

Preface

Coordination chemistry originated in Japan with the first seed sown in the beginning of the 1910s by the late Professor Yuji Shibata of Tokyo University, one of Professor Alfred Werner's students. In the course of nearly 90 years from this beginning, Japanese coordination chemistry has made remarkable progress and has developed many aspects. Nowadays diversified research is being pursued in the whole field of coordination chemistry; nearly 300 papers are presented every year at the National Symposium on Coordination Chemistry in Japan. One may assume that the period of "catching up with advanced countries" is coming to an end, and more valuable and more significant contributions than before may hopefully be anticipated.

It is appropriate, and also gratifying for Japanese coordination chemists, that "Coordination Chemistry Reviews" has planned at this time to publish a volume of contributions from Japanese coordination chemists. Indeed, a number of Japanese coordination chemists have previously contributed articles to *Coord. Chem. Rev.*, but it is also true that there are many other coordination chemists who might render service to coordination chemistry by contributing articles. Several of these articles are collected in this volume.

The selection of the authors is not intended to be systematic but rather arbitrary. An attempt was made to select those authors who have performed excellent research in the past but who have not previously contributed to *Coord. Chem. Rev.*; in other words, "young and good" and "less young but fresh" people were solicited.

Last but not least, heartfelt thanks are due to Professor A.B.P. Lever for suggesting this issue and organising it.

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