



Zeros and Crystal Balls

Well, folks, the much-heralded event, viz. the dawn of the year 2000, is well and truly behind us. While “Y 2 Chaos” and “Millennium Meltdown” did not come to pass after all, this past New Year did seem different somehow — a feeling that is reinforced everytime I put down the date somewhere. Does it have to do with all those zeroes, I wonder? Certainly the year 1999 (with all those nines) did not create the same degree of excitement, did it? I recall a similar feeling when the odometer in my old

clunker turned over 100,000 miles many years back! The importance of the number “zero” was dinned into me by my erstwhile chemistry instructor during my undergraduate days. He never failed to remind us about the not too-subtle analytical significance between, say 1 and 1.0000!

As we slowly usher in the new millennium (a word all you readers must surely be tired of hearing by now!), it was felt that this issue was one that could be used as a springboard to look ahead at the science and technology world of the next 100 years or so. Therefore, we dubbed it the “Crystal Ball Issue.” The plans for this issue started taking shape during the *Interface* Advisory Board meeting on a sunny Sunday afternoon in Honolulu, Hawaii, even as the waves and the beach were beckoning us outside.

I should like to take this opportunity to thank each member of the IAB that was present then for his or her enthusiastic input into the planning of this particular issue of the magazine. This project also would not have come to pass without the tireless efforts of Mary Yess, our Managing Editor, who outdid even her usual inimitable self this time around.

Finally, out of curiosity, I decided to surf the marvelous “Web” in search of a bit of history on the crystal gazing ball. After much wading through listings ranging from occult/psychic services and products to investment software packages and forecast aids coining the same term, I unearthed this little nugget:

“A crystal ball two and a half inches in diameter surmounts the Scottish scepter. The use of such balls has been traced back to the Druids. They were still known as ‘stones of power’ in Sir Walter Scott’s days.”

Dave Orban’s marvelous cover illustration does conjure up powerful images of these objects. In closing, I sincerely hope that all you readers derive as much fun from this particular issue of *Interface* as we ourselves did in putting it together.

Raj K.

Krishnan Rajeshwar
Editor

The Electrochemical Society *Interface* (USPS 010-327) (ISSN 1064-8208) is published quarterly by The Electrochemical Society, Inc., at 65 South Main Street, Pennington, NJ 08534-2839 USA. Subscription to members as part of membership service; subscription to nonmembers \$40.00 plus \$5.00 for postage outside U.S. Single copies \$5.00 to members; \$10.00 to nonmembers. © Copyright 2000 by The Electrochemical Society, Inc. Periodicals postage at Pennington, New Jersey, and at additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Electrochemical Society, Inc., 65 South Main Street, Pennington, NJ 08534-2839.

The Electrochemical Society is an educational, nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization with more than 7000 scientists and engineers in over 70 countries worldwide who hold individual membership. Founded in 1902, the Society has a long tradition in advancing the theory and practice of electrochemical and solid-state science by dissemination of information through its publications and international meetings.

Published by:

The Electrochemical Society, Inc.
65 South Main Street
Pennington, NJ 08534-2839 USA
Tel 609.737.1902
Fax 609.737.2743
Web: www.electrochem.org

Editor: Krishnan Rajeshwar
e-mail: raj@utarlg.uta.edu

Contributing Editors: Mike Kelly

Managing Editor: Mary E. Yess
e-mail: publications@electrochem.org

Production & Advertising Manager: Ellen S. Popkin
e-mail: interface@electrochem.org

Advisory Board: Paul M. Skarstad (*Battery*), Robert G. Kelly (*Corrosion*), Meyya Meyyappan (*Dielectric Science and Technology*), Sudipta Roy (*Electrodeposition*), George K. Celler (*Electronics*), Thomas F. Fuller (*Energy Technology*), Prashant V. Kamat (*Fullerenes*), Steven L. Russek (*High Temperature Materials*), Mukul Jain (*Industrial Electrolysis and Electrochemical Engineering*), Esther Sluzky (*Luminescence and Display Materials*), Jean Lessard, (*Organic and Biological Electrochemistry*), Daniel A. Scherson (*Physical Electrochemistry*), Cynthia J. Bruckner-Lea (*Sensor*)

Publication Committee Chairman:
Eric W. Brooman

Society Officers:

Dale E. Hall, *President*
Carlton M. Osburn, *Vice-President*
Jan B. Talbot, *Vice-President*
Karl E. Spear, *Vice-President*
Robin A. Susko, *Secretary*
William D. Brown, *Treasurer*
Roque J. Calvo, *Executive Director*

Articles published, as well as papers presented before a Society technical meeting, become the property of the Society and may not be published elsewhere in whole or in part without written permission of the Society. Address such requests to the Director of Publications.

Statements and opinions given in The Electrochemical Society *Interface* are those of the contributors, and The Electrochemical Society, Inc. assumes no responsibility for them.

Authorization to photocopy any article for internal or personal use beyond the fair use provisions of the Copyright Act of 1976 is granted by The Electrochemical Society, Inc. to libraries and other users registered with the Copyright Clearance Center (CCC), 222 Rosewood Dr., Danvers, MA 01923. Copying for other than internal or personal use without express permission of The Electrochemical Society, Inc. is prohibited. For reprint information, contact Society Headquarters. The CCC Code for The Electrochemical Society *Interface* is 1064-8208/92 \$3.00+\$0.00.

PRODUCTION NOTES

Design Consultant:
O&Y Design,
Trenton, NJ

Printed by:
Cummings Printing Co.
Hooksett, NH