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### Preface

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## Preface

This volume contains the collected plenary and sectional papers presented at the International Symposium on Aging of Polymers, held from June 18–22, 1990 at Stará Lesná, High Tatras, Czechoslovakia, under joint collaboration of the Academies of Sciences of various countries. It is the second collaborative symposium.\* This symposium was organized by the Polymer Institute of the Slovak Academy of Sciences, Bratislava (the head of the organizing committee was Dr. Lyda Matisova-Rychl; the scientific secretary of this committee was Josef Rychlý).

The symposium was attended by over 100 scientists from 35 research institutes and universities associated not only with Academies of Sciences, but also with Ministries of High Education, of chemical, petrochemical, health and light industries.

The papers collected for this volume, are concerned with thermal, thermooxidative and photooxidative degradation, as well as radiolysis, biodegradation, laser degradation mechnodegradation, degradation of polymers during processing, synthesis of stabilizers, diffusion properties, polymer combustion and reduction of combustibility of polymer materials.

A considerable part of the communications deals with new ideas about the mechanism of polymer degradation, ozone-induced aging of cautchoucs and rubbers, action of antiozonants, aging of poly(vinyl chloride) and its derivatives, possible methods of polymer stabilization, and also with the kinetics and action mechanisms of antioxidants and photostabilizers in the degradation of multi-ton polymers.

Particular attention is paid to the effect of mechanical stress on the oxidative degradation of polymers and prognostication of the storage and reliable operation time of polymer wear, and also the release of chemicals from the polymer matrix.

This book is intended for a wide range of specialists in the chemistry and physics of polymers, as well as in the technology of polymer materials, namely, for researchers, engineers, technologists, postgraduates and students.

I would like to express my thanks to Dr. Marinor Tzsailevna Arasis who helped me prepare this material for publication in English.

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\*The first symposium, which was held at the Institute of Chemical Physics, the USSR Academy of Sciences, Moscow, from October 10–15, 1988 (see *Internat. J. Polymeric Materials*, 13, 1–4 (1990), 14 (1991) 1–2).