

Preface

This volume of Colloid and Polymer Science is dedicated to Prof. E. W. Fischer on the occasion of his 65th birthday, which he celebrated in Mainz in February this year. The contributions are intended to reflect the wide range of Prof. Fischer's activities and the impact of his work in the area of polymer science. It is a collection of papers of some of his many friends and collaborators, who closely worked with him – either as his former students, post-docs or visitors at the Institute. Most of them are today well-known scientists who are spread all over the world. Many of them are still working in areas which have been strongly influenced by their former work at the Institute or by contributions of Prof. Fischer.

Some of their activities presumably even started in Mainz, sparked by an idea which, during one of the long afternoon discussions in his office, may have emerged from a small, but stimulating remark of Prof. Fischer. While filling his pipe, he might have remembered some important publications, which, however, in most cases he could not find immediately in his reference numbering system. Or Prof. Fischer might have introduced a new aspect into the discussions, for instance by suggesting a clever way of analyzing the data. As a polymer scientist, he always tried to find a reasonable physical model, introducing simplifications whenever necessary, while keeping the essential features.

Prof. Fischer has been active in many areas of polymer science, and he was involved in the application and development of many specific techniques while always keeping close contact to theory. Thus, the present volume also contains many of those techniques, in particular, electron microscopy, x-ray and neutron scattering, dielectric spectroscopy, and dynamic light scattering, as well as research areas and theories concerned with the understanding of the crystalline and amorphous state, polymer blends and the glass transi-



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tion. In those areas, his work made, and is still making, a significant impact on polymer science. This volume is, on the other hand, a cross-section of important problems in polymer science, and shows international collaborations and friendships which developed between many countries.

As the editor of this volume, I would like to thank all contributors for their patience and their outstanding efforts for this volume. Furthermore, I wish Prof. Fischer many more fruitful scientific years to come, and may they also be influenced by the condensed work presented in this volume.

M. Stamm