

Message of Greeting

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I think that it was a good idea to link the symposium "Marking the Contributions of John O'M. Bockris" with the discussion of the past 30 and the next 30 years of electrochemistry. Indeed, there is hardly any important branch of electrochemistry to which Prof. Bockris has not made a fundamental contribution, whether it be the adsorption theory of organic substances, electric double-layer structure, passivity, ellipsometry, electrocrystallization of metals, growth of dendrites, kinetics of oxygen reduction and iron dissolution, hydrogen embrittlement, structure of molten salts, electrocatalysis, bioelectrochemistry, and last but not least the quantum theory of the elementary act. So much for Prof. Bockris's activity in the past 30 years. As regards the next 30 years of electrochemistry, I do not think there exists another scientist who has done so much for the propaganda of its future possibilities, the more so in connection with dramatic problems of energy conversion and cleaner environments. Prof. Bockris said once that electrochemistry is "an underdeveloped science." This means that electrochemistry could yield much more than it does at present, if more funds were invested in its development. I think that Prof. Bockris is quite right. I would also add that electrochemistry is an underestimated science and that what electrochemists have achieved has not been duly appreciated. I hope that this symposium will remedy the situation.

I would like to add another item to the list of Prof. Bockris's merits. I remember very well that during the sad period of the Cold War, I received a letter from London from the British-Soviet Friendship Society, which said that a young British electrochemist, John Bockris, wished to establish scientific contacts with us. Bockris's initiative was very helpful in restoring the relations between Soviet and Western electrochemists broken soon after the war. True enough, it hasn't always been plain sailing between Bockris and Soviet electrochemists. Sometimes there have been difficulties, but they have been only lovers' quarrels. The division of electrochemistry into two parts, "ionics" and "electrodics," proposed by Prof. Bockris, is becoming very popular everywhere in our country as well. I must say that in Russian these terms are even nicer: "ionica" and "electrodica." These sound like sweet feminine names, especially "electrodica," quite like Everedica (the Russian pronunciation of Euridice). In conclusion, I wish great success to this sensational symposium and express my hope that in 20 years a symposium "The Past Fifty and the Next Fifty Years of Electrochemistry," marking the contributions of John O'M. Bockris and associates will be held. The participants will come to the meeting in fuel-cell-driven electromobiles, as by that time the adverse effects of the great Nernstian hiatus will have been at last overcome.