

ESIC IV

Fourth European Symposium on Inorganic Chemistry; The Metal Carbonyl Centennial

On September 12–15, 1988, ESIC IV took place in Freiburg, West Germany. The symposium continued a loose sequence of European meetings devoted to organotransition metal chemistry, the previous ones having been 1974 in Ettal, 1976 in Cambridge, and 1978 in Cortona. The next symposium will take place in Zürich.

1988 marked the centennial of the discovery of nickel tetracarbonyl by L. Mond and C. Langer, one of the birthdates of modern organometallic chemistry. The symposium celebrated this event with lectures by the leading metal carbonyl chemists; with critical discussions on the past, present, and future of organometallic chemistry; and by devoting one of the four conference days to the industrial aspects of coal and CO chemistry in the spirit of L. Mond who was as much an entrepreneur as a scientist. Altogether, there were one historical lecture, 14 invited lectures, and 108 oral or poster presentations. Although the emphasis was on European science, all continents were represented among the participants and speakers. The high quality of the scientific contributions and the intensity of the personal contacts left a memorable impression.

Some of the participating scientists have agreed to submit their contributions as manuscripts for a special issue of the *Journal of Organometallic Chemistry* which was edited by R.B. King. As the organizer of ESIC IV I have the pleasure to present this issue, and I wish to congratulate the contributors once again for their cooperation and their excellent presentations.

Freiburg, February 1st, 1989

Prof. Dr. H. Vahrenkamp