

# Preface

“It is not the critic who counts, not the man who points out how the strong man stumbled or where the doer of deeds could have done better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena whose face is marred by dust, sweat and blood who strives valiantly, who errs and comes short again and again who knows the great enthusiasm, the great devotions and spends himself in a worthy cause, who at the best knows in the end the triumph of high achievement and who at the worst, if he fails, at least fails while daring, so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid sorts who know neither victory nor defeat.”

Theodore Roosevelt

This article is dedicated to those Postgraduate Students, Research Fellows and Visiting Scientists who have ensured that my interest in Surface Chemistry and Catalysis has been kept alive for nearly 50 years. It is a very personal view reflecting my interests and prejudices. There are topics which others will feel that I should have included or given more emphasis to, but that is inherent in the difficult task I was invited to take on. Furthermore there are some areas - chiral and zeolite catalysis are examples - where current activity is high with

new science and technological developments emerging almost daily. For these I have given some highlights of current activities but only a Review in 10 or 20 years time will be able to appreciate their significance in a proper historical perspective.

*Finally I wish to express much gratitude to the advice I generously received from two long standing friends John Meurig Thomas and Gabor Somorjai.*

M.W. Roberts

