

## Foreword

March 21 (March 8, according to old Russian calendar), 1903 is a special date in the history of chromatography. On that day, at a Meeting of the Warsaw Society of Natural Scientists, Mikhail Semenovich Tswett presented a lecture entitled “On the Novel Category of Adsorption Phenomena and their Application to Biochemical Analysis”. This date of the first public disclosure of the dynamic adsorption analysis, which Tswett soon began to call chromatographic adsorption analysis, marks the birthday of chromatography. Chromatography became the premier separation technique of the 20th century that changed the whole science in a most revolutionary way.

To commemorate the 100th anniversary of chromatography, a jubilee International Symposium “100 Years of Chromatography”, third in the chain of International Symposia on “Separations in BioSciences” was held in Moscow, 13–18 May 2003. It was held in the New City Hall of Moscow and Yuri Lushkov, Lord Major of Moscow started the opening ceremony. Corresponding to the jubilee character of the meeting, its scientific program was rather broad and incorporated all types of liquid and gas chromatography, as well as electromigration techniques, and consisted of 30 lectures, 40 oral 20-min-long contributions, partially run in two parallel sessions, and 294 poster presentations. Especially strongly presented were chiral separation techniques and achievements in the separation of polymers, viruses and bacterial cells.

Parallel to the scientific program, exhibition of 30 international and local manufacturers of chromatographic materials and equipment was held, and six vendor seminars took place. The total number of participants run to about 600 with about 150 foreign scientists from 43 different countries of the world. Only Chinese scientists were not in position to come to the Moscow meeting, because

of travel restrictions introduced by local authorities to prevent the SARS epidemics.

Social program of the meeting was also intense and included visits to the Kremlin, the famous Bolshoi Opera Theater with its premiere of Verdi’s Nabukko and to the unique Obrazov puppet theater that presented a special English version of its “Extraordinary Concert”. Especially interesting turned the post-symposium bus tour through a chain of old Russian cities and monasteries, the so-called Golden Ring, and the 3-days long visit to St. Petersburg which was about to celebrate its 300-years anniversary and was therefore particularly clean and decorated.

The obvious success of the meeting was only partially due to its impressive scientific program and exceptionally good whether in Moscow. Probably much more important was the friendly and informal atmosphere during the meeting, the feeling that the chromatographic world community, as a big international family, gathered to celebrate the common outstanding holiday—the 100-years anniversary of the discovery of Mikhail Tswett.

As usual, the manuscripts comprising this special volume represent only small portion of the rich scientific program of the symposium. Nevertheless, I hope, they give an incite into the vast area that chromatography covers in modern science and technology and especially in life sciences.

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