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Editorial

Preface to the special issue of Coordination Chemistry Reviews linked to the XXXVIth International Conference on Coordination Chemistry, July 18–23, 2004, Mérida, México

The XXXVIth International Conference on Coordination Chemistry, which is hosted by a different country normally every two years, was held in México for the first time in the history of the conference. The conference was hosted jointly by the US and México and organized by a team of chemists from both countries, with Professor Norah Barba-Behrens (FQ-UNAM) (Fig. 1) and Dr. Al Sattleberger (LANL) co-chairing the event. The México locale of the meeting was designed to encourage participation of Latin American Chemists in the conference. Indeed, of the 1150 participants from 57 different countries, 302 were from México, 64 from Latin American Countries: Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Cuba, El Salvador, Uruguay and Venezuela.

The meeting was held July 18–23, 2004 in the historic city of Mérida, the capital of Yucatán and the economic and cultural center of Southeastern México. Known also as "the White City," Mérida is considered the cultural and tourist capital of the Mayan World. The special ambiance of the conference location combined with the warm and lively Mexican

Fig. 1. Closing ceremony, Prof. Norah Barba-Behrens, México and Prof. André Roodt (South Africa).

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Fig. 2. Uxmal, Yucatan, México.

hospitality contributed considerably to the great success of the conference.

Stimulating scientific sessions were complemented by a rich social program for conference participants, which included a folkloric ballet performance and sightseeing tours to major archeological and historic sites around Mérida (Fig. 2).

The scientific program embraced all aspects of modern coordination chemistry, including Bioinorganic chemistry, Nano- and Supramolecular chemistry, Catalysis, Main group element coordination chemistry, *d* and *f* Element coordination chemistry, Functional materials and Reaction mechanisms. These were the themes of the symposia and of the presentations of the 10 plenary lecturers. In addition to the plenary lectures, 70 invited lectures and 270 oral contributions were presented in eight parallel sessions. Two afternoon poster sessions constituted an integral part of the conference, where the participants discussed all aspects of coordination chemistry and socialized.

The contributions to this issue of Coordination Chemistry Reviews are from many of the invited speakers at ICCC36. The diverse topics reflect the enormous scope of the conference and the ubiquitous nature of coordination chemistry, which contributes to: the development of new technologies (molecular electronics, alternative energy sources) and new materials (metallopolymers, nanostructural materials), the understanding and treatment of diseases (metallopharmaceuticals, enzyme models, deleterious and protective effects of metals in the body), environmental protection and remediation (phytoremediation of heavy metals, metal-mediated C–F bond activation, environmentally friendly catalysts for drying paint), catalysis (alkene polymerization, asymmetric alkynylation, olefin epoxidation), and fundamental models of structure and bonding.

This special ICCC issue has been assembled for the benefit of those who were unable to attend the conference and for the benefit of attendees who wish to either catch up on topics that they missed or revisit topics for more details.

We are grateful to the authors for taking time from their busy schedules to write these review articles and to Professor A.B.P. Lever (York University, *Chief Editor of Coordination Chemistry Reviews*) for doing the bulk of the work in arranging this special issue.

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