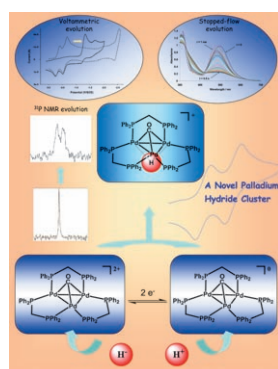


The French Connection...

... celebrating the 150th anniversary of the Société Française de Chimie (SFC). Shown on the cover and with their claims to fame, from left to right, first row: Achille-Joseph Le Bel and tetrahedral carbon, Jean-Marie Lehn and cryptates, Henri Moissan and discovery of fluorine, Pierre-Gilles de Gennes and soft matter (photo: © TT. Boccon-Gibod; insert: Organisation of microparticles in a cholesteric liquid crystal, © CNRS Photothèque, P. Poulin); second row: Henry Le Châtelier and the Le Châtelier Principle, Marcellin Berthelot and the calorimetric bomb, Frédéric Joliot, Irène Joliot-Curie artificial production of radioactive elements (photo: © ACJC -Fonds Curie et Joliot-Curie; insert: Artificial radioactivity), Charles Friedel and the first alkylation of benzene (the Friedel–Crafts reaction); third row: Victor Grignard and the Grignard reagents, Paul Sabatier and the catalytic hydrogenation of carbon monoxide, Yves Chauvin (photo: © G. Godard-LCOMS (CNRS/CPE Lyon; insert: mechanism of olefin metathesis); fourth row: Jean Rouxel and solid state chemistry, Pierre Potier (photo: © Fondation Internationale de la Maison de la Chimie; insert: Catharanthus roseus, © Photothèque CNRS, R. Conreur); Marie Curie and radioactivity (photo: © ACJC -Fonds Curie et Joliot-Curie; insert: Polonium and Radium), Louis Pasteur and asymmetry. The cover was designed by Mag Design (www.magdesign.info).

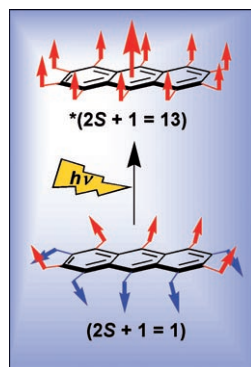


Palladium–Hydride Clusters Compounds

In their Full Paper on page 5338 ff., D. Lucas, P. D. Harvey et al. focus on the synthesis of a new trinuclear palladium–hydride cluster containing a $\text{Pd}_3(\mu_3\text{-H})$ core. Three routes for its synthesis were investigated, but the most convenient and efficient one uses an organic formate. The electrochemical reduction of the hydride cluster $[\text{Pd}_3(\text{H})]^+$ was also investigated and its reduction induces the loss of the hydride ion H^- .

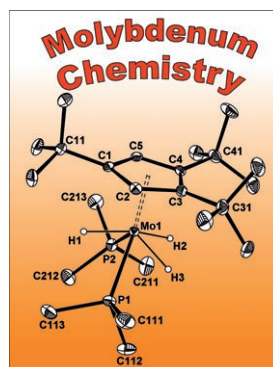
Sandwich Complexes

In their Full Paper on page 5347 ff., R. Poli et al. show that the combination of greater ligand donor power and greater steric bulk in the coordination sphere of half-sandwich Mo^{IV} trihydride complexes stabilizes the 17-electron products of one-electron oxidation.



Molecular Spintronics

In their Full Paper on page 5360 ff., P. P. Lainé, I. Ciofini et al. describe a series of theoretical investigations on the design of photomagnetic molecular devices. Their approach allows the accurate description of the interplay between transient and permanent radicals, paving the way toward rational optimization of photomagnetic devices in view to implementation of molecular spintronics.



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