

Preface

Science needs language, not only for communication among people, but we all need language for thinking, for constructing models, for forming our ideas. Clear-cut terms that are accepted and understood by the scientific community are the basis of scientific language. The goal of this “Electrochemical Dictionary” is to provide a reference manual where the reader of electrochemical literature can quickly find short explanations of scientific terms. Fundamental definitions are very important, especially the recommendations of IUPAC, which were a primary source, where available. In many cases intensive discussion among the editors and expert authors resulted in the definitions that can be found in this book. It is our hope that the definitions of terms proposed herein will be accepted and used in the future by the scientific community. This dictionary includes not only the most frequently used terms, but also some that may be obsolete and even those whose use is discouraged. We intend the dictionary to be *encyclopedic in coverage of terms*, but relatively brief and clear in the individual entries. The goal to be encyclopedic in covering “all” terms is impossible to fulfill, partly because science is quickly developing with new terms arising almost daily, partly because it is practically impossible not to forget some. We hope that upcoming editions will close these gaps. The editors have decided to also include brief biographic entries of people who have contributed to the development of electrochemistry and have since passed away. Several of them were not electrochemists, and their contributions were mainly in the fields of physics, chemistry, and biology, but are also important in electrochemical research. Similarly, we include some entries about key techniques or materials that might be important in electrochemistry, although not directly in this field.

The authors and editors will be pleased if the “Electrochemical Dictionary” stands on the shelf of all those who read electrochemical papers and books, and if these readers will find it useful as a quick and reliable information source. Almost all entries are carefully referenced to enable the user to quickly locate the best primary sources. Of course, the authors and editors would appreciate any comments and suggestions for improvement.

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