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Preface

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PREFACE

The XI. International Herman F. Mark Symposium, entitled “Advances in Degradable Polymers” was held on October 6 and 7, 1992, in Vienna, Austria. It honored Professor Bengt Rånby of the Royal Institute of Technology, Stockholm, Sweden, on the occasion of his receiving the Medal of the Austrian Research Institute for Chemistry and Physics, also called the Herman F. Mark Medal.

The symposium was held in the Auditorium of the Federal Research Institute in the Arsenal Complex in Vienna under the auspices of the Austrian Plastics Institute, headed by Professor H. Hinterhofer. The Symposium was organized by Dr. Birgit Blasch.

This year's Symposium consisted of 17 invited lectures and a Panel Discussion. The speakers were: the Mark Medal recipient, Bengt Rånby, The Royal Institute of Technology, Stockholm, Sweden; Ann-Christine Albertsson, Royal Institute of Technology, Stockholm, Sweden; Josef Schurz, University of Graz, Graz, Austria; Klaus Hummel, Technical University of Graz, Graz, Austria; Gerhard Reinisch, Berlin-Adlershof, Germany; Hartwig Höcker, Wool Research Institute, Aachen, Germany; James H. O'Donnell, University of Queensland, Brisbane, Australia; M. Edge, Manchester Polytechnic, Manchester, England; Koichi Hatada, University of Osaka, Toyonaka, Japan; Jan Šebenda, Institute of Macromolecular Chemistry, Prague, Czech Republic; Eric J. Goethals, University of Ghent, Ghent, Belgium; Zbigniew Jedlinski, Institute of Polymer Technology, Zabrze, Poland; Burkart Philipp, Max-Planck-Institute of Colloid and Interface Research, Teltow-Seehof, Germany; J. Johan Lindberg, Department of Polymer Chemistry, University of Helsinki, Helsinki, Finland; Karl F. Tiefenbacher, Biopac Biologische Verpackungssysteme, Leobendorf, Austria; Alexander Ach, Battelle Institute, Frankfurt, Germany; and Fionnuala Wynne, ICI, Frankfurt, Germany. Dietmar Loidl, Austrian Plastics Institute, Vienna, Austria; Heinrich Gruber, Technical University, Vienna, Austria; and Klaus Lederer, University of Leoben, Leoben, Austria; and Manfred Raetzsch, PCD Polymere, Linz, Austria, acted as session chairmen.

At the end of the Symposium, a panel discussion was held with Otto Vogl, Herman F. Mark Professor of Polymer Science, Polytechnic University, Brooklyn, New York, as the leader. Panelists were Ferenc Tüdös, Professor of the University of Budapest and of the Central Research Institute of Chemistry of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, and a member of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences; Klaus Hummel, Professor of the Technical University of Graz, Graz, Austria; Manfred

Rätzsch, PCD Polymere, Linz, Austria; and Bengt Rånby, Professor of the Royal Institute of Technology, Stockholm, Sweden.

The Mark Medal was presented to Professor Bengt Rånby and Dr. H. Poeksteiner in the Ministry of Science and Technology by the Vice Chancellor and Federal Minister for Science and Research, Dr. Erhard Busek.

We are pleased to publish the papers of the Symposium based on the invited lectures by B. Rånby, H. Höcker, J. Schurz, K. Hummel, J. M. O'Donnell, K. Hatada, E. J. Goethals, Z. Jedliński, B. Philipp, J. J. Lindberg, J. Šebenda, K. F. Tiefenbacher, A. Ach, A.-C. Albertsson, and O. Vogl. The contributions of G. Reinisch, M. Edge, and F. Wynne were provided only in abstract form and are placed at the end of this special issue. This is the third time that the proceedings of the Mark Symposium are being published in the *Journal of Macromolecular Science—Pure and Applied Chemistry*. We hope that the publication of the Herman F. Mark Symposium in the *Journal* will continue to be an annual event.

New York, October 1992

Otto Vogl, Guest Editor
*Journal of Macromolecular Science—
Pure and Applied Chemistry*