

## The Chianti Electrochemistry Meeting on Metal-Containing Molecules—a fresh look at close interactions

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The conference team from the University of Siena, Professor Zanello standing right

Looking at the current state of interactions between electrochemists (those people from the field of physical

chemistry or even physics) and synthetic chemists (both from the inorganic and the organic branches), it appears that the intensity of cooperation is growing. In electrochemical journals, synthetic aspects are gaining importance as measured, e.g. in the number of publications containing more or less extensive sections on synthetic work. In journals of the mentioned branches of synthetic chemistry, electrochemical methods, beyond the almost traditional polarography, are applied with growing frequency. Spectroscopic methods adapted to electrochemical tasks—which of course included those challenges synthetic chemists are faced with when characterising the fruit of their arduous work—have gained importance continuously. Since the last Chianti meeting, at least two books written or edited by participants of this conference have been published. The particular importance of electrochemistry in studies of metal-containing compounds as well as the specific attractiveness of, e.g. organometallic compounds for electrochemists as object of their studies presumably does not need to be stressed specifically.

Consequently, a meeting attracting scientists from both sides of the fence previously considered as a boundary, more recently as a field of close interaction, will be of substantial influence in further development of this field.

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

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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 has been 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 materials science to environmental sciences, 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.
- *Metal-Containing Molecules. 4th Chianti Electrochemistry Meeting*, July 2006.

- *Metal-Containing Molecules. 5th Chianti Electrochemistry Meeting*, July 2008.

(The next meeting will be held in July 2010; 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 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 1703), which still maintains the typical features of fourteenth century Christian buildings, is pleasantly immersed in the peaceful landscape of the rolling hills of the Sienese countryside and surrounded by their famous vineyards and olive groves which overlooks the hills of Tuscany. The serene accommodation offers a peerless combination of science and nature enjoyed once more by the participants. The size of the location 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 a special issue of *Journal of Solid State Electrochemistry* containing contributions from the 5th 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.