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Phosphorus, Sulfur, and Silicon and the Related Elements

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Preface

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PREFACE

Sulfur and its inorganic and organic compounds are widely distributed in Nature and have found various application. Today sulfur became an element that plays not only an important role in various fields of chemistry but also links very different branches of science. Most probably nobody could predict so stormy development of sulfur chemistry in 1964 when a small group of fans of sulfur chemistry came to Liblice in CSSR by invitation of Professor V. Horak to take part in the first meeting devoted to this element. After 26 years there is no doubt that a vigorous development of organic chemistry in general and organic synthesis in particular would not be possible without sulfur and its compounds.

Since 1964 international conferences exclusively concerned with the chemistry of sulfur have a long and good tradition. Previous Sulfur Symposia have taken place in:

1. Liblice, CSSR	1964
2. Groningen, Netherlands	1966
3. Caen, France	1968
4. Venice, Italy	1970
5. Lund, Sweden	1972
6. Bangor, U.K.	1974
7. Hamburg, F.R.G.	1976
8. Portorož, Yugoslavia	1978
9. Riga, U.S.S.R.	1980
10. Bangor, U.K.	1982
11. Lindau, F.R.G.	1984
12. Nijmegen, Netherlands	1986
13. Odense, Denmark	1988

The Fourteenth International Symposium on the Organic Chemistry of Sulfur was held in Łódź, Poland, from 2 to 7 September 1990. It gathered 210 chemists (plus 27 accompanying persons) from 25 nations and 5 continents. For Poland as a host country, it was extremely nice opportunity to organize this Symposium, since elemental sulfur belongs to one of its most important natural resources. In the south-east part of Poland, near Tarnobrzeg, there are rich sulfur mines producing ca. 5 mln tons per year of sulfur what represents ca. 9% of the world production. Poland produces ca. 3 mln tons per year of sulfuric acid what is equal to 24% of the world production of this important industrial sulfur product. Moreover, the biggest in Europe factory of carbon disulfide is also situated in Poland.

Therefore, in addition to the traditional topics of the Sulfur Symposia such as:

Synthesis of organic sulfur compounds and their applications

Theoretical, mechanistic and stereochemical aspects of the organic chemistry of sulfur; electrochemistry of organosulfur compounds

Heterocyclic sulfur compounds

The Symposium program was expanded to the industrial organic chemistry of sulfur. Similarly, the importance of sulfur in biological processes resulted in the topic entitled bioorganic chemistry of sulfur. All these subjects were covered in 19 plenary

and invited lectures, 53 contributed papers and 89 posters presented at the Symposium.

We were also very pleased that our Honorary Guest, Professor Shigeru Oae, kindly agreed to deliver a special lecture entitled "Sulfur Chemistry in the Next Few Decades—Would Several Unsolved Problems Be Clarified?"

An agreement between IUPAC and Gordon and Breach Science Publishers made it possible to publish the Symposium proceedings in "Phosphorus, Sulfur and Silicon." They consist of full texts of plenary and invited lectures, four-page synopses of the contributed papers and titles and names of authors of the posters.

The Editors would like to express their thanks once again to all those who contributed to making this Symposium a success: the speakers, the chairpersons, the members of the International Committee and National Advisory Committee and the coworkers of our Organizing Committee.

Marian Mikołajczyk
Piotr Kielbasiński