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## Phosphorus, Sulfur, and Silicon and the Related Elements

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### Preface

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# Preface

This book records the 19 plenary and invited lectures, the two page summaries of 60 oral communications and the titles of 165 posters presented at the 15th International Symposium on the Organic Chemistry of Sulfur (15th ISOCS) held in Caen (France) from June 28th to July 3rd 1992. This meeting was attended by 360 chemists from 35 different countries who communicated their new results related to five main topics:

A) Synthesis of organic sulfur compounds and organosulfur mediated synthesis.

B) Theoretical, mechanistic and stereochemical aspects of the organic chemistry of sulfur.

C) Heterocyclic sulfur chemistry.

D) Bio-organic and medicinal sulfur chemistry.

E) Advanced materials: organic conductors, polymers...

Previously, this conference has taken place every two years since 1964 in different places : Liblice (Czechoslovakia), Gröningen (The Netherlands), Caen (France), Venice (Italy), Lund (Sweden), Bangor (United Kingdom), Hamburg (Germany), Portoroz (Slovenia), Riga (Lettonia), Bangor (United Kingdom), Lindau (Germany), Nijmegen (The Netherlands), Odense (Denmark), Lodz (Poland).

Why hold such a periodical meeting about sulfur chemistry ? Sulfur is the fifth most abundant element on our planet and its participation is said to be very important in the emergence of life. Sulfur is present in numerous natural molecules such as the well known methionine, cysteine, penicilline and, as far as odour is concerned, if some of its derivatives smell terrible others can also give off pleasant aromas such as those of passion fruit, grapefruit, garlic, coffee and roasted meat. However, the goal of an organic chemist is not only the discovery and identification of natural molecules but mainly to create new molecules and to study their properties. As the French chemist Berthelot said : "Chemistry creates its subject. This creative ability, similar to that of art, essentially distinguishes chemistry among the natural sciences". In the field of organic chemistry of sulfur, a chemistry parallel to that of oxygen but with many useful differences, it has been possible to follow since the sixties, from one symposium to another, the development of new sulfur containing molecules :

bio-active molecules, drugs, agrochemicals, new materials (polymers, organic conductors, complexing agents) and also a lot of sulfur substituted synthetic intermediates : dithioacetals, thioaldehydes, thioketones, dithioesters, sulfoxides, sulfones, sulfines, sulfoximines, sulfonium ylides, etc.... Some of these new synthetic tools, resulting from fundamental research works, are now indispensable for the selective (in particular enantioselective) syntheses of more sophisticated substances of high added value.

We think that the recent research work presented in this book will be a source of many new research projects in fundamental and applied chemistry and moreover, will demonstrate that organic chemistry of sulfur, as the emblem of ISOCS 15, "has still the wind in its sails".

The organizers of the Symposium would like to express their thanks to the authors of the papers for their co-operation in preparing the manuscripts without delay and their gratitude to all those who contributed to the success of the meeting by presenting a lecture, and oral communication or a poster, and also to the chairmen of the sessions and the members of the International Committee.

Serge Masson

Patrick Metzner