The 90th birthday of Wolf Vielstich

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Most of us desire to get old, because there are so many friends and relatives to visit, places to see and questions to be answered; becoming old is not always an enjoyable process—but being old is considered to be a grace and a privilege. In many societies and cultures, longevity is particularly cherished—thus, it comes as no surprise that a Chinese character is set aside exactly to name this: long life.

Wolf Vielstich—born 90 years ago on June 18, 1923, in Munich—is one of those few we certainly recognize as being blessed and privileged to enjoy and celebrate this anniversary. After a long and productive career in science, which was only formally interrupted by his retirement from the chair of Physical Chemistry at Bonn University in 1988, he continued research as a visiting professor at the Universität der Bundeswehr in Munich; later on, he was affiliated with the Universidade de Sao Carlos in Brazil. After the retirement of his wife from her position at the latter university, he again moved on: to life between two continents, some part of the year again in Bonn and some time in Argentina.

His scientific oeuvre has been collected up to 1999 by M Krausa (J Electroanal Chem 1999, 461:1); the later contributions to electrochemistry are listed on the following page.

We all wish Wolf Vielstich a happy birthday, healthy days and more time with us.

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