"The work on which this monograph was
based began in 1950 when I saw a patient with
the Marfan syndrome and severe aortic
complications. I was then a resident. I became
fascinated with the disorder, probably because
it combined areas in which I had already
worked: hereditary disorders (e.g., Peutz-
Jeghers syndrome) and cardiology (e.g., elec-
trokymography and constrictive pericarditis).

"When the book was published in June of
1956, the publisher produced, I am told, only
1,000 copies, on the advice that it would have
limited interest, mainly to geneticists. What
was not appreciated was that the wide
distribution of connective tissue in the body is
paralleled by a wide range of specialties that
are concerned with these disorders. The first
edition was sold out before the end of 1956!

"Heritable disorders of connective tissue has
been almost as successful a title as Garrod’s
inborn errors of metabolism. I selected
‘heritable’ as the adjective because it indicates
that this book has been cited over
1085 times since 1961.]"