Journal of Solid State Chemistry **145,** 367–368 (1999)
Article ID jssc.1999.8306, available online at http://www.idealibrary.com on IDEAL®

GUEST EDITOR'S INTRODUCTION

Peter Day FRS: A Biographical Note

It has been a great pleasure for me to act as Guest Editor of this special issue of the *Journal of Solid State Chemistry*, honoring the 60th birthday of Peter Day. Peter's influence on my scientific career has been pivotal and our close scientific association has spanned a period of more than two decades, beginning with my graduate studies in Oxford and continuing to the present day. The present issue is partially based on the contributions made by some of Peter's numerous research students, associates, and colleagues to the special symposium *Electronic Processes in Inorganic Compounds*, organized by the Royal Institution of Great Britain (in association with the Dalton Division, the Faraday Division, the Materials Chemistry Forum, and the Solid State Chemistry Group of the Royal Society of Chemistry) in June 1998 to honor his lifelong contribution to inorganic chemistry, on the occasion of his 60th birthday. The breadth of the research topics addressed in this issue reflects the interdisciplinary scope of Peter's research interests and accomplishments.

Peter Day was born in September 1938 in Wrotham, Kent, and educated at the nearby grammar school at Maidstone. He was a Scholar, and subsequently a graduate student at Wadham College, Oxford, of which he is now an Honorary Fellow. His doctoral research, carried out in Oxford and Geneva, initiated the modern day study of inorganic mixed valency compounds. From 1965 to 1988 he was successively Departmental Demonstrator, University Lecturer, and Ad Hominem Professor of Solid State Chemistry at Oxford, and a Fellow and Tutor of St. John's College, to which he was elected an Honorary Fellow in 1996. He was elected Fellow of the Royal Society in 1986. In 1988 he became Assistant Director and in 1989 Director of the Institut Laue-Langevin, the European high flux neutron scattering center in Grenoble, France. In 1991, he was appointed Director of the Royal Institution of Great Britain and its Davy Faraday Research Laboratory, where subsequently he became Fullerian Professor of Chemistry.

Peter Day has served on many Royal Society and UK Research Council committees and is a member of the British Council Science Advisory Committee and the Engineering and Physical Science Core Group of the European Science Foundation. Other international honors include membership of the Academia Europaea and the Indian Academy of Sciences, while in Britain he has received the Corday-Morgan Medal and the Award for Solid State Chemistry from the Royal Society of Chemistry. In 1999 he will give the Royal Society Bakerian Lecture, the Society's premier lecture in the Physical Sciences. He has advised the French Ministry of Education and the Portuguese and Swiss Ministries of Research. He has strong contacts with the academic community in Japan, having acted as external Counsellor to the Institute for Molecular Sciences in Okazaki. In 1998 he was awarded the Daiwa-Adrian Prize, together with colleagues from Oxford and Yokohama for research on organic magnets.

One of the major development in inorganic chemistry during recent decades has been the improved understanding of the complexity and diversity of the electronic, magnetic, and spectroscopic properties of inorganic materials. This has been accompanied by the development of new materials with specific, increasingly tailored,

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properties. Peter Day's contribution to the worldwide recognition, development, and establishment of this field, in which he nurtured a whole generation of solid state chemists, has been pivotal. His research currently continues with unabated enthusiasm to center on synthesizing and characterizing such (mainly molecular) inorganic and metal-organic solids, in a search for unusual magnetic and electron transport (including superconducting) properties. We look forward to many more years of research accomplishments.

In finishing this short introduction, I join all the contributors of this special issue in honoring Peter Day's 60th birthday.

Kosmas Prassides
Guest Editor