

Preface

Inorganic reaction mechanisms: an issue in honor of Henry Taube

Several years ago, Barry Lever suggested that it was again time for a special issue of *Coordination Chemistry Reviews* on reaction mechanisms and asked me to coordinate this project. I had already been thinking that an interview with Henry Taube in the CCR "Celebration of Inorganic Lives" series was long overdue, so, I proposed that such a project be coupled to an interview with him. I can think of no single individual who has made a greater impact over the past 50 years upon the development of Inorganic Chemistry, specifically Inorganic Reaction Mechanisms than Henry Taube. In this context, I called Henry and asked his permission to organize this issue, and he graciously agreed. The interview published here was based on discussions with him at Stanford University in August 2003 as well as several subsequent phone calls. The contributors to the 15 articles included in this issue fall into one or more of the following categories: friends, former students, postdoctoral fellows and other co-workers, scientific grandchildren, and last but not least, admirers of this remarkable person and scientist. These individuals were all very enthusiastic about contributing to an issue in honor of Henry Taube. The mechanistic topics addressed are broad ranging and touch, among other subjects, upon electron and atom transfer pro-

cesses, reactions of coordinated ligands, substitution reactions, computational studies, photochemistry and the bioinorganic chemistries of iron, chromium and the nitrogen oxides. It is clear that the quantitative approaches of modern mechanistic thinking are relevant to interpreting the reaction chemistry across the spectrum of Inorganic Chemistry. All of us who utilize such approaches in our own research or who benefit from mechanistic interpretations that provide the framework for predicting and understanding new chemical phenomena are greatly indebted to Henry Taube for the legacy of his trail-blazing research into inorganic reaction mechanisms.

Lastly, a word about the timing of this issue. The initial plan was to draw this to a close for a publication date in 2004. However, the mechanics of completion delayed publication to February 2005. Given that Henry was born in November 1915, this allows us to honor him in his 90th year.

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