

## The Book History

I began writing this organic chemistry text in 1992 while I was a chemistry faculty member at the University of California, Riverside (UCR). My initial goal was to first write the complete book and then see if there was a publisher interested in it. Along the way things happened.

A good friend of mine, and successful textbook author, urged me to seek a publisher early in the process. I did that and shortly obtained a contract with a major publisher of chemistry texts. But this author/publisher relationship ultimately did not survive either the slow pace of my writing, or my decision to retire in 1998 after 35 years at UCR and move to Santa Barbara.

On arriving in Santa Barbara, I had the opportunity to informally affiliate with the UCSB chemistry department and still have that informal relationship sharing office space with several emeritus UCSB chemistry faculty. In addition, from 2000 through 2008, I was given the opportunity to teach part-time in the UCSB sophomore organic chemistry sequence, as well as in freshman general chemistry as a Professor on Active Recall.

When I got to Santa Barbara, I took a fresh look at what I had written before leaving UCR. That realistic look at my initial writing efforts was revealing. I had thought I was a reasonably good writer, but what I objectively saw showed significant room for improvement. So I began the task of rewriting what I had written, and then continued writing new chapters. You can see the chronological writing history of each chapter in the chapter "header".

In 2003, I decided to begin posting my writing online while I was still writing. I first posted chapters in a Yahoo Briefcase under the user name *orgchembyneuman*. When Yahoo Briefcases disappeared, I was generously given the opportunity to post the text on the UCSB chemistry server where it is presently located.

As my writing progressed, I settled on a book with 23 chapters. Of those 23 chapters, I have "finished" all except Chapter 6 and Chapter 19. I was working on Chapter 19 when I decided to reformat the figures for the completed chapters and merge them with the chapter text. I have now done that for the other 21 chapters.

I hope that you enjoy and benefit from what I have written. Thanks for your interest.

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