



## Richard S. Schreiber

October 15, 1909 - March 7, 1992

Richard S. Schreiber, Editor-in-Chief of Volume 31 of *Organic Syntheses* and a long-time member of its Board of Directors, died on March 7, 1992, after a long illness.

Raised in Blue Island, Illinois, Schreiber graduated from Wabash College in 1931. He received a Ph.D. in organic chemistry from the University of Illinois in 1935, with Ralph Shriner as his adviser. He then joined the Central Research Department of the DuPont Company in Wilmington, Delaware, where he soon became leader of a research group.

Schreiber was one of the first people I met when I joined DuPont, and I was at once impressed by his cordiality, energy, and intelligence. He had a knack for exciting people about what they were doing, as I observed both in the laboratory and in the local ACS Section one year when he chaired it and spurred it into worthwhile new activities. His DuPont coworkers were sorry to see him leave to join the Upjohn Pharmaceutical Company in 1949.

At Upjohn he became Vice President for Research and a member of the Board of Directors. Shortly after arrival he was told to pick one major area of research for Upjohn and then to do what was necessary to put Upjohn research in the front ranks of pharmaceutical research. He picked steroids as the area to emphasize, and under his direction Upjohn became a major factor in steroidal drugs and a leader in research. His friends at DuPont were not surprised to hear by the grapevine that Schreiber seemed to know all the Upjohn research people by their first names, was a stimulating leader, and answered his own phone.

In 1947, while at DuPont, he became an Editor of *Organic Syntheses*. As indicated he was Editor-in-Chief of Volume 31 in 1951. Even after his term as Editor had expired, he was willing to check preps requiring equipment not widely available. From 1955 to 1989 Schreiber was a member of the *Organic Syntheses* Board of Directors, serving as treasurer from 1967 to 1973. As a member of the *Organic Syntheses* Board, he was

particularly valuable during discussions of how to invest the organization's capital, when he would preach the virtues of prudence in a clear, persuasive way.

Schreiber was active in educational matters during much of his life. Thus at various times he was on the School Board of his Wilmington district, the Board of Directors of both Kalamazoo College and Wabash College, and the Michigan Commission for Educational Policies. Among other important posts, he served on the National Advisory Cancer Council and the Michigan Science Advisory Board.

Blaine McKusick

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