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Preface

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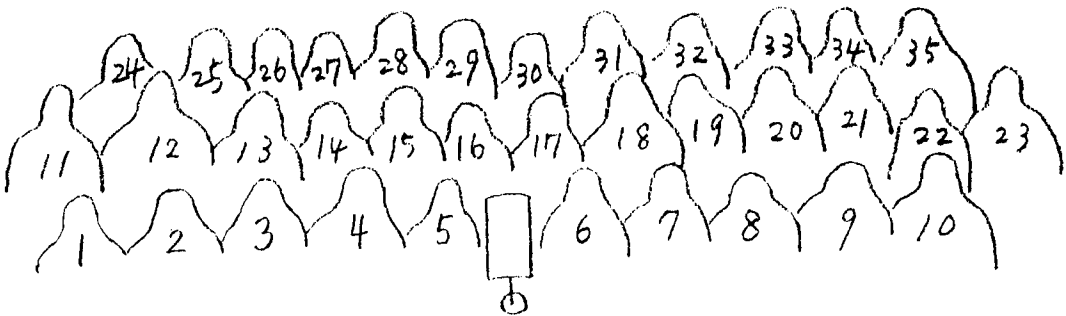
PREFACE

This special issue of the Journal of *Macromolecular Science - Pure and Applied Chemistry* is a collection of papers presented at the U.S.-Japan Seminar on "Macromolecular Architecture and Engineering" held in Sendai, Japan, October 27-31, 1996, sponsored by the U.S. National Science Foundation and the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science. Additional support from Air Products, Amoco, Bayer, Asahi Chemical, Dow Chemical, Eastman Chemical, General Electric, Hoechst Celanese, Mitsubishi Chemical, Mitsui Petrochemical, Nippon Zeon, Polaroid, Raychem, Sumitomo Chemical and Torey is gratefully acknowledged.

The Seminar was focused on the methodology of precisely designing the architecture of macromolecules, in order to develop advanced polymer materials with excellent mechanical, electrical, optical, or bioactive properties. The Seminar consisted of a limited number of U.S. and Japanese participants facilitating very intensive and effective discussions. The subjects spanned from synthetic aspects such as new polymerization catalysts and initiators, control of chain lengths, sequences, tacticities, topologies and supramolecular assemblies, to functional aspects such as conductive, optical, biomimetic, and biomedical polymers. We believe that this special issue, as an output of the Seminar, will contribute to further development of the related fields.

Shohei Inoue

Krzysztof Matyjaszewski



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