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Preface to *Electrochemistry, Past and Present*

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Preface

NICHOLSON AND CARLISLE RECOGNIZED hydrogen and oxygen as products of the electrolysis of water in 1800. From this small beginning, the use of electrochemistry has grown tremendously, both in magnitude and in diversity. Electrochemistry affects everyone. Small stores carry arrays of that indispensable device, the battery. At one time, aluminum cost nearly as much as silver. Today fused-salt electrolysis produces the metal so cheaply that household items made from aluminum can be cheerfully discarded when damaged. Our health is less likely to suffer because of rapidly developing electrochemical approaches to the control of pollution.

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Bbt
Chemists have at their disposal many preparative and investigative techniques that are based on electrochemistry. The symposium on which this book is based presented not only the basic history of electrochemistry, but also its growth to a major branch of science and technology. *Electrochemistry, Past and Present* captures the major events and technologies of classical and fundamental electrochemistry, electrosynthesis, electroanalytical chemistry, industrial electrochemistry, electrode systems, and pH measurement. This volume contains an overview of the field, organized under the general headings of Foundations of Electrochemistry, Organic and Biochemical Electrochemistry, Electroanalytical Chemistry, and Industrial Electrochemistry.

Electrochemistry, Past and Present is a unique collection that will educate and engage the interested reader. An equivalent background understanding of electrochemistry could only otherwise be gleaned by many days of persistent searching through the primary literature.

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