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## The Chianti electrochemistry meeting on metal-containing molecules: a brief look at a close interaction

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Every electrochemist will quickly agree with the statement that electrochemical methods provide perfect tools for the determination of both thermodynamic and kinetic properties of matter—as long as there are sites in a given system accessible for electrochemical conversion. Besides experimentalists from numerous other areas of natural sciences, organic and inorganic chemists have identified this capability early on. Thus electrochemical instruments for doing, e.g. conductivity measurements, potentiometry or cyclic voltammetry are present in many inorganic chemists laboratory. Exhaustive use of methods like the latter one requires somewhat more than what is described in the instruments manual. Particularly successful investigations of, e.g. organometallic compounds, transition metal complexes etc. will be possible, actually they will be likely, when inorganic chemists and electrochemists are joining their synthetic and analytical efforts. A platform devoted to the exchange of experiences, recent results and stimulating new directions is the logical need quickly rising in a rapidly growing field like the electrochemistry of metal-containing molecules.

The idea to set up a periodical meeting among electrochemists and inorganic chemists was born in 1992 at a NATO Advanced Research Workshop held in Sintra, Portugal (and resulted in the publication of the book “Molecular Electrochemistry of Inorganic, Bioinorganic and Organometallic Compounds”, NATO ASI Series C385, Kluwer, Dordrecht, 1993, A.J.L. Pombeiro Ed.). A group of electrochemists finally realised the important contribution they could bring to the study of metal-containing molecules and the need to give support to the innovation arising from the elucidation of their redox

activity. Since then, continuous attempts have been made to bring electrochemistry out of its niche and to open it to a larger number of researchers in inorganic chemistry. At last, in 1998, on occasion of the Post-33rd ICCS satellite meeting *Electrochemistry: Long- and Short-lived Intermediates in Coordination and Organometallic Compounds*, held in Siena, the same group of electrochemists [Christian Amatore (École Normale Supérieure, Paris, France); Alan M. Bond (Monash University, Clayton, Australia); William E. Geiger (University of Vermont, USA); H. Allen O. Hill (University of Oxford, UK); Karl M. Kadish (University of Houston, USA); Armando J. L. Pombeiro (Instituto Superior Técnico of Lisbon, Portugal); Piero Zanello (University of Siena, Italy)] met again and decided to consolidate the common aspiration to open up new horizons to electrochemistry through regular meetings.

As a consequence, a series of meetings was held in which electrochemists and inorganic chemists had fruitful and reciprocal exchanges capable to set up and extend joint collaborations in matters ranging from Inorganics to Organometallics, from Bioinorganics to Analytical Chemistry, from Material Science to Environmentals, namely:

- Metal-containing Molecules. 1st Chianti Electrochemistry Meeting, Siena, July 2000;
- Metal-containing Molecules. 2nd Chianti Electrochemistry Meeting, Siena, July 2002;
- New Trends in Molecular Electrochemistry, Lisbon, September 2003;
- Metal-containing Molecules. 3rd Chianti Electrochemistry Meeting, July 2004.

(The next Meeting will be held in July 2006; a short report on the contents of the past Meetings can be found at the web-page: <http://www.chim.unisi.it/eventi/chianti/electrochem.htm>). The series of *Chianti Electrochemistry Meetings* was planned as a biennial event to be held in a congenial Carthusian monastery *Certosa di Pontignano*, which is the conference centre of the University of Siena. The old complex (commenced in 1343 and completed in

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1703), which still maintains the typical features of XIV century Christian buildings, is pleasantly immersed in the peaceful landscape of the rolling hills of the Siense country-side and surrounded by their famous vineyards and olive groves which overlooks the hills of Tuscany. The peaceful accommodation offers a peerless combination of science and nature, which was greatly appreciated from all the participants. The size is limited, and so is the number of participants. Those who could not make it to the most recent conferences should finally have a chance to get a feeling of the scientific content of

this conference. The editors have invited those contributors whose contributions seemed to be particularly typical of the scope of the conference to provide a contribution. Most of them could accept the invitation; and now, we gratefully present the first special issue of *Journal of Solid State Electrochemistry* containing contributions from the 3rd Chianti Electrochemistry Meeting. Special thanks are due to the editor in chief and publisher for providing this opportunity and to the numerous referees for their competent help in enhancing the submitted manuscripts.