



## A. Harold Blatt

January 9, 1903 - March 19, 1986

A. Harold Blatt, second Secretary to the Board of Editors of *Organic Syntheses, Inc.*, 1938-1943, and co-editor with Henry Gilman of the revised edition of Collective Volume 1 of *Organic Syntheses*, passed away on March 19, 1986 in Melbourne, Florida at the age of 83.

Dr. Blatt was born in Cincinnati, Ohio and received B.S., M.A., and Ph.D. degrees from Harvard University in 1923-1926. He held postdoctoral positions at the College de France in Paris, Harvard University, and the University of Buffalo before he joined the faculty at Howard University as an associate professor in 1932. He became a member of the newly-famed Queens College in 1939, where he was a professor, and stayed for 32 years. His academic pursuits were interrupted during World War II when he was a Science Liaison Officer, the London Mission, in the Office of Scientific Research and Development (1944-1945), and a Technical Aide to Division 8 during the latter year.

Dr. Blatt also edited Collective Volume 2 of *Organic Syntheses* (1943), and served for many years on the Board of Directors, where his expertise and knowledge of finance were of inestimable value. At corporation meetings, his versatility was shown by the skill he demonstrated in the selection of the dinner wines. His editorial expertise was used also by Organic Reactions, Inc. where he was a member of the Editorial Board (1948-1954), and then served on the Advisory Board until 1986.

Dr. Blatt's teaching and research activities covered the period from his Harvard days into the 1980's. He was a co-editor with James B. Conant of the well-known text, *The Chemistry of Organic Compounds*, 3rd edition, which was published in 1947, and used widely during the 1950's. The text offered a new approach for organic chemistry students to the subjects of reaction rates and equilibria. It also presented new physiochemical concepts and data, as well as an effort to cover some of the major topics of biochemistry and pharmacology, and relate their chemistry to the principles expounded in the book.

Harold Blatt served for three terms as chairman of the Chemistry Department at Queens College beginning in 1961, retired in 1971, and then moved to Melbourne, Florida where he was a member of the Chemistry Department at the Florida Institute of Technology.

Dr. Joel H. Blatt, his son, and a sister survive Dr. Blatt.

Norman Rabjohn  
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