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Biography

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Biography

Peter A. Tanner

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Peter A. Tanner received his B.Sc. degree in chemistry from the University of London in 1967 and spent two short spells working in industry: performing spectrographic analysis of nonferrous metals and developing polymer syntheses. His major interest led him to complete the M.Sc. in spectroscopy at the Chemical Physics Department of the University of Surrey—taught by inspiring lecturers such as the late Prof. D. H. Whiffen—with his thesis concerning the hydrogen bond. Then he traveled overseas for a period before embarking upon a teaching career. First of all, he taught math at a secondary school and then studied the Certificate in Education course at the University of Birmingham, after which he taught in Further Education from 1972 to 1980 and from 1987 to 1989. During the former time, he obtained the Ph.D. degree in chemistry part-time from the University of London under the supervision of Prof. C. D. Flint with a thesis entitled *Spectroscopy of the Uranyl Ion*. He worked as a research officer at the University of London from 1980 to 1985, completing work on the spectra and energy levels of UO_2^{2+} and U^{4+} in high-symmetry crystals and beginning major work on the spectra, energy levels, and energy transfer of lanthanide ions in crystals. He also taught

several courses part-time in the American Schiller International University in London including the course Science and Society, and he made the final transition to higher education when he joined Kingston Polytechnic as a lecturer in physical chemistry and subsequently served in 1989 as a senior lecturer in analytical chemistry at Kingston University. He settled in Hong Kong in 1989 with his Chinese wife, Stella, at City Polytechnic of Hong Kong and is now a professor in the Department of Biology and Chemistry at City University of Hong Kong. He currently supervises six research students who are studying analytical method development and the growing air pollution in Hong Kong and its environs, as well as the spectroscopy of lanthanide ions. He admits that teaching at different levels from secondary to higher education has helped him to understand more about the aspirations and abilities of students. He has published 170 publications in SCI journals as well as 160 other publications in national journals, conference proceedings, abstracts, and a book. A review of lanthanide ion spectroscopy has been published in 2004 in *Topics in Current Chemistry*. His teaching now focuses on instrumental analysis, photochemistry, and environmental chemistry. He lives with his wife and three sons in Hong Kong. His Web site is <http://personal.cityu.edu.hk/~bhtan>.