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COORDINATION CHEMISTRY REVIEWS

Foreword

P. Schützenberger (Strasbourg 1829–Mézy 1897) was appointed Professor at the Ecole de Chimie de Mulhouse in 1854, and was then Director of this Ecole until 1865, when he moved to Paris to become the first Director of the Ecole Supérieure de Physique et Chimie Industrielle de la Ville de Paris, a post which he held until he died. Despite his early reports in the *Comptes Rendus de l'Académie des Sciences Paris* (1868) and the *Bulletin de la Société Chimique de France* (1870) of the first metal carbonyl complexes, $PtCl_2(CO)_2$ and $Pt_2Cl_4(CO)_2$ (a discovery which predated that of $Ni(CO)_4$, the first homoleptic metal carbonyl, by Mond and coworkers by 20 years), it is fair to say that modern molecular inorganic chemistry was still in its infancy in France in the early 1970s. Since then, the situation has changed considerably, with an increasing number of academic and industrial scientists active in various areas of inorganic and organometallic chemistry.

It was felt that *Coordination Chemistry Reviews* would be a most appropriate medium to illustrate the current state of the art and perspectives in these very active areas of chemical endeavour in France (and elsewhere of course!), and provide the readers with a single source document containing contributions from a wide range of research groups on a large diversity of topics. For these reasons, I did not wish to apply strict limitations to the subjects covered by the authors. The moving boundaries of the scientific landscape in modern molecular, supramolecular and solid-state inorganic and organometallic chemistry, catalysis, materials science, etc., have considerably influenced our views and ways of thinking during the past two decades. Our hope is that this Special Issue will illustrate the vitality and diversity of our scientific community. With 56 contributions gathered, the scientific coverage is very wide.

All that remains for me is to thank warmly the authors and the referees who made this Special Issue both possible and most rewarding.

And now, enjoy the reading!

P. Braunstein, Strasbourg

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