

Preface

Many years ago one of my ancestors pronounced his very famous sentence: '*Sometimes things happen as they happen*'.

Had I not been to Camogli (Genova, Italy) in December 2000 to the Italian XXII National Congress on Calorimetry, Thermal Analysis and Chemical Thermodynamics and without any doubt, the 5th Mediterranean Conference on Calorimetry and Thermal Analysis (MEDICTA 2001) would not have been held in Santiago, as this Conference was scheduled to be held in a country where different causes made it advisable not to take place. Some of the participants in the Italian Conference suggested that MEDICTA 2001 should be held in Santiago, considering that this world-wide known town would also host the XII Conference of the International Society for Biological Calorimetry and also, that I should be its Chairman. I felt the earth open under my feet. We were, in Santiago, very worried about the organization of one conference and now some very important scientists asked me to take on a second one. I confess honestly that at that moment I felt as nervous as happy I feel now.

Back to Santiago, I met my University's authorities and exposed them to the proposal. After studying it, they asked me to go on, and I did so. The first thing to do was to look for financial help and we found it from various Departments of Xunta de Galicia to whom we wish to express our appreciation that we extend to all the Sponsors and Exhibitors recorded in the official MEDICTA 2001 Book of Abstracts. With their help, the road to Santiago was, once again, very busy with the walk of more than 150 research 'pilgrim' scientists coming from 22 countries. In the end, MEDICTA 2001 was successfully held in the main lecture hall of the Faculty of Physics of Santiago on September 11–14, 2001, and, for the first time, the Mediterranean Conference took place at the Atlantic Coast. My ancestor used to say that seas were to join people.

116 articles were accepted for presentation: 38 oral and 78 posters. These communications were signed by 352 authors. Summaries of these articles were collected in the Book of Abstracts provided with ISBN. The participants were invited to submit manuscripts for publication in a special issue of the Journal of Thermal Analysis and Calorimetry devoted to the 5th Mediterranean Conference on Calorimetry and Thermal Analysis. The appearance of this issue was only possible thanks to the interest of the Editorial Staff of the Journal and especially Prof. Judit Simon, Editor-in-Chief, to whom all of us wish to express our gratitude.

Besides the scientific program, attendees could enjoy the magnificent scenery with tours to Sada and A Coruña. Reception party was given at the Santiago City Hall by its Mayor. The crown jewel was the Gala dinner in which attendees and families enjoyed not only food and drinks but also the typical Galician folk music and dances performed by Cantigas e Agarimos, a very well known Galician folk society.

Finally, it remains only to thank all the participants, specially those in different Committees, and to all the authors for providing manuscripts.

There is a special branch on the road to Santiago and that is the Portuguese Way in which Porto, the next venue for MEDICTA 2003, is a very important and friendly stage. I hope to see you all there.

Pensade en nós e volvede

With love from Santiago



Prof. Dr. Lisardo Nuñez Regueira

Guest Editor

Acknowledgements

The following colleagues kindly acted as referees for this Conference Issue. Their careful and prompt consideration is gratefully acknowledged.

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