

PREFACE

It is a real pleasure to be writing the Preface to Volume 100, a major milestone in the history of *Coordination Chemistry Reviews*.

In February 1965, Marc Atkins of Elsevier visited my office in Manchester to suggest starting a review series in inorganic chemistry. At that time *Progress in Inorganic Chemistry* and *Advances in Inorganic Chemistry and Radiochemistry* were well established, and Carlin had just begun *Transition Metal Chemistry*, all hard cover review journals. After some discussion we agreed that a soft cover journal specializing in the rapid publication of relatively short, specialized and topical reviews could fill an empty niche—and so *Coordination Chemistry Reviews* was born.

Volume 1 appeared in four quarterly issues in 1967. An international Editorial Board was appointed in 1969 to guide the policies of this new endeavour, and to act as referees for the incoming articles. Over the years, the journal has grown in prestige and has fortunately been able to attract review material from major contributors around the world.

The mandate of the journal has not changed significantly since it was established, except that coordination chemistry is now interpreted very broadly to include most aspects of inorganic chemistry and organometallic chemistry. It is also our policy to publish, from time to time, the proceedings of certain specialized conferences. These began with the proceedings of the International Symposium on the Synthetic and Stereochemical Aspects of the Chemistry of Coordination Compounds, held in Nara, Japan, in 1967. Such proceedings provide a way to alert our readership to the latest developments in the field.

For some of those early years, we published regular listings of the latest inorganic X-ray structures before their sheer volume overcame us. Book reviews are published as are "Letters to the Editor". The latter was created to allow comment on previously published reviews, a format which has not often been used. Short "Items of Interest to Coordination Chemists" provide advance notice of important meetings and the like.

In 1979 *Coordination Chemistry Reviews* took over the publication of what had been the Chemical Society's Specialist Periodical Reports in Main Group and Transition Group Chemistry. D. Bryan Sowerby has edited the Main Group Chemistry Reviews for a decade now. The Transition Metal Chemistry Reviews were initially edited by C. David Garner and Ken R. Seddon, and are currently edited by the latter. The reviews have provided a

useful medium to maintain our readership current in a broad swathe of inorganic chemistry.

Special issues have been published from time to time. These include national issues devoted to the coordination chemistry originating in a specific country. Not surprisingly Canada was first (Vol. 39), and since then there have been issues devoted to Japan (Vol. 92) and Denmark (Vol. 94).

Special issues have also been devoted to bioinorganic chemistry (Vol. 18), the memory of Wayne Wilmarth (Vol. 51), the talents of the Editorial Board (Vol. 79), nuclear quadrupole resonance (Vol. 82) and newer techniques (Vol. 97).

It is my contention that our elder statesmen and women in inorganic chemistry have in their minds vast storehouses of chemical wisdom, fascinating material about inorganic chemistry and scientific conditions in general in the relatively distant past. Much of this is anecdotal and not available in printed form. To highlight some of this material we shall shortly begin publishing, in Vol. 99 of *Coordination Chemistry Reviews*, a new series, "A Celebration of Inorganic Lives" which will be in the form of interviews with some of these eminent chemists. The first two articles will be interviews with John Bailar and with his student Fred Basolo. We look forward to a stimulating and rewarding series of articles published irregularly during the coming years.

Over the years many important papers have been published in *Coordination Chemistry Reviews*. These have contributed greatly to the development of the field, being a stimulus for further work. Some material directly from *Coordination Chemistry Reviews* has filtered down into the undergraduate curriculum and the Institute for Scientific Information (Philadelphia) has honoured the journal by awarding seven articles the status of *Citation Classics** as a consequence of their high frequency of citation.

* J. Selbin, Oxovanadium(IV) complexes, *Coord. Chem. Rev.*, 1 (1966) 293; Current Contents 43 (1988). N.F. Curtis, Macrocyclic coordination compounds formed by condensation of metal-amine complexes with aliphatic carbonyl compounds, *Coord. Chem. Rev.*, 3 (1968) 3; Current Contents 28:36 (1988). A.B.P. Lever, The electronic spectra of tetragonal metal complexes, analysis and significance, *Coord. Chem. Rev.*, 3 (1968) 119; Current Contents 17:50 (1986). J.L. Burmeister, Linkage isomerism in metal complexes, *Coord. Chem. Rev.*, 3 (1968) 225; Current Contents 27 (1988). (Three Citation Classics in one volume of *Coordination Chemistry Reviews*!) J.H. Enemark and R.D. Feltham, Principles of structure, bonding and reactivity for metal nitrosyl complexes, *Coord. Chem. Rev.*, 13 (1974) 339; Current Contents 28:47 (1988). T.G. Appleton, H.C. Clark and L.E. Manzer, The trans-influence: its measurement and significance, *Coord. Chem. Rev.*, 10 (1973) 335; Current Contents 28:50 (1988). W.J. Geary, Conductivity measurements in organic solvents for the characterisation of coordination compounds, *Coord. Chem. Rev.*, 7 (1972) 81; Current Contents 13 (1981).

The journal was well received from the outset and has held its own through the budgetary restraints of recent years. I owe a great debt of gratitude to past and present members of the Editorial Board who have helped me guide this journal successfully to Volume 100. I am also grateful to our many contributors, to our many referees and of course to the readership who have maintained the journal in their institutional libraries, though only the most discerning retain a private subscription.

A.B.P. Lever
Editor