

PREFACE

This issue of the *Journal of Hazardous Materials* contains selected papers which were presented at the Symposium on the Treatment of Hazardous Wastes. The Symposium was a part of the 11th International Congress of Chemical Engineering, Chemical Equipment Design and Automation, CHISA'93, in Prague, Czech Republic, which took place in the week of August 29th to September 3rd, 1993. The inclusion of the Symposium into the CHISA'93 programme had two purposes. First, in recent years the main research and development activities in the field of chemical engineering are moving from topics crucial for production of bulk chemicals and fuels to related branches of the industry, like manufacture of special materials or biotechnology. Hazardous waste treatment belongs into this category of processes where the application of chemical engineering methods may bring useful results; thus, the Symposium should bring these possibilities to the attention of chemical engineers. Second, the chemists who mostly deal with wastes are often not aware of the benefits of a chemical engineering approach to their problems.

The Symposium was the first of its kind and therefore its scope was set rather loosely in order to attract a broader audience and to gain experience with themes pertinent to hazardous waste treatment. The selection of contributions for the present issue was based on the following criteria: (a) the wish of the authors to publish their paper in this Journal, (b) the willingness or possibility to prepare the manuscript in camera-ready form (however, we retyped several manuscripts for those who needed help), (c) the quality of the contribution, (d) the adherence of the theme of the paper to the scope of the Journal and to the Basel Convention on Hazardous Materials (this, e.g., excluded all papers which dealt with removal of sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxides from stack gases).

We hope that the Symposium within the CHISA'93 Congress and the publication of the most important contributions in the present issue fulfil the goals mentioned above and will yield guidelines for next events on the treatment of hazardous materials.

FRANTIŠEK KAŠTÁNEK
*Institute of Chemical Process Fundamentals,
Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic,
Prague 6, Czech Republic*