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Preface

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PREFACE

The Fifth International Symposium on the Chemistry of Selenium and Tellurium was held in Oak Ridge, Tennessee from August 24–28, 1987. The study of the chemistry of these elements has yet to achieve great popularity. However, recent developments, many of which are described in this volume, predict a bright future for both basic studies and useful application of these elements and their compounds.

Important developments have been reported in the biochemistry of selenium, in the catalytic applications of tellurium compounds, in heavy metal selenide and telluride based photovoltaic cells and in the use of organotellurium intermediates in organic chemical synthesis. A number of papers in this volume report on some very recent results in these areas.

Because selenium and its alloys play such an important role in electrostatic photocopying and because meaningful discoveries are being made in the area of selenium biochemistry, it was very gratifying to have present at the symposium a number of individuals who are highly recognized for their research in these two fields. Several of their papers are printed in these proceedings. In addition, the most recent developments in inorganic, organic and physical chemistry are also described in papers written by recognized authorities in the field of selenium and tellurium chemistry.

The Fifth International Symposium on the Chemistry of Selenium and Tellurium was an unqualified success. It is a pleasure to acknowledge the cooperation of those members of the staff of the Oak Ridge Associated Universities. Especially, I wish to thank Ms. Robin Stoller and Dr. James Gumnick for their unselfish assistance. Also, the members of the Board of Editors are to be commended for their careful reviews and the prompt return of the manuscripts which they edited. Ms. Jody Trenckmann, Ms. Catherine Husted and Ms. Kellie R. Copeland assisted greatly in the re-typing and final assembly of the manuscripts.

Ralph. A. Zingaro