

Preface

The *13th European Symposium on Polymer Spectroscopy (ESOPS-13)* was held at Lancaster University, Lancaster, UK, from July 20–23, 1998. ESOPS meetings are held every two to three years to review the recent research, developments and applications of all types of spectroscopy to the characterisation and analysis of polymer systems.

About 100 scientists, from both academia and industry, from Europe, Japan and the USA attended ESOPS-13. 10 plenary and 16 invited and contributed lectures were presented by specialists from Europe, Japan and the USA. This programme was supported by poster communications and a manufacturers' exhibition.

The papers presented in this issue of *Macromolecular Symposia* (as with previous issues in the series) are a mix of offered and selected contributions, aimed at providing an overview of the breadth of the symposia, together with a snapshot on recent research and applications in polymer spectroscopy.

The editor would like to thank all who have contributed to this record of the meeting, and express particular appreciation to them (and the staff of *Macromolecular Symposia*) for patience with a somewhat *tardy* editor. I would also like to acknowledge the considerable work undertaken in organising and hosting ESOPS-13 by Professor John Ebdon and his team of The Polymer Centre at Lancaster University.

John Chalmers