Awarded...

J. M. Thomas receives IPMI Award

The International Precious Metal Institute (IPMI) has awarded Sir John M. Thomas with this year's Junichiro Tanaka Distinguished Achievement Award. The institute is an association of producers, scientists, users, and merchants of precious metals. Its members include Johnson-Matthey, BASF, and Toyota. Thomas is well known for his many studies on the design of new catalysts[1] and the development of in situ techniques for their characterization.[2] In particular, he is honored for his contributions to heterogeneous catalysis with precious metals. Thomas is also a pioneer in solid-state and materials chemistry.

J. M. Thomas

Thomas studied chemistry at the University of Wales in Swansea and received his PhD in 1958 from Queen Mary College in London. For 20 years, he taught and undertook research at the University of Wales in Bangor (1958–69) and Aberystwyth (1969–78), where as director of the Institute of Chemistry he established one of the most active centers of solid-state science in Europe. He took up a position in 1978 as the successor of J. W. Linnett as dean of the Department of Physical Chemistry at Cambridge University, where he introduced numerous innovative techniques, such as high-resolution electron microscopy,[3] electron energy loss spectroscopy, neutron scattering, and magic-angle-spinning (MAS) NMR spectroscopy. In 1986, Thomas became the successor of G. Porter as director of the Royal Institution of Great Britain and the Davy Faraday Research Laboratory in London. There he extended his research to catalysts with open framework structures by developing methods for the structural elucidation with synchrotron radiation of catalysts under operating conditions. In 1993 he returned to the University of Cambridge as Master of Peterhouse College.

In addition to research, Thomas is also devoted to the popularization of science. For this and for his services in chemistry, he was knighted in 1991. A prolific author, he has written among other things a definitive work on heterogeneous catalysis (with another Thomas as co-author).[4] He was on the founding editorial board of *Advanced Materials*.

EuCheMS Award for P. Kündig

Peter Kündig (University of Geneva) has received an Award for Service from the European Association for Chemical and Molecular Sciences (EuCheMS) for his significant contribution to the organization and success of the first European Chemistry Congress in Budapest in August 2006. Kündig studied at the ETH Zürich and completed his PhD at the University of Toronto (Canada) in 1975 under the guidance of G. A. S. Ozin. After undertaking postdoctoral research at the University of Bristol (UK) in the group of P. Timms, he started a research group at the University of Geneva. He is one of the organizers of the annual Bürgenstock conference on stereochemistry and a member of the editorial boards of *Chemistry—An Asian Journal* and *Helvetica Chimica Acta*.

Kündig's research group focuses on organic synthesis and catalysis with transition metals. Examples include the asymmetric synthesis of alicyclic compounds via arene metal complexes, planar chiral arene complexes, CO-emulating chiral ligands and their application in asymmetric synthesis, and new chiral 1,3-aminophenols as auxiliaries and building blocks for ligands. He recently reported on highly enantiomerically enriched planar chiral naphthalene tricarbonylchromium complexes in *Chemistry—An Asian Journal*[5] and on catalyzed Diels–Alder reactions between dienes and α,β-unsaturated ketones in *Chemistry—A European Journal*.[6]

P. Kündig

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