



Report on the XVII Congress of the Iberoamerican Society of Electrochemistry held at the city of La Plata from 3rd to 7th April 2006 in Argentina.

The XVII Congress of the Iberoamerican Society of Electrochemistry (SIBAE 2006) was held with excellent success in the traditional building of the former Jockey Club of La Plata during the first week of April 2006. The Congress was opened on Monday 3rd with the presence of about 400 participants from 13 countries from Iberoamerica, USA and Germany.

After the opening address, a first plenary lecture was given by Prof. A. J. Bard (*New Approaches to Finding Electrocatalysts Based on Scanning Electrochemical Microscopy*). Previous to his lecture Prof. Bard was honoured as member of the National Academy of Exact, Physical and Natural Sciences in recognition for his contributions to the development of the electrochemical science. In the evening of the first day almost all the participants enjoyed the welcome cocktail with the presence of a folk group that showed typical argentine dances, particularly malambo and tango.

Except for Prof. Bard's lecture, plenary lectures were placed between the coffee-break and the lunch time as a way to facilitate the presence of most participants. On the second day Prof. Leiva gave his plenary lecture speaking about *Applications of Computational Simulation to the Study of Electrochemically Nanostructured Systems*. The third day plenary lecture was given by Prof. D. M. Kolb (*An Atomistic View of Simple Electrochemical Processes*) who was also honoured as a member of the National Academy of Exact, Physical and Natural Sciences. The fourth and fifth day plenary lectures were given by Prof. F. C. Nart (*Tendencies in Electrocatalysis*) and Prof. F. M. MacDonnell (*Photodriven Multielectron Storage and Transfer in Zinc(II) and Ruthenium(II) Complexes of the Aromatic Bridging Ligands (TATPP and TATPQ): Electrochemical Characterization of the Photoproducts*).

The plenary lectures were accompanied by 13 invited conferences that focused different areas of electrochemistry and were organised in such a way that there was no superposition among them to allow participants the possibility of assisting to every one. The invited conferences were also characterised by the inclusion of young scientists as lecturers.

Oral and Poster presentations covered various subjects in the fields of electrochemical science and engineering including (A) Fundamental Electrochemistry, (B) Electrodeposition and Corrosion Processes, (C) Electroanalytical Chemistry, (D) Industrial and Environmental Electrochemistry, (E) Electrochemical Energy Conversion, (F) Molecular Electrochemistry and Bioelectrochemistry and (G) Electrochemistry of Materials. The number of papers amounted 357, including 226 oral presentations and 131 posters. This was one of the goals of the Organising Committee: increasing oral presentations at the expense of poster sessions.

All the assistants were invited to join the ISE through a kind letter signed by Prof. Juan M. Feliu President of ISE that was included in the congress material. The scientific program was very intense, with sessions starting at 8:30 and ending at 18:30. Many discussions were continued after the sessions, and some resulted in the generation of new international collaborations. Young participants were very delighted and profited especially from the presence of Professors Bard and Kolb. About 45% of the participants were students or young scientists, a good sign of the vitality of the electrochemistry in the Iberoamerican community.

Two round tables that lasted almost two hours each, were organised to discuss two important problems of the electrochemistry such as *The Challenges of Electrochemistry in the Science and Technology of Hydrogen* and *The Electrochemistry in the Development of New Advanced Materials*.

Along with oral presentations, there were two poster sessions mainly related to works presented by either pre- or post-doctoral students. Posters were exhibited during two days and the Congress Dinner was the place for giving three poster awards by Eco Chemie/Autolab to the best posters presented at the Meeting. The awardees were María Paula Juliarena from University of La Plata, Argentina, Denis Ricardo Martins Godoi from University of Sao Paulo, Brasil and Eduardo Rubén Henquín from PRELINE, Litoral National University, Argentina. About 200 people participate in the Congress Dinner which was characterized by the presence of many young people. All the people enjoyed not only the good meal with argentine meat and wine, but especially the ballads and tangos sung by a local artist who was accompanied by musicians and dancers who crowned a magical banquet with the invitation to some of the presents to dance with them.

Last day congress is normally a day marked by the absence of many participants, but in this meeting this was not the case. The friendly environment developed during the previous days made many people to rest till the closing ceremony which was the moment for showing the statistics of the congress and sharing a toast with champagne with all the presents.

Prepared by

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