

Preface

Preface for the golden edition of coordination chemistry reviews

In his summary of ICC1, Dr L.E. Sutton said, “the limits of what may be called co-ordination chemistry were continually becoming wider and more nebulous”. All that has changed in 50 years is the loss of a hyphen, as the most striking aspect of this selection of papers presented at ICC34 is the diversity of topics that fall under the umbrella of coordination chemistry. All blocks of the periodic table are represented: the s-block by mimics for potassium channels, the p-block by phosphinidene chemistry and the f-block by medical applications of lanthanoid complexes. Research topics vary from crystal engineering to chromium genotoxicity, from liquid crystals to luminescence. These articles represent a small fraction of the oral and poster presentations delivered in Edinburgh; the range is staggering.

Dr Sutton’s summary of ICC1 divided the contributions into three groups: preparative and experimental developments, equilibrium and rate studies and theoretical investigations. There is no mention of possible applications. By ICC34 the majority of contributions were classified by field of application: chemistry of life; biotechnology and medicine; 21st century materials; technological advances. While at both meetings these divisions were somewhat arbitrary, the change in the method of classification indicates a profound transformation in how coordination chemists approach their field. At ICC1 “we could not be sure that we had all the main principles established”; by ICC34 contributors appear confident of all principles, and are applying them in every field from catalysis to medicine to new materials.

Richard E.P. Winpenny
*Department of Chemistry,
The University of Manchester,
Oxford Road,
Manchester M13 9PL, UK*
E-mail: richard.winpenny@man.ac.uk