

PREFACE

Festschrift in Honor of John Meurig Thomas

It is a matter of immense pleasure to be able to bring out this Festschrift on the occasion of the 60th birthday of Professor Sir John Meurig Thomas, who has been one of the leaders in solid state chemistry for many years. The contributions of Professor John Thomas cover several aspects of solid state chemistry, including surface and bulk properties of solids. He has investigated the chemistry of minerals, catalysts, porous solids, graphite, and organic solids. Professor Thomas has been equally interested in the structure and reactivity of solids and has employed a variety of new techniques in his investigations; he has been responsible for establishing the use of some of the techniques for the study of solids.

John Thomas was born in south Wales in the United Kingdom, where he grew up and received his education. He was a member of the faculty of the University of Wales for several years before he went to the University of Cambridge as the Head of the Department of Physical Chemistry in 1978. In 1986, he became Director of the Royal Institution of Great Britain. He recently became Deputy Pro-chancellor of the University of Wales and concurrently holds the Fullerian Professorship of Chemistry at the Royal Institution.

John Thomas is a prolific writer and has authored many outstanding papers and semi-

nal reviews. He is an editor or author of several books related to catalysis and solid state chemistry. He is associated with many journals dealing with physical chemistry, catalysis, and solid state chemistry. He has been a popularizer of science and has delivered many popular science lectures. He has trained a large number of doctoral students and has had co-workers from many parts of the world.

Professor John Thomas is the recipient of several national and international prizes and honorary degrees. He is a Fellow of the Royal Society and an honorary foreign member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. He has been honored by several professional bodies, academies, and institutions. He was awarded a knighthood by the Queen in 1991.

The Festschrift contains articles on the various areas of solid state chemistry of interest to Professor John Thomas, authored by some of his friends and co-workers. On behalf of the solid state chemistry community, I wish John Thomas many years of happy and productive life.

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