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### Preface

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## Preface

The Tenth Australian Polymer Symposium, organized by the Polymer Division of the Royal Australian Chemical Institute, was held in conjunction with the Sixth National Convention of the Institute at Surfers Paradise, Queensland, on November 5-8, 1978. Of the 39 contributions to the Symposium, comprising review lectures and research papers, 20 are presented in this issue. Contributions which have been substantially reported elsewhere are not included.

The Australian Polymer Symposia, held at approximately 18 month intervals, are comprehensive meetings of polymer scientists in the region. Papers from The Seventh and Eighth Australian Polymer Symposia appear in J. Polymer Sci. Symposium No. 49 (1975) and Symposium No. 55 (1976). The present papers cover a wide range of polymer interests, the Surfers Paradise meeting comprising sessions on polymerization mechanisms, the use of polymers in water treatment, health/environment issues, polymer degradation, polymer morphology, and general topics. Overall, the sessions reflect the areas where Australian polymer science is strongest. For a particular conference, the themes are further emphasized by inviting review lectures from overseas speakers. On this occasion, J. P. Kennedy (University of Akron, U. S. A.), K. A. Hochschwender (American Hoechst Corporation), D. M. Wiles (Canadian National Research Council) and P. D. Calvert (University of Sussex, U. K.) were the keynote speakers. The review by Kennedy on "Molecular Engineering by Cationic Polymerization Techniques", and that by Calvert on "A Random Re-entry Theory of Polymer Melt Crystallization" are included in this volume. The three papers presented at the health/environment session including the review by Hochschwender on "Plastics - The Political Dimensions of Risks and Benefits" will appear in Chemistry in Australia, as will the Australian Polymer Medal address, given by D. H. Solomon on "Abnormal Groups in Vinyl Polymers". The review lecture on "Protection of Plastics and Fibers from UV Degradation" by Wiles covered material which is essentially already recorded in the literature.

About 40% of the contributions are on polymerization mechanisms, and this field continues to be of vital concern to Australian researchers. The other areas where there is a strong interest are in novel applications of polymers, polymer morphology, and polymer degradation. The emphasis is on synthetic polymers, but several papers are concerned with natural macromolecules, notably wool, which is appropriate in the Australian context. This volume therefore provides a useful and valuable record of the progress of polymer research in Australia.

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