

Preface

The XXII Italian Congress on Calorimetry, Thermal Analysis and Chemical Thermodynamics was held in Camogli at the Genobio dei Dogi Hotel during the second week of December, 2000. The meeting, organised by the Italian Association of Calorimetry and Thermal Analysis (AICAT) and the Interdivisional Group on Calorimetry and Thermal Analysis of the Italian Chemical Society (GICAT), attracted a large number of foreign scientists from Mediterranean countries.

The heterogeneity of the topics covered during the sessions brought together scientists interested in a large spectrum of fields, showing the vitality of the associations. The methodology of the contributions was very similar because the effect measured is 'heat' but the motivations and the philosophy of the experimental design are based on completely different results: thermodynamics of inorganic and organic chemistry and physics, biochemistry, physiology, ecology, sustainable energy and cultural heritage. A few days were enough to update these topics from the participants' contributions both to get a general overview on the subject and to pick up new ideas to transfer to a different field.

This volume collects some of the papers presented during the Congress, which show examples of various topics with thermal techniques at experimental basis. It also shows how calorimetry and thermal analysis, albeit long-standing, techniques, have been greatly updated and improved, making them extremely versatile.

Camogli the seat of the Congress, is a pleasant little fishing village on the Italian Riviera near Genova, contaminated neither by the hectic city life nor by mass tourism. The road to Camogli snakes down from the hills to the sea, leading the visitor to a beautiful coast and a small bay naturally carved in the cliffs. The Congress was favoured with several days of magnificent weather; and the participants were able to enjoy the pleasant climate of a spring-like December.

We all sincerely hope that these meetings will continue in the future; keeping heat science and methodology alive. While warmly thanking all the participants, who made the Congress a success, we also express our gratitude for the financial support and sponsorships in the organization.

A cordial '*arrivederci*', looking forward to the next Congress.

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Giovanni Rialdi and
Attilio Cesàro (Regional Editor)

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