Introduction

It is very appropriate that this volume, which deals with the scientific legacy of Joseph Chatt, should appear at this time. A decision was taken very early in the planning of the 34th International Coordination Chemistry Conference (ICCC34) to have a theme dealing with 'Joe Chatt Chemistry'. ICCC34 was held in the United Kingdom to celebrate the Golden Jubilee of the first meeting organised by Joseph Chatt at The Frythe, Welwyn, near London, which was then a corporate research laboratory of Imperial Chemical Industries. Since this first meeting ICCCs have grown steadily in size and importance with recent meetings attracting delegates from more than 50 countries.

As ICCC34 coincided with the New Millennium, it was appropriate to use the Joseph Chatt theme to provide a historical perspective of the development of coordination chemistry because, as this volume clearly demonstrates, Chatt was involved with an extraordinarily broad range of research activities. This historical perspective was backed by an exhibition organised by Paul O'Brien giving details of earlier meetings and many of the personalities who have been involved over the years.* More importantly, 'Joe Chatt Chemistry' was also used to provide a prediction of the likely future developments in coordination chemistry. Here the organisers faced a difficulty. Joseph Chatt's contributions to the subject have impacted on so many areas that it became difficult to draw a line defining the boundaries of topics that were to be considered under the theme of 'Joe Chatt Chemisty'. In many cases papers which could have been presented under this heading were included in the other sessions: Structure and Dynamics, 21st Century Materials, Biotechnology and Medicine, Technological Advances, and Chemistry of Life. The splendid range of papers included in this book illustrates how broadly Joseph Chatt contributed to the development of the subject. The editors should be congratulated on bringing together such an interesting and representative collection of papers defining his legacy.

Peter Tasker

* For more information, contact Professor P. O'Brien, the Manchester Materials Science Centre and the Chemistry Department, University of Manchester, Oxford Road, Manchester M13 9PL, UK.