

This article was downloaded by:

On: 24 January 2011

Access details: *Access Details: Free Access*

Publisher *Taylor & Francis*

Informa Ltd Registered in England and Wales Registered Number: 1072954 Registered office: Mortimer House, 37-41 Mortimer Street, London W1T 3JH, UK



## Journal of Macromolecular Science, Part A

Publication details, including instructions for authors and subscription information:

<http://www.informaworld.com/smpp/title~content=t713597274>

### Introduction

J. Pavlinec<sup>a</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Polymer Institute, Slovak Academy of Sciences,

**To cite this Article** Pavlinec, J.(1994) 'Introduction', Journal of Macromolecular Science, Part A, 31: 10, ix – x

**To link to this Article:** DOI: 10.1080/10601329409350092

**URL:** <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/10601329409350092>

PLEASE SCROLL DOWN FOR ARTICLE

Full terms and conditions of use: <http://www.informaworld.com/terms-and-conditions-of-access.pdf>

This article may be used for research, teaching and private study purposes. Any substantial or systematic reproduction, re-distribution, re-selling, loan or sub-licensing, systematic supply or distribution in any form to anyone is expressly forbidden.

The publisher does not give any warranty express or implied or make any representation that the contents will be complete or accurate or up to date. The accuracy of any instructions, formulae and drug doses should be independently verified with primary sources. The publisher shall not be liable for any loss, actions, claims, proceedings, demand or costs or damages whatsoever or howsoever caused arising directly or indirectly in connection with or arising out of the use of this material.

## INTRODUCTION

The Polymer Institute of the Slovak Academy of Sciences began as a small Laboratory of Polymers in 1963. At the time, it conducted basic research on polymer and macromolecular systems, specifically polyolefin modification by crosslinking and grafting, and the interactions of free radicals in polymers. In 1967, the administration of the Slovak Academy of Sciences acknowledged the scientific efforts of the laboratory by promoting it to the status of an Institute. The position of director of the institute was given to M. Lazár.

From the very beginning the Institute recognized the need for contact with other domestic and foreign institutions. It was felt that our entrance into the international community of macromolecular scientists would best take place through participation in scientific activities and events. As a way of maintaining international contacts, and as a way of reducing isolation from the Western scientific community, we decided to organize an international conference specializing in the modification of polymers, particularly polyolefins.

In July 1968 the First IUPAC Bratislava Conference on Modified Polymers was launched by an inauguration party on a boat on the "Blue Danube." We were honored by the participation and main lectures of such personalities as C. H. Bamford, UK; A. Chapiro, France; M. Dole, USA; H. J. Heller, Switzerland; H. H. G. Jellinek, USA; N. A. Plate, Russia; G. Scott, UK; G. Smets, Belgium; and A. J. Staverman, Netherlands. Upon its conclusion, a suggestion was made that the conference ought to become a tradition. Judging by this, the meeting made a contribution and was a success. Following this, conferences were held every 3 years, and later, other smaller meetings were held to more specific topics.

The conference gradually grew, gained in stature, and was periodically held in other locations. The 9th Conference was held in the House of Scientists of the Slovak Academy of Sciences in Stará Lesná, High Tatras National Park.

It is a good idea to combine the hard work of scientific undertakings with relaxation—sightseeing, hiking, and gastronomic explorations. These extras offer an excellent opportunity for Conference participants to meet informally and discuss more ideas. This is what forms the invisible but important feeding network for scientific activities. The House of Scientists is in the foothills of the High Tatras, which is one more reason for choosing it as a meeting place even though it is 400 km from Bratislava. Expressed in the words of P. Hrdlovič, the Deputy Director of the Polymer Institute and the Chairman of the Organizing Committee of the Confer-

ence: "The Tatras are the symbol of the Slovaks. It was their western peak of Kriváň that attracted the eyes of Slovaks in the hardest times, giving people hope for the future."

The core of the Polymer Institute of the Slovak Academy of Sciences still includes most of its founders, and after 20 years is again headed by Milan Lazár. They all believe that the tradition will be continued by a 10th Bratislava Conference.

Unfortunately, the present transformation of the economy of our country is reflected negatively in the budgets of the research centers. Still, we have tried to stress the importance of academic knowledge of macromolecular systems for technological and economical progress and development. We appreciate the support we have received from our foreign colleagues and sponsors; we especially value Professor O. Vogl's extended interest in our Institute. The 30th anniversary is a good reason for expressing our gratitude to some of our supporters. As a result, the Slovak Chemical Society decided to grant Honorary Memberships to Professors O. Vogl, M. Rätzsch, and F. Tüdös.

J. Pavlinec  
Polymer Institute, Slovak Academy of Sciences