Contents

Preface ix

Chapter 1 Introduction 1

Chapter 2 Perspectives on Science 4

Chapter 3 Chemistry: The Multifaceted Central Science 21

Chapter 4 Growing Up in Hungary and Turning to Chemistry 38

Chapter 5 Early Research and Teaching: Departing the Shadow of Emil Fischer 51

Chapter 6 Move to North America: Industrial Experience While Pursuing the Elusive Cations of Carbon 64

Chapter 7 Return to Academia—The Cleveland Years: Carbocations, Magic Acid, and Superacid Chemistry 84

Chapter 8 Moving to Los Angeles: Hydrocarbon Research and Building the Loker Institute 108

Chapter 9 The Nonclassical Ion Controversy and Its Significance 137

Chapter 10 From Kekulé’s Four-Valent Carbon to Five- and Higher Coordinate Hypercarbon Chemistry 154
CONTENTS

Chapter 11  The Nobel Prize: Learning to Live with It and Not Rest on Laurels 170

Chapter 12  Research in Post-Nobel Years: From Superacids to Superelectrophiles 189

Chapter 13  Renewable Carbon Chemistry: Anthropogenic Chemical Cycle with CO₂ Capture and Recycling to Methanol 206

Chapter 14  Rendering Methanol, A Renewable Carbon Source and Fuel: Direct and Regenerative Methanol Fuel Cell 225

Chapter 15  The Concept and Development of the Methanol Economy 242

Chapter 16  Gone My Way 254

Chapter 17  Concluding Remarks 294

Appendix  My Previous Books for References and Additional Reading 297

Curriculum Vitae of George Andrew Olah 300

Index 306