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Phosphorus, Sulfur, and Silicon and the Related Elements

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PREFACE (English)

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PREFACE (English)

After Heidelberg, Schloss Elmau, Prague (twice), Gdansk, Paris, Halle, Durham, Nice, Bonn, and Tallinn, the XIIth International Conference on Phosphorus Chemistry was held in Toulouse, France (July 6-10, 1992).

517 participants and 77 accompanying persons representing 36 nations attended this Conference. Attention can be focused on the large delegations coming from Germany (114 people), USA (72), Japan (39), United Kingdom (38), Poland (30) and of course France (168).

After the opening lecture delivered by Jean-Marie Lehn, Nobel Prize for chemistry in 1987, 163 lectures (30 min) were presented. The philosophy of the Organizing Committee was to give a chance to a maximum of participants to present their work orally. Note that in order to save time for our guests, all the phosphorus chemists from Toulouse accepted to present posters.

These presentations were subdivided for the first time in four parallel sessions and two mini symposia.

Seven different topics were covered :

- 1 - Phosphorus in Organic Synthesis (14 lectures)
- 2 - Structure and reactivity of organic phosphorus compounds (47 lectures)
- 3 - Chemistry of phosphorus compounds with unusual coordination and bonding (22 lectures)
- 4 - Biochemical aspects of phosphorus chemistry (17 lectures)
- 5 - Inorganic phosphorus, new materials (28 lectures)
- 6 - Phosphorus and transition metals (17 lectures)
- 7 - Physical methods and theoretical chemistry applied to phosphorus (9 lectures).

Besides the usual topics discussed in the previous Conferences, emphasis was placed on bio-chemistry, condensed phosphates and polyphosphazenes. Moreover, two mini symposia were organized in the fields of "Phosphorus in membranes, liposomes and other organized systems" and "Recent advances in microbiological solubilization of phosphate materials". Indeed, an effort was made in order to recognize new aspects of research beside the traditional ones.

189 posters were presented, divided between two sessions. All posters were exposed for two full days, allowing fruitful discussions throughout the week.

An agreement between Gordon and Breach Publishers and the Organizing Committee made possible the publication of the proceedings in Phosphorus, Sulfur, and Silicon, and the Related Elements. As was the case for previous Conferences, they consist of four-page synopses of the lectures as well as one-page abstracts of the posters. For the first time, all the participants of the XIIth ICPC will receive this issue.

The generous help of sponsors (list herewith) made it possible to provide 128 scientists with travel, accommodation and/or registration grants. Most of the financial help was given to Colleagues from outside Western Europe. Eleven special awards were given to graduate or post-doctoral fellows not over 30 years old, the selection being based on the quality of the submitted contribution.

The location of Hôtel Expo Toulouse-Labège was chosen to incite people to closely live together during five days ; the architecture of this building helped people to have easy contacts and discussions. We hope that this choice as the site of the Conference was appreciated by a large majority of participants.

We also hope that the social program for the 77 accompanying persons was enjoyed by everybody although some unexpected external events had rendered some excursions a little bit adventurous !

We believe that the Wine and Cheese Party, the receptions at the Université Paul Sabatier and the CNRS, the concert in the "Musée des Augustins" as well as the open-air meal in the Château de Fourquevaux gave many opportunities to reinforce and create new friendships.

The editors wish to express their deep acknowledgment to all those who tried to make this conference a success : sponsors, chairmen of sessions, speakers, members of the International and National Scientific Board, our Colleagues of the Local Organizing Committee and, of course, all the participants. We want to give a special mention to our coworkers who did a wonderful job during the whole week of the Conference.

We are looking forward to meeting all of you again in Jerusalem in 1995.

Guy BERTRAND

Jean-Pierre MAJORAL