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Phosphorus, Sulfur, and Silicon and the Related Elements

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Preface

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PREFACE

THE INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON THE ORGANIC CHEMISTRY OF SULPHUR—AIMS AND HISTORY

Everybody who works in the field of the organic chemistry of sulphur is convinced that this is indeed a special field of great importance. The number of people who shared this opinion has increased rapidly since the early sixties. At this time, it was an almost private enterprise to organize a conference on organic sulphur chemistry as it was done in 1964. By invitation of Prof. Horak and his colleagues, some 80 organic and physical chemists gathered in Liblice, CSSR, a former castle near Prague. The aim was to make possible as many discussions as possible; therefore, the conference was organized as a conclave in a somewhat remote place (since then this remoteness has been considered almost as a precondition). The success of this conference led to its repetition and now it is established that symposia are held every two years. Previous Sulphur Symposia have taken place in

Liblice, CSSR	1964
Groningen, Netherlands	1966
Caen, France	1968
Venice, Italy	1970
Lund, Sweden	1972
Bangor, UK	1974
Hamburg, FRG	1976
Portoroz, Yugoslavia	1978
Riga, USSR	1980
Bangor, UK	1982
Lindau, FRG	1984

The next symposium is scheduled to take place in Nijmegen, Netherlands, 1986.

In all of these conferences, the state of organic sulphur chemistry was reviewed in plenary lectures and contributed papers. The emphasis, of course, changed with the changes in general and special research interests. In the first symposia, reviews were given about the chemistry of important classes of sulphur compounds, their molecular structure, the mechanisms of their reactions and the reactive intermediates involved therein. Later, the main interest switched somewhat to the stereochemistry of sulphur compounds and their reactions, to the properties of "hypervalent" sulphur and, then, to synthetic applications.

The many uses of the reaction sequence:

Introduction of sulphur functionality

Transformations with the carbon skeleton made possible by this functionality

Removal of the sulphur function

are of utmost general interest today. They were the main topics treated in the lectures at the last Sulphur Symposium. In particular, the possibility of synthesizing almost all classes of natural products has been pointed out. In the last symposium, the attempt was

made to enlarge the subject matter of the Sulphur Symposia still further: On the one hand, the biochemistry of sulphur and its compounds which will gain more and more importance in the future as well as the chemistry of biologically important selenium compounds was included; on the other hand, results in inorganic sulphur chemistry which has developed separately from its organic counterpart but as rapidly were brought to attention. We think that this expansion of the topics should prove fruitful in future Sulphur Symposia, too.

One of the characteristic features of these symposia is that the abstracts of the contributed papers are published in an Abstract Book available to participants (somewhat of a collectors item, nowadays). For the last symposium, the titles of these contributions are cited in the present volume of "Phosphorus and Sulfur" so that the authors may be approached by interested people. The plenary lectures have often been published in full¹⁻⁴. This volume contains the corresponding collection for the Lindau Symposium. These surveys should be a valuable tool in the hands of all sulphur chemists, we hope.

The Editors like to thank again, at this place, all those who contributed to making the Lindau conference a success. Our deep appreciation is due to all the speakers, the chairmen and the members of the international committee who gave us much valuable advice as well as all the people and organizations concerned with the preparation and the realization of the conference, the sponsors and, especially, the Gesellschaft Deutscher Chemiker, our university, TU München, and the city of Lindau.

Let us look forward to the future developments of sulphur chemistry and its symposia!

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