

## Obituary for Gerhard L.Closs

Professor Gerhard L. Closs, Chairman of the Chemistry Department of the University of Chicago, died May 24, 1992. He was born in Wuppertal, Germany in 1928 and earned the Diplom Chemiker (1953) and Ph.D. (1955) from Universität Tübingen. He joined the faculty of the University of Chicago in the Department of Chemistry in 1957, becoming Professor in 1963 and the A. A. Michelson Distinguished Service Professor in 1974. He was also at Argonne National Laboratory as Section Head of Photochemistry and Radiation Chemistry from 1979 to 1982 and held a Joint Appointment in the Chemistry Division of Argonne National Laboratory since 1984. He was a Member of the National Academy of Science, the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

Professor Closs has been honored for his many contributions to science. These include the A. P. Sloan Fellowship, the Jean Servais Stas Medal, the James Flack Norris Award, the Arthur C. Cope Award and the Interamerican Photochemical Society Award for Photochemistry. He has also served as visiting scholar and lecturer at many international institutions and universities.

Professor Closs is widely recognized as a major contributor to the use of organic chemistry for solving problems of general theoretical interest. His accomplishments include several seminal studies that truly revolutionized whole areas of chemistry. His early research on chloromethylene developed the concept of carbenoids. He then studied carbenes and biradicals using electron spin resonance and formulated the radical pair model for chemically-induced dynamic nuclear polarization (CIDNP). In the 1970's and 80's he was a pioneer in the use of magnetic resonance to study biradicals and the polarization developed in chemical reactions. Most recently, he demonstrated the role of intervening chemical bonds in communicating electron exchange interactions important in energy and electron transfer processes. Professor Closs' work was characterized by its directness and intellectual elegance. He will be missed by his many friends and colleagues.

July 10, 1992

M. Bowman

M. Thurnauer

J. Norris