

Preface

During its relatively short lifetime, the ESTAC Symposium series has succeeded admirably in its aim of providing a forum not only for thermoanalysts but also for other scientists using thermoanalytical techniques.

For the 7th time, the European Symposium on Thermal Analysis and Calorimetry was held in Balatonfüred, Hungary, between August 30 and September 4, 1998. This location preserving the roots of Roman culture mixed with Hungarian flavour was extremely stimulating for scientific discussions, exchange of ideas and establishing new friendships among the 350 participants from 39 countries.

To highlight the 7th event of this highly successful series of conferences, 5 plenary lectures were presented covering the most important areas of modern thermal analysis, from thin films to the protection of cultural heritage. During the Conference 2 award lectures, 3 invited lectures, 8 key lectures, 109 oral communications and about 220 posters were presented in 7 different Sessions as follows:

1. Inorganic Chemistry and Materials Science
2. Organic Substances and Pharmaceuticals
3. Food and Life Science
4. Polymers
5. Environment
6. Geosciences
7. Theory and Instrumentation.

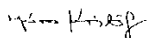
In addition, a Workshop on Quality Assurance and the Eurosolid Symposium were also organized in the frame of this event.

The scientific results presented clearly showed that thermal analysis is a well-established technique used in a great variety of research fields. Progress has been reported in new areas, such as environmental and biological applications. The advent of new and improved instrumentation in the field of calorimetry has led to a breakthrough in pharmaceutical and biochemical research. Application examples in thin film and semiconductor technology, liquid crystal polymers, enzyme catalyzed reactions, heterogeneous catalysis, metallurgy, earth science, refractory materials, coordination chemistry, nanostructured materials, food processing, biotechnology, pollution control, etc. indicate the high degree of interdisciplinarity of thermal analysis having practically unlimited fields of application.

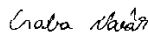
The Proceedings comprise papers on the current state of research in the field of thermal analysis, calorimetry and experimental thermodynamics. In accordance with our commitment to maintain a high scientific standard of the Proceedings, all papers appearing in this and the subsequent volumes have undergone a refereeing procedure required by the Journal of Thermal Analysis and Calorimetry. The Editors are indebted to the members of the referees' panel listed below for their extremely valuable contribution. Last but not least the Guest Editors would like to express their thanks to the staff of the Journal for their technical assistance in the preparation of the Proceedings.

The financial support provided by several organizations is warmly acknowledged.

Respectfully submitted,



János Kristóf



Csaba Novák

Guest Editors

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