, and Skye, and mountaineering with him in France. (Yes, we did climb several of the Charmonix Aiguilles and Mont Blanc.) Finally, there was that classic day when C. K. Ingold water-skied for the first time in his life at age 72 on the river at the bottom of my garden. In my memory, my father was always young, active, and full of energy and enthusiasm. He always welcomed new knowledge and new experiences. He is still missed.



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ABOUT THE AUTHOR

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