

Editorial

Special issue in honour of the 60th Birthday of Professor Dr Fritz Beck

This special issue of the Journal of Applied Electrochemistry is dedicated to Professor Dr Fritz Beck on the occasion of his 60th birthday and in recognition of his many outstanding contributions to electrochemistry. I am very grateful to my colleague Gerhard Kreysa for his valued work in soliciting papers and I also wish to thank all those who have contributed to this issue.

*A. A. Wragg
Exeter, April 1991.*

Professor Dr Fritz Beck



Professor Dr Fritz Beck

Fritz Beck was born on May 5, 1931 in the city of Stuttgart, son of a craftsman. During World War II, as a twelve year old boy, he enthusiastically carried out his first electrochemical experiments, studying the interior of Leclanché cells in the quiet of the kitchen late at night. So it was not surprising that he took up the study of chemistry from 1951 to 1956 at the University of Stuttgart. He maintained his special love for electrochemistry and finished his thesis on Ge electrodes and electrocatalytic hydrogenation under the supervision of Professor Gerischer in 1960. There followed a very successful period of industrial research at BASF in Ludwigshafen. There he prepared early polymeric semiconductors such as poly-p-phenylene and polyacetylene, and became an expert in the electrodeposition of paint. He also invented the capillary gap cell and developed several new electroorganic routes to interesting chemical intermediates.

Since 1978 he has held the chair of electrochemistry at the University of Duisburg. During this long and successful period at Duisburg he has expanded his scientific interests and activities to cover a variety of fields

in electrochemistry. He has worked on the anodic oxidation of ethers and ketones, electrosyntheses in capillary gap cells, heterogeneous redox catalysis, mechanism of paint electrodeposition, electrodeposition and characterization of conducting polymers, intrinsic redox reactions in solids, organic electrochemistry in the solid state, metallic corrosion, electrodeposition of composites and rechargeable batteries — an impressively broad spectrum.

Although Fritz Beck is known for his deep interest in fundamental aspects he is even more a devotee of the interdisciplinary and interactive nature of electrochemistry which has often led to original and new applications. This is reflected in 158 scientific papers and 62 patent applications. He has strongly influenced electroorganic chemistry worldwide and his well-known book is one of the most comprehensive monographs in this field. Together with K.-J. Euler he is also author of a book on electrochemical energy storage systems.

For many years Fritz has also been a valued member of the Editorial Advisory Board of this Journal and a frequent referee and contributor.

Fritz Beck is also interested in space technology, viticulture and gardening. But if one spends an evening with Fritz Beck over a glass of quality wine the conversation inevitably tends to turn to fascinating new ideas in electrochemistry.

We congratulate Fritz on his 60th birthday and wish him health, prosperity and a long, active and successful future in his most favourite hobby — electrochemistry!

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