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Catalysis Today

journal homepage: www.elsevier.com/locate/cattod

Editorial

Catalytic Surface Science

It is a great honour and pleasure for us to dedicate this special issue of Catalytic Surface Science to our esteemed colleague and friend Ben Nieuwenhuys, at the occasion of his retirement in 2010.

Ben (Haarlem, 1944) studied at Leiden University, and obtained his PhD cum laude in 1974 with Prof. Wolfgang Sachtler. In 1975 and 1976 he did a postdoc in the group of Prof. Gabor Somorjai at the University of California in Berkeley. Hereafter he went back to Leiden, where he built up an impressive and hugely successful surface science laboratory and where he grew out to be a true pioneer and nestor of the Dutch community in catalytic surface science. He has been an inspiring supervisor for numerous students and postdocs at Leiden, and later also at Eindhoven.

Ben is internationally highly respected as an expert on oscillating reactions and on catalysis by gold, and as a catalytic surface scientist in general. In the 80s he was also widely known for his studies using field emission microscopy.

He has successfully collaborated with many colleagues all over the world. He was visiting professor at the University Louis Pasteur in Strassbourg – France and at the University of Hokkaido in Sapporo – Japan. From 2002 onward he was also part time appointed as in the rank of full professor at the Eindhoven University of Technology.

Ben has been a very productive researcher with an impressive list of more than 270 publications. His most cited paper is on the Selective Oxidation of CO over supported Au catalysts, in the Journal of Catalysis of 2001, which received over 170 citations already, and which is still being referred to frequently. Other highly appre-

ciated and often used papers are his reviews on the adsorption of small molecules on group VIII metal surfaces (Surface Science 1983) and on the surface reactions in automotive exhaust catalyst, in Advances in Catalysis of 2000.

In addition to his scientific activities, Ben provided important services to the catalysis and surface science communities as an Editor of Catalysis Today.

We therefore believe that it is highly appropriate to honour him with a special issue of Catalysis Today, which we would like to entitle "Catalytic Surface Science."

The articles in this issue form a good example of the state of the art in this area and together they offer an interesting and stimulating perspective on how surface science and spectroscopy in combination with single crystals, model systems and real catalysts have helped to contribute to the present insight in catalytic phenomena and processes.

We hope that Ben Nieuwenhuys will long be around to witness how the challenging but hugely interesting field of catalytic surface science develops further. We thank him cordially for his highly significant contributions, and for being such an inspiring colleague and friend. We wish him all the best for the future and hope that we will continue to see him regularly.

Guest Editors

Marc Koper

Hans Niemantsverdriet

Available online 12 June 2010