

PREFACE

Boron, Borides, and Related Compounds

Proceedings of the 13th International Symposium on Boron, Borides, and Related Compounds (ISBB'99)

The 13th International Symposium on Boron, Borides, and Related Compounds (ISBB'99) was held at Le Manoir de la Vicomté in Dinard, France, 5–10 September 1999. It was the latest meeting in a series initiated at Asbury Park, New Jersey in 1959, devoted to the latest progress made mainly in solid-state boron chemistry but also at interdisciplinary interfaces. The continued and evolving significance of this research field is illustrated by the broad range of topics covered at ISBB'99, e.g., synthesis and characterization of new boron-rich compounds (boron-containing nanotubes, borates, binary, ternary, and higher order boron carbides, boron nitrides, and boron silicides), crystal structure, crystal growth and physicochemical properties (electrical, thermoelectrical, magnetic, optical, thermal, and mechanical) of boron-rich compounds, boron clusters, thin films, glasses and vitroceraamics, composite materials, coatings, boron steel applications, microanalytical techniques, chemical bonding, and theoretical studies.

This symposium enjoyed a truly international attendance with over 120 participants representing Austria, Belarus, Bulgaria, France, Georgia, Germany, Japan, the Netherlands, Pakistan, Russia, Sweden, Ukraine, the United Kingdom, and the United States of America.

This Special Issue of the *Journal of Solid State Chemistry* contains a collection of 54 articles from invited and contributed lectures and posters which were presented at ISBB'99. These articles, which capture the dynamics associated with contemporary research in boron chemistry, have been keenly reviewed and evaluated. We thank all the reviewers for their careful reading and scientific comments. The cooperation of the authors and the editorial work of the staff of the publisher have been greatly appreciated. It is hoped that this publication will furnish boron practitioners with new insights and inspiration.

The next symposium in this series will be held in Saint Petersburg, Russia in mid-2002. We wish good luck to Professor V. Gurin who will be the Symposium Chairman. The continuation of this successful series of meetings in a multidisciplinary area of scientific research promises hitherto undefined vistas of opportunity for discovery and exploitation.

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