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The 80th birthday of Wolf Vielstich

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There is no end to our researches ... (Michel Eyquem de Montaigne, 1533–92)

Celebrating the 80th birthday of an experimental scientist is no everyday occasion at all; unfortunately, sometimes life takes a different turn, like with Karl Friedrich Bonhoeffer, our jubilee's much admired diploma thesis adviser¹, but we are glad to have the opportunity to celebrate this anniversary.

Born in Munich in 1923, Wolf Vielstich established in 1988 – after an impressive career as a teacher and

researcher and his formal retirement from the chair of physical chemistry at the Universität Bonn – an international research group in Bonn with close links to the university and close cooperation with both scientific and industrial partners. Numerous papers and reports attested to his undiminished activity, way beyond gliding and playing table tennis (an activity which previously occupied a valued place with a tennis table in the Institut für Physikalische Chemie). After handing over the well-developed department to a new professor of electrochemistry, he moved to the Universität der Bundeswehr in Munich (actually a sort of homecoming to the town of his birth) as a visiting professor². Finally – and now already a few years ago – he moved once again with his wife (a well-established electrochemist herself). He is currently affiliated with the Universidade de Sao Carlos in Brazil. Considering the scientific output, his curiosity and creativity are still undiminished. His students, friends and colleagues still have ample opportunities to meet him at conferences and seminars, where he is an attentive listener with fast questions always aiming at the center of the subject. The present collection of papers is a token of appreciation from all of us – his authors, friends and colleagues. Happy birthday once again – and many more exciting years.

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¹For a timely biographical sketch, see U. Schindewolf (2002) *Bunsen-Magazin* 4:139

²A tribute on the occasion of his 75th birthday reports impressively on his scientific career and his numerous achievements (prepared by M. Krausa (1999) *J Electroanal Chem* 461:1)