



The First ECS European Tour

I recently made my first trip as ECS President. This was also The Electrochemical Society's first official "tour" of Europe and this combination made the event particularly unique and pleasurable for me.

I had as my traveling companions the ECS Executive Director, Roque J. Calvo; and the Director of Development, Troy M. Miller. Beginning in Spain and spanning five countries and two weeks, the ECS European tour was an important step in expanding the Society's international scope.

Although ECS has been an international society since its inception in 1902, I am very proud and honored to have been elected the first European president. Science is increasingly international, and ECS has responded by expanding its international presence. Most of the recent membership growth has been in Europe and Japan, and I see it as one of my callings as president to continue this growth and faithfully represent ECS as a truly international organization.

During our European tour we had a dual goal: to investigate European cities for a European semi-annual meeting in 2008, and to visit European-based companies to discuss existing and potential partnerships. Overall, the visit was wholly successful. Our delegation visited four European cities and all four sites were beautiful and met the needs of our semi-annual meetings. For those of you interested in learning where the next meeting in Europe will take place, the finalists are Madrid, Rome, Vienna, and Munich. The ECS Meeting Committee will take a closer look at packages from all four cities and will make a recommendation to the Board of Directors in the near future.

In addition, we visited with nine companies during our trip. Beginning in Italy, we met with De Nora Technologie Elettrochimiche and the Oronzio de Nora Foundation in Milan, and the Eldor Corporation in Como. We then traveled through the Alps to visit with Vittorio de Nora and Moltech

in Geneva. Our voyage then took us north into Germany, where we met with Infineon in Munich, Varta Automotive GmbH Advanced Battery Division in Hannover, the Center for Solar Energy and Hydrogen Research (ZSW) in Ulm, the Max-Planck-Institut für Festkörperforschung in Stuttgart, and finally Philips in Aachen.

Despite the rigors of this bold trip through the heart of Europe, I am convinced our delegation will retain wonderful personal memories. However, the true merit of the trip is surely the number of wonderful people we met and the relationships we secured. In this respect I would like to express my thanks and appreciation to Antonio Pasquinucci, Giuseppe Faita, and Gian Nicola Martelli of De Nora Technologie and to Federico de Nora of the Oronzio de Nora Foundation; Pasquale Forte, Luca Forte, and Luigi Persi of Eldor Corporation; Vittorio de Nora and Jacqueline Holz of Moltech; Franz Nepl and Reinhard Mahnkopf of Infineon; Uwe Kohler and Jorg Kumpers of Varta Battery; Juergen Garche of ZSW; Joachim Maier of Max-Planck; and Hans Nikol and Cees Ronda of Philips.

You will all be pleased to know that wherever we went, The Electrochemical Society was a well-known and well-respected organization. It never ceases to amaze me, that our small one-hundred-year-old group is recognized as the world's premier society for electrochemical and solid-state science. ■

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bruno Scrosati". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending from the end.

Bruno Scrosati
President