

## PREFACE

During a fairly long period of time the main body of information on current progress in different fields of science in the Union of Independent States, including thermal analysis, was being published in Russian, and thus was almost inaccessible to the majority of international scientific community. Therefore, this special issue of *J. Thermal Anal.* should be regarded as an attempt to remedy somehow the situation and to provide an adequate information on the progress of thermal analysis and its scientific application in our country.

One can say the selected papers sometimes tell more about the personal interests of editors, rather than about the actual status of this particular field of science. To minimize this obvious hazard, we assumed that selected contributions should be representative as concerns the following aspects of thermal analysis:

- I) Progress in theory;
- II) Progress in instrumentation;
- III) Progress in application to material science.

We are fully aware that we did not manage to find a proper balance between cited items; we also admit that the picture emerging from our selection is by no means complete and comprehensive; we do believe, nevertheless, that our readers will have an adequate feeling of current progress and problems in the field of thermal analysis in the Union of Independent States.

This issue was started to be organized in 1991, but by the time of its publication a lot of changes have taken place in the former USSR. If we are not exact regarding the new names and addresses of authors is due to the historical changes and not to our carelessness.

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