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Preface

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PREFACE

On May 3, 1995, Herman F. Mark would have been 100 years old. He died on April 5, 1992, one month short of his 97th birthday. Herman F. Mark, a remarkable person, scientist, educator, and organizer, lived on two continents for almost equal periods of time. As a consequence, two Symposia were held on May 3, 1995, to commemorate his 100th birthday. One Symposium was held in Brooklyn at the Polytechnic University, where he functioned the last 50 years of his life, and one in Vienna, his native city and the place of his early successes.

The Symposium in Brooklyn was entitled *Future Trends in Polymer Science: A Symposium in Honor of the 100th Birthday of Herman F. Mark*. It was under the cochairmanship of Professors Eli M. Pearce, Kalle Levon, and Otto Vogl, and consisted of 10 lectures and an introduction by his son Hans Mark, University of Texas at Austin, entitled “The ‘Geheimrat’—Herman F. Mark.” A video showing the late Herman F. Mark in lectures and interviews concluded the opening ceremony.

The formal program was opened by Norbert M. Bikales, National Science Foundation, who discussed “Trends in Federal Funding for Polymer Science,” followed by Otto Vogl, Herman F. Mark Professor of Polymer Science, Polytechnic University, who spoke on “Polymers for the 21st Century”; Paolo Corradini, University of Naples, Italy, whose subject was “New Stereoregular Polymers and Polymerization Processes: Results and Perspectives.”

In the afternoon the following lectures were presented: David A. Tirrell, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, MA, “Synthesis of Polymers on Messenger RNA Templates”; Eric Baer, Case Western Reserve, “Hierarchical Structures in Natural and Synthetic Polymer Systems”; Abraham Ulman, Polytechnic University, “How Do Self-Assembled Monolayers Click”; Ronald K. Eby, The University of Akron, “Lessons from Biology: Structure and Properties of Spider Silk”; Anna C. Balasz, University of Pittsburgh, “Designing Interfacially Active Copolymers through Computer Simulation”; Joseph M. DeSimone, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, “Polymer Synthesis and Processing in Carbon Dioxide”; and Samuel I. Stupp, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, “Molecular Object Polymers and Materials for the Future.”

The second Symposium, the *14th International H. F. Mark Symposium*, was held in Vienna on the 3rd and 4th of May; it was also dedicated to the 100th birthday of H. F. Mark. It was organized by the Austrian Plastics Institute of



Dietmar Loidl

the Austrian Research Institute for Chemistry and Technology and was under the chairmanship of its Director, Dr. Dietmar Loidl. Herman F. Mark had a substantial impact on the creation of the Austrian Plastics Institute in Vienna shortly after the second World War, played an important role in the development of the Institute, and was also a frequent visitor and advisor to the Institute.

On Herman F. Mark's 80th birthday the Austrian Plastics Institute and friends of Herman F. Mark decided to create a medal in his honor to recognize outstanding scientists in polymer science and technology for their contributions to the field with special emphasis on the area that Professor Mark and the Austrian scientific and technological environment represented. To this date, 30 personalities, both Austrian and international personalities in polymer science, have been recognized by the Mark Medal. The medal is traditionally presented by the Austrian Federal Minister for Research, and a Symposium is organized emphasizing the work of the recipient of the medal; the recipient is also required to present a lecture.

This year Professors Hermann Janeschitz-Kriegl and Walter Heitz were the recipients of the Mark Medal. Because of the special occasion of Herman F. Mark's 100th birthday, the 14th Mark Symposium was organized in a special format. Former Mark Medal recipients were invited as speakers of the Symposium; many came and presented their work.

The following lectures were presented: Hermann Janeschitz-Kriegl, University of Linz, Linz, Austria, "The Role of Transfer Phenomenon in Polymer Science"; Walter Heitz, Philipps Universitaet Marburg, Marburg, Germany, "Metalcatalyzed Polyadditions and Polycondensations"; Dietrich Braun, Deutsches Kunststoff-Institut, Darmstadt, Germany, "Structures and Superstructures in Polymer Blends"; Harold Cherdron, Hoechst A.G., Frankfurt/Main, Germany, "Progress in the Area of Catalysis of Polymer Reactions"; Heinrich Gruber, Technical University Vienna, Vienna, Austria, "Thermotropic Blockpolymer Based on Polyesterimides"; Klaus Lederer, Montanuniversitaet Leoben, Leoben, Austria, "Molecular Characterization of Polyolefins"; Georg Menges, Technische Hochschule Aachen, Aachen, Germany, "Degradative Extrusion as Method of Recycling—Status and Possibilities."

Other speakers at the Symposium were Bengt G. Ranby, Royal Institute of Technology, Stockholm, Sweden, "Recent Advances in Photoinitiated Modifications of Polymers—Photocrosslinking and Surface Photografting"; Manfred

Raetzsch, OeMV-PCD Werkstoff, Linz, Austria, "Modification of Polypropylene in the Solid State"; Helmut Ringsdorf, Johannes Gutenberg-Universität Mainz, Mainz, Germany, "Spheres, Disks and Cylinders: What Do Multi-Enzyme-Complexes Have in Common with Photoconducting Liquid Crystals"; Takeo Saegusa, KRI International, Inc., Kyoto 600, Japan, "Organic/Inorganic Polymer Hybrids"; Josef Schurz, Universität Graz, Graz, Austria, "Surface Effects on Natural Rubber-Latex"; Franz Stelzer, Technische Hochschule Graz, Graz, Austria, "Development and Trends of Metathesis Ring-Opening Polymerization."

We are again pleased that the *Journal of Macromolecular Science—Pure and Applied Chemistry* could publish some of the manuscripts based on the lectures of these two Symposia. You will find in this issue the papers by Vogl, Eby, and DeSimone from the Brooklyn Symposium, and those of Janeschitz-Kriegl, Braun, Gruber, Lederer, Raetzsch, Schurz, and Stelzer from the Symposium in Vienna. Not all lecturers were able to contribute their manuscripts as we went to press.

New York, November 1995

Otto Vogl
Dietmar Loidl

For a brief life history of Herman F. Mark including his list of publications, see also O. Vogl and M. Dekker, "In Memoriam Herman F. Mark," *J. Macromol. Sci.—Pure Appl. Chem.*, *A30*(2&3), 115–116 (1993); O. Vogl, "Publications of Herman F. Mark," *J. Macromol. Sci.—Pure Appl. Chem.*, *A30*(2&3), 117–159 (1993).

