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Preface

The third International Conference on f Elements (ICFE-3) enters in the European cycle of conferences dealing with the fundamental and applied aspects of both 4f and 5f elements in physics and chemistry. ICFE-3 was held September 14–18, 1997 at the UNESCO building, located on the banks of the Seine river at Paris. ICFE-3 is the continuation of the conferences organized by the non profit European Rare Earths and Actinides Society (ERES) after Zürich (1985), Lisbon (1987), Leuven (ICFE-1, 1990) and Helsinki (ICFE-2, 1994) and before Madrid (ICFE-4, 2000).

The conference was kindly supported by the ERES, the Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (CNRS), the French Ministry of Education, the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the French Atomic Agency (CEA), the French Chemical Society (Solid State Chemistry Division), the UNESCO, Rhône-Poulenc, Spectra Physics France, Jacomex and Alfa-Chimie.

The conference was organized in eleven symposia, each of them with oral and poster sessions: i) synthesis and structure ii) spectroscopies, iii) electronic properties, iv) magnetic properties, v) material and devices, vi) coordination chemistry, vii) organic and organometallic chemistry viii) heterogenous catalysis ix) biomedical applications x) geochemistry and analytical chemistry xi) environment and toxicology.

ICFE-3 was attended by approximately 450 senior and junior scientists representing 36 countries, 75% of the attendees being from European countries.

The present volume represents the proceedings of ICFE3. The papers appearing in the proceedings are almost grouped into the same areas as in the Conference. Invited papers are presented first followed by contributed papers. They were subjected to two peer reviews according to the standards of the Journal of Alloys and Compounds. Only a part of the more than 600 registered abstracts were presented by they authors as publication. Researchers who wish to read them are then referred to the abstract booklet.

The success of ICFE-3 was highly indebted to the efforts of many colleagues involved at all stages of the conference. We take the opportunity to thank the international and the french scientific committees, the local organizing committee, the chairs of the conference and of each session who organized the different sessions as well as all the reviewers who accepted to spend generously many time for our community.

Guest Editors
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