

CYANIDO COMPLEXES FROM DIESBACH TO THE PRESENT TIME

Prof. Juraj Černák
P. J. Šafárik University in Košice,
Institute of Chemistry (Slovakia)

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Universidad de Zaragoza

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The communication of the preparation of the blue pigment known at present as Prussian Blue, published at the beginning of the 18th century, can be considered as the first report about a cyanido complex. At the end of the 19th century Hofmann and Küspert published the synthesis of the compound $\text{Ni}(\text{CN})_2 \cdot \text{NH}_3 \cdot \text{C}_6\text{H}_6$, which at present is known as the Hofmann clathrate. Broad introduction of the method of single crystal X-ray structure analysis in the later decades of the 20th century stimulated further studies on cyanido complexes. Somewhat later, cyanido complexes started to attract the interest of scientists working in the field of molecular magnetism. Examples illustrating the development of our knowledge of cyanido complexes will be given.