

Preface

The 9th Polish Seminar, dedicated to the memory of Prof. St. Bretsznajder, was held in Płock, Poland, 27–28 September 2007. It was organised by the Institute of Chemistry, Warsaw University of Technology, Faculty of Civil Engineering, Mechanics and Petrochemistry in Płock; Polish Society of Calorimetry and Thermal Analysis memorial of Wojciech Świętosławski, Society of Engineers and Technicians of Chemical Industry, Section affiliated at PKN ORLEN S.A. in Płock.

The theme of the Seminar concerned the problems of reaction mechanisms connected with decomposition of solids, synthesis of chemical compounds, as well as problems of kinetics and thermodynamics. The presented papers covered the applications of thermal analysis and calorimetry for a wide variety of organic and inorganic compounds, including the following materials: polymers, pigment complexes, cement hydration products, ceramic materials, pharmaceuticals, sorbents, petrochemical products and industrial wastes.

The scientific programme consisted of plenary lectures (16), oral communications (14) and poster presentations (56). Papers presented at the Seminar have been printed in a 542 page conference proceedings publication.

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

The Main Sponsors were: Płock City Hall and PKN ORLEN S.A. Exhibitors: COMEF, HAAS, METTLER-TOLEDO, NETZSCH, SPECTRO-LAB.

The 9th Seminar opening ceremony started with an expression of the gratitude for Professor Janusz Pysiak, who was the initiator of the Seminar idea and for many years acted as the Chairman of Scientific and Organisation Committee. The 1st Polish Seminar, dedicated to the memory of Prof. St. Bretsznajder took place in Płock thirty years ago. The collected papers of the 9th Seminar were dedicated to Prof. Janusz Pysiak.

During the opening ceremony Professors Anna Langier-Kuźniarowa and Marek Maciejewski were awarded with the titles of Honorary Members of Polish Calorimetry and Thermal Analysis Society. Professor Marek Maciejewski gave the inaugural lecture titled: 'Application of pulse thermal analysis for investigation of gas-solid reactions'.

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

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

This special issue is a selection of the papers presented in Płock. Each of the above-mentioned papers was evaluated by two independent reviewers. The list of the reviewers is presented on the next page. We appreciate very much the referees great work and effort in the review process.

Especially we would like to express our gratitude to all the Authors for submitting the manuscripts of such quality to this special issue of JTAC. Moreover, The Editors also thank the Editorial Office for their help.

Prof. Barbara Pacewska
Dr. Dariusz Szychowski

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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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