

EDITOR'S PREFACE

The first edition of the Directory of Photochemical Laboratories in Europe, edited by Dr Ugo Mazzucato, appeared in 1974. It listed 189 laboratories in 17 European countries (counting Israel), as well as a few groups in non-European countries. The directory contained a name index of between 800 and 900 names.

The 1981 edition which now is ready for printing describes some 400 laboratories and has a name index with some 1500 names. Partly the increase in size depends on a more liberal policy in selecting laboratories to be included, partly (and I believe mainly) on the increased interest in photochemical research in Europe.

We all regret the circumstances that hinder our colleagues in some East-European countries to join EPA or even have their research interests listed in this Directory. We can only hope that this situation will improve with time. - As in the first edition, some non-European research groups have been included, in most cases headed by an EPA member. (This might be the most natural way for the scientific community to find information on, say, photochemistry in Australia or Senegal!)

The descriptions of the research groups, which constitute the main body of the book, are based on answers to questionnaires which were distributed as part of EPA Newsletter, and also mailed directly to some laboratories which were considered part of the "target group" but not (yet) EPA members. A general format of the various descriptions of "special photochemical equipment" and "research topics" was chosen and adhered to. Apart from that, few changes were made, except some (certainly not fully successful) attempts to uniformize ways of writing addresses or common terms like "UV" or "ns". In a few cases, a rather drastic shortening of a lengthy description was made.

All descriptions were sent to the compilers for proof reading. It would be surprising if every one of the corrections received were also correctly entered (although, of course, this certainly was my desire).

The countries are ordered according to the established postal code letter(s), which puts Germany (Deutschland) and Spain (España) before France, and Suomi-Finland after Sweden - a situation that may be unfamiliar to some readers, but also natural to many others. (It certainly solves the problem of where to look for Great Britain/United Kingdom!). - Within any particular country, research groups are ordered according to postal code numbers. In this way lab groups in, say, Munich and its suburb Garching, are listed close to each other.

A second part of the book contains three indices: the name index, and two indices listing the various lab groups according to their "general area of photochemistry interest" and their "specific photochemistry interests". Lacking access to a fair-sized secretarial staff, compiling the indices would have been impossible without word processing facilities. The work was performed on a desk top minicomputer with a floppy disk accessory. The necessary BASIC programs were developed as needed - certainly the most challenging part of the work.

According to the questionnaire all permanent staff should be listed, scientific and as well as technical, making the name index quite voluminous. In order to facilitate the search for senior scientists (probably those most often looked for), two markings were introduced: '=' for persons listed as 'research team heads', and '-' for others. (Different compilers made different choices as to where to list the 'number two' man - which means that quite a few noted scientists will be found among the '-' names.)

The two 'interest' indices, modelled after an 'Application for Society Membership' form used by the Inter-American Photochemical Society, are innovations compared to the 1974 edition. Hopefully they add substantially to the usefulness of the Directory.

All EPA members are grateful to Elsevier-Sequoia S.A. for their help in publishing this Directory. Personally, I am indebted to several people for their help in this project. It was performed in close contact with Dr Hans-Jochen Kuhn of EPA Newsletter. The national representatives of EPA were engaged in the work, first in distributing questionnaires to fellow countrymen not (yet) members of EPA, later in distributing the proofs to the various compilers. Mr Sture Bergström gave invaluable assistance at crucial points of the programming work. Mr Jonas Holmström and Mr Per-Daniel Liljegren typed part of the Directory, and also helped in perfecting the computer programs. Last but not least I want to thank my wife Vivi for her endurance during the many Saturdays and Sundays that I spent on this work.

Finally some thoughts partly copied from the 1978 IAPS Directory:

We - everyone who has contributed to this volume - hope that it will be useful, to old and young photochemists alike, to help to increase their knowledge and awareness of the photochemical resources available and of the nature of the photochemistry research conducted by particular groups. We also hope that it will help to promote the interchange of ideas and personnel between research teams and lower some of the barriers that have been raised between different branches of photochemistry, and between photochemistry and the neighbouring sciences of photophysics and photobiology.

Göteborg, Sweden, in November 1981

Bertil Holmström