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Editorial

Preface

The XXXVth International Conference on Coordination Chemistry (ICCC) took place in Heidelberg, Germany, between 21 and 26 July 2002. Ever since 1950 the ICCCs, usually taking place every 2 years, have been an exciting place for coordination chemists from all over the world to meet. This year the 35th such conference came to Germany, for the third time following Hamburg (1976) and Gera (1990). More than 1100 chemists from 57 nations came to the beautiful city of Heidelberg on the Neckar river to discuss, in 223 lectures and 768 poster presentations, their latest work in the broad fields of coordination chemistry.

The conference covered many of the most topical aspects of coordination chemistry, including bioinorganic chemistry, metals in medicine, metals in catalysis, Werner-type complexes, supramolecular coordination chemistry and materials and nanochemistry.

Nine plenary lectures provided the framework upon which the conference was built. Itamar Willner (Jerusalem) discussed the development of functional nanostructures to construct modules of electronic, electrocatalytic and optoelectronic devices. Dante Gatteschi (Florence) illustrated the strategies for achieving and understanding high magnetic anisotropies in single molecules—a fundamental prerequisite for molecular magnetism. Hans H. Brintzinger (Konstanz) showed that the mechanism of metallocene-catalyzed olefin polymerization requires the so far neglected "non-coordinating" counteranions. A highlight of the conference was the lecture by Achim Müller (Bielefeld) who received the Wilkinson Prize awarded by Elsevier Science. His impressive lecture presented the controlled construction, transformation, nesting and combination of giant molecular polyoxometallate balls, disks and rings with up to 264 metal atoms.

Makoto Fujita (Tokyo) discussed the self-organization of coordination cage compounds and the control of chemical reactions in such supramolecular vessels. Petra Fromme (Berlin) presented us with the structural elucidation of photosystem I with more than 96 cofactors and of the unique Mn_4 cluster in the water-oxidizing complex of photosystem II. Chris Cummins (Massachusetts) presented the synthesis and electronic analysis of novel, inverted sandwich compounds of uranium and Vivian Yam (Hong Kong) enlightened us with luminescent materials with variable absorption and emission characteristics. John Sessler (Texas) showed

Fig. 1. A view of the poster session.

Fig. 2. Jan Reedijk and Gottfried Huttner.

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how complexes of lanthanide ions with expanded and modified porphyrins have been advanced as potential anticancer drugs. Finally, Robin Clark (London) entertained the audience with a colorful presentation about the use of Raman microscopy in identifying pigments used in works of art, as a means of dating and assigning artwork and detecting forgeries.

214 contributed papers in six parallel sessions covered a wide diversity of interesting topics and together with 768 posters made up the bulk of the conference. The two poster sessions (see Fig. 1) constituted an integral part of the conference where the participants actively and vividly discussed all aspects of coordination chemistry and socialized with each other, often late into the night.

The ICCC35 was a great success and extremely well organized in the German tradition by the organizing committee around Gottfried Huttner (see Fig. 2), Elisabeth Kaifer and Roland Krämer.

This issue of Coordination Chemistry Reviews presents some of the flavor of the 35th ICCC including the plenary lectures of Professors Müller, Willner and Yam and a selection of contributed papers chosen by the organizing committee. This continues an association between Elsevier Science, CCR and the ICCC conferences which began with the publication of papers from the 33rd ICCC held in Florence (CCR #185, 186) followed by the 34th ICCC held in Edinburgh (CCR #216, 217).

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