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Foreword

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FOREWORD

Following Orléans in 1991, the 7th International Symposium on Intercalation Compounds (ISIC7) was held in Louvain-la-Neuve in May 1993. The aim of ISIC7 was to provide an international forum for the exchange of information and ideas on intercalation in carbon materials, including fullerenes, and other lamellar materials.

Various topics were discussed including new compounds and synthesis routes, stability and thermodynamics, kinetics and reaction mechanisms, electrochemistry, crystal transitions and dynamics of intercalated species, band structure calculations and electronic properties, charge transfer, transport properties, lattice and magnetic properties, applications.

Before the eighties, intercalation studies were at their pioneering stage. Research on the traditional materials burst out at the beginning of the eighties involving a large amount of research groups around the world. At the end of the decade a tendency to slow up was observed. This was due in part to the discovery of high T_c superconductors. However, the large number of participants at ISIC6 and ISIC7 has proved that there is still exciting chemistry and physics to be explored for traditional candidates to intercalation. The field is still active and vivid. The discovery of fullerenes, which were first introduced to the intercalation community at ISIC6 led to the presentation of many papers at ISIC7, in spite of the large number of conferences devoted to this particular topic. There were also an increasing number of papers devoted to layered compounds other than graphite.

We are thankful to the participants and session chairmen for making the meeting stimulating. The competence of the referees who reviewed all the manuscripts is also much appreciated. The young team of the Laboratoire de Physico-Chimie et de Physique des Matériaux in Louvain-la-Neuve contributed at all stages to make the meeting successful.

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