FOREWORD

This issue contains some of the papers presented at the 2nd Czechoslovak International Conference on Electrochemical Power Sources held at Žilina (Czechoslovakia) from June 22 - 26, 1981.

The conference was organized on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the manufacture of the first lead–acid battery at Báňská Štiavnica (Slovakia). This was the first contribution to the field of chemical power sources originating from the territory of present Czechoslovakia.

In the 20th century there have been a number of achievements in research on chemical power sources. In the 1920s Dr. F. Jirsa, a lecturer at Prague Polytechnic, investigated the properties of silver oxide electrodes. His findings contributed considerably to the discovery of the silver–zinc battery about twenty years later. In the early 1950s the Research and Development Centre was established at the Institute of Electrotechnical Physics which was concerned with, at the time, quite advanced primary zinc–air cells with immobilized alkaline electrolytes for hearing aids.

In the 1960s a research team was formed at the present J. Heyrovský Institute of Physical Chemistry and Electrochemistry with the aim of developing various types of fuel cells. Successful achievement strongly stimulated activity over the entire field of chemical power sources so that by 1975 the 1st International Conference on Power Sources could be organized in Prague with a noteworthy participation of Czechoslovak and foreign research workers.

In the 1970s, new groups concerned with chemical power sources have been established in Czechoslovakia, namely, at the Brno Polytechnic, at Bateria Corp. at Slaný (a primary cell manufacturer), and at Pražská akumulátorka Corp. at Mladá Boleslav (a storage battery manufacturer). All the Institutions mentioned participated in the organization of the 2nd International Conference on Electrochemical Power Sources.

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