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Editorial

This volume is based on the Fourth International Symposium on Electrochemical Impedance Spectroscopy, held in Angra dos Reis, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil in August 1998. At the Symposium 134 papers from South America, North America, Europe and Asia were presented. The Conference lasted five full days and the Proceedings volume consisted of 3-page extended abstracts. The possibility of submitting papers for this special issue was open to all authors, independent of the form of presentation (poster or oral). Experienced scientists have refereed the submitted papers. All the referees worked very rapidly and judiciously and I would like to express my sincere thanks to them.

In this fourth version of the symposium some changes were introduced with the purpose of stimulating scientific discussion. We did not hold parallel sessions and all Key Note Lectures had ten minutes at the end set aside for questions. Two new sessions were scheduled: one for the discussion of posters, another for the discussion of controversial issues. One of the subjects dealt with was the role of electrical equivalent circuits as a tool in the interpretation of electrochemi-

cal impedance data. Although consensus was not reached, it is still necessary to continue to discuss this, as well as other controversial issues. In my viewpoint the linearity of the impedance technique should mainly be used to stimulate experimental results by solving mass and charge transport equations. Nevertheless, in the literature this kind of work is becoming more and more rare, being restricted to statistical adjustment of electrical circuit parameters. Such discussions alone can justify the continuation of this series of Symposia.

I would like also to report the warm atmosphere experienced by all participants during the meeting, which turned it into an unforgettable occasion. I would like to thank Roberto and Susana Torresi, Isabel Margarit, Susana Diaz, Carlos and Lucelene Talhati, Mariana Camargo, Simone de Menezes and Aurora M. Oliveira for their assistance.

I hope that the friendship and the fruitful scientific discussions during EIS98 will encourage you and other colleagues to participate in EIS2001 organised by Prof P.L. Bonora. Good luck to him!

Oscar Rosa Mattos