

## *Preface*

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The 8<sup>th</sup> Seminar, dedicated to the memory of Prof. St. Bretsznajder, with foreign participants, was held from 19 to 20 September 2002 in Płock, the city of two Polish rulers Herman and Krzywousty, the former capital of Poland; today, rapidly changing capital of Płock's Mazovia and capital of Polish oil industry.

The 8<sup>th</sup> Seminar was organized by the Institute of Chemistry, Warsaw University of Technology, Faculty of Civil Engineering, Mechanics and Petrochemistry in Płock; the Society of Engineers and Technicians of Chemical Industry, Section affiliated at Polish Oil Company PKN ORLEN SA; Polish Chemical Society Division in Płock; Polish Society of Calorimetry and Thermal Analysis.

The Seminar was attended by 100 thermal analysts coming mainly from Poland, but also from other countries: Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Hungary and Russia.

The participants presented plenary lectures (11), oral communications (18) and poster presentations (51) concerning thermal analysis methods and their application to thermal decomposition investigations and the testing of inorganic solids, polymers, petrochemical products etc. The papers of these contributions were printed in the Seminar Materials.

The Seminar were accompanied by an exhibition of commercially available instrumentation, produced by Mettler Toledo, Netzsch and Spectro-Lab.

We would like to thank the members of the Scientific Committee for their significant contribution in the scientific programme of the Seminar. It was a great honour and pleasure for us to work together with a large number of dedicated people.

We would also like to thank the members of the Organising Committee for their work before and during the Seminar.

This special issue is a selection of the papers presented in Płock and each of them evaluated by two independent reviewers. We thank all the authors for providing their manuscripts. Our thanks are also due to Anna Klepańska M.Sc. for her help in the preparation of the special issue.

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*Acknowledgements*

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*The manuscripts have been reviewed by the Referees listed below. Their careful and prompt consideration is gratefully acknowledged.*

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