

## FOREWORD

This volume contains most of the papers presented at the Thirteenth International Symposium on Advances in Chromatography held in St. Louis, Mo. (U.S.A.), October 16–19, 1978. The papers represent contributions from 17 countries indicating the close cooperation of scientists from throughout the world. The continuing importance of high-resolution capillary columns and modern high-performance thin-layer chromatography is evidenced by the increased number of papers on these subjects. It is interesting to note that most of the papers on biomedical gas chromatography utilize high-resolution capillary columns and that a large part of the high-performance TLC papers now deal with biomedical-clinical applications. New developments on selective chromatographic detectors, column technology, instrument systems and the application of chromatography round out the program of the Symposium.

The Symposium takes place in St. Louis, Mo., the gateway city to the west. Founded by Pierre Laclède Liguist, in 1764, and inhabited by French, Spaniards, Irish, British, Germans, Hungarians and many other immigrants, it became the crossroads of Western expansion of the United States and the starting point of exploration parties. The Gateway Arch is a lasting memorial to the many thousands who started from here to settle in the western part of the continent. With its truly international tradition, St. Louis is the proper place for an international symposium.

This year represents the 75th anniversary of the invention of chromatography. It was on March 21, 1903 that a young Russian scientist, M. S. Tswett, presented a paper at the Meeting of the Biological Section of the Warsaw Society of Natural Sciences. In this paper, he described his first experiments on the separation and isolation of plant pigments. Although he did not yet use the name "chromatography"—this happened three years later, in his two basic papers—the essence of the chromatographic adsorption analysis was already explained and demonstrated in this lecture. In the 75 years which have passed since its invention, Tswett's method has evolved as the most widely used analytical technique and the wide range of subjects covered by the papers presented at this Symposium is the best demonstration of the universal application of chromatography.

I would like to express my gratitude to J. Q. Walker, E. M. Emery and P. J. Cobert for their cooperation in the organization of the Symposium. Particular thanks are due to Dr. M. Lederer for his help in making the publication of this volume possible.

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