

## Preface

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In the year 2001 the Nobel Foundation celebrates the Centennial of the first Nobel Prizes. Among the events for 2001 is the opening of a Centennial Exhibition in Stockholm. An identical exhibition will open in Oslo in the fall of 2001 and then tour different cities around the world. The Nobel web site has been upgraded to Nobel e-Museum (NeM) — a virtual museum of science and culture which can be found on the Internet at [www.nobelprize.org](http://www.nobelprize.org).

As part of the Centennial celebrations, the NeM is publishing a series of reviews covering the work of Nobel Laureates in Physics, Chemistry, Physiology or Medicine, Literature and Peace as well as Winners of the Bank of Sweden Prize in Economic Sciences in Memory of Alfred Nobel (awarded since 1969). Electronic publication of this series began in 1999 and has now been completed. In view of the great interest in these reviews, and to make the information available also to those who prefer to read from printed pages, a collaboration has been established with Imperial College Press and World Scientific to publish updated versions of these reviews in the form of this Centennial Volume.

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