

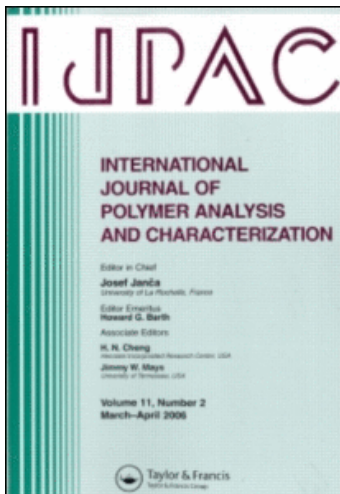
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Preface

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PREFACE

The Polymer Institute of the Slovak Academy of Sciences organizes numerous scientific meetings on the regional (for both Slovak and Czech participants), as well as on the international level. The present conference "Chromatography of Polymers and Related Substances" was the 10th event of the series "Bratislava International Conferences on Macromolecules". It was the fifth regional conference devoted to the molecular characterization of polymers by chromatographic methods that began in 1979.

The Conference was sponsored by both the Macromolecular Division of the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC) and the Federation of European Chemical Societies. IUPAC published some of the invited lectures in a special volume of Macromolecular Symposia (vol. 110, 1996).

Further contributions to the Conference, both lectures and posters, are published in the present issue of the *International Journal of Polymer Analysis and Characterization* while others to appear in regular issues of IJPAC.

The Conference program was devoted to four main topics:

1. Development of methods including hyphenated and coupled techniques
2. Chromatography of synthetic polymers
3. Chromatography of natural polymers
4. Oligomers and admixtures in polymers

The Conference included 36 lectures and 52 poster presentations. Panel discussions dealt with

- i) New trends in liquid chromatographic detection
- ii) Combined retention mechanisms in liquid chromatography of macromolecules
- iii) New materials
- iv) Progress in liquid chromatographic instrumentation; How can scientists from Central and East European countries afford or otherwise obtain expensive instrumentation

The scientific program of the conference was supplemented by a small exhibition of selected instruments, materials, literature and software, as well as by several social events.

The 125 conference participants represented 19 countries. The moderate conference fee and a generally favorable price, including the possibility of obtaining accommodations in student dormitories, enabled participation of scientists from Central/East European countries, some of whom were supported by the generous sponsorships of BASF, Ludwigshafen, Germany; Ciba Geigy, Basel, Switzerland; US Army Material Command, Chemistry and Biology Science Branch, London, UK; and Wyatt Technology Corporation, Santa Barbara, USA. In this way, the Conference became an East-West forum.

Dušan Berek
Conference Chairman