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## Reynold C. Fuson

June 1, 1895 - August 4, 1979

Reynold C. Fuson, Editor-in-Chief of Volume 18 of *Organic Syntheses* and longtime member of the Advisory Board, passed away on August 4, 1979, in Urbana, Illinois, at the age of 84.

Dr. Fuson was born in Wakefield, Illinois, and received his degrees in chemistry from the University of Montana, the University of California at Berkeley, and the University of Minnesota. He held a postdoctoral appointment with Professor E. P. Kohler at Harvard, after which he served as an instructor for a brief period. He joined the Chemistry Department at the University of Illinois in 1927 where he was a distinguished member for 35 years before retiring in 1963. He was a visiting professor at the Rice Institute during 1947-1948 and at the University of Nevada in 1963-1964. He then spent several years at Reno before returning to Champaign-Urbana for his final years.

Dr. Fuson enjoyed an outstanding reputation in research, teaching, writing, and human relations. During his active teaching career he supervised 76 undergraduate research students, 15 postdoctoral fellows, and 154 doctoral candidates, 7 of whom have been associated with *Organic Syntheses, Inc.* He published 285 scientific articles and was the author or coauthor of 5 textbooks, including *The Systematic Identification of Organic Compounds*, coauthored with R. L. Shriner and D. Y. Curtin. His research interests were broad and significant and included the enunciation of the principle of vinylogy, elucidation of the conjugate addition of Grignard reagents to unsaturated carbonyl compounds, and the discovery of stable enols and enediols of sterically hindered molecules.

His scientific contributions and acumen were acknowledged by the many honors that came to him. He was a member of the National Academy of Sciences and an initial member of the Center for Advanced Study at the University of Illinois. He received the Nichols Medal, the Manufacturing Chemists' Association Award for College Teaching, the John R. Kuebler Award of Alpha Chi Sigma, the University of Minnesota Outstanding Achievement Award, and honorary degrees from the University of Illinois and the University of Montana, and he was a member of the editorial boards of *Organic Syntheses* and the *Journal of the American Chemical Society*.

Dr. Fuson's scientific accomplishments distinguished him nationally and internationally, but he was held in the highest esteem by his students and associates because of his human qualities. As one said, "He was cast in a special mold." He was scholarly in appearance, reserved in manner, and soft of speech; however, he had an amazing knowledge of the people and matters about him. No worthy student was ignored financially or otherwise, and associates sought his advice on academic, business, and personal problems, for which he desired no recognition.

He was a most able teacher in the classroom, as well as with his research students. He selected their problems with care, taught them to develop independence, and surprised many informally with his prowess at squash and bowling. Others he introduced to fine music, art, literature, and languages, in which he had a deep interest. He made many lives richer and more productive.

Dr. Fuson will be missed but not forgotten by a considerable number of students and associates, particularly those to whom he was known as "Bob."

Norman Rabjohn  
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